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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 March, 2018 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 1st February (Pages 1 - 16)
5. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request for a representative of Amnesty International UK and of the FPA to address the Council in relation to the motion on Criminalisation of Abortion being proposed by Councillor Nicholl.

6. Official Announcements
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 16th February (Pages 17 - 56)
8. People and Communities Committee of 31st January and 6th February (Pages 57 - 94)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th and 21st February (Pages 95 - 138)
10. Licensing Committee of 14th February (Pages 139 - 146)
11. Planning Committee of 13th February (Pages 147 - 164)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 19th February (Pages 165 - 168)

13. Notices of Motion

a) Criminalisation of Abortion

Proposed by Councillor Nicholl,

Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

"This Council notes the increasing number of women who are accessing abortion pills via the internet, which leaves them vulnerable to prosecution.

The Council further notes the impact on healthcare professionals who, under Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967, may have a duty to provide information to the Police Service. Therefore, if a woman requires medical assistance after accessing these pills, the threat of prosecution and life in prison is likely to act as a real deterrent, thus potentially having a detrimental impact on her health.

Accordingly, the Council believes that abortion should be regulated like any other medical care and not by criminal law, while still enabling incidents of malpractice to be addressed, as with any other health service, through the general criminal law or medical disciplinary procedures.

A woman who has an abortion is not a criminal, nor are healthcare professionals who care for them, and the law should not treat them as such."

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Review of the Council's Code of Practice on Smoking at Work

Proposed by Councillor Reynolds,

Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

"This Council will review and revise its Code of Practice on Smoking at Work on the use of e-cigarettes, in light of the new research published by Public Health England."

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

c) Epilepsy Support

Proposed by Councillor Dorrian,

Seconded by Councillor Milne,

"This Council acknowledges this year's 'Purple Day' on Monday, 26th March, and recognises the challenges that many people in Belfast, of all ages, face living with epilepsy in all its different forms.

The Council will commit to ensuring that proper information is circulated to its staff and through its network of centres and offices, to promote a better understanding of the condition and provide advice on how to react if an epileptic situation arises which requires assistance.”

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

d) Establishment of a Brexit Standing Committee

Proposed by Councillor Canavan,

Seconded by Councillor Carson,

“The referendum result to leave the European Union presents unprecedented political, social and economic challenges for our city, for the North of Ireland and indeed the entire island.

Belfast, as a city, as demonstrated in motions adopted by this Council, supported remaining within the EU whilst also supporting the provision of special status for the North and remaining in the ‘single market’.

As one of the world’s one-hundred resilient cities, with economic resilience being a key focus, it is imperative that we understand the full implications that Brexit could bring.

To enable this, the Council will immediately establish a formal Brexit Standing Committee, made up of Elected Members, with appropriate officer support, to undertake all necessary work required to bring forward a report with recommendations to explore the impact of Brexit on Belfast and its citizens.”

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

e) All-Ireland Boxing Championships

Proposed by Councillor Murphy,

Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

“Belfast has produced world class athletes through the sport of amateur boxing who have consistently succeeded through every level of the sport and brought recognition to the city of Belfast through their successes.

We, as a City, are very proud of the achievements of boxers from this City and should seek to build on these successes by showcasing the talent this vibrant sport has to offer across Ireland.

This Council agrees to engage with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association to explore the possibility of bringing the All Ireland Boxing Championships to the City of Belfast.”

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

f) Irish Language Act

Proposed by Councillor Collins,

Seconded by Councillor Milne,

"This Council notes the positive revival of the Irish language in Belfast over the past number of decades. Today, the city of Belfast has a historically large concentration of Irish speakers, which includes a growing number of Irish medium schools, providing for thousands of pupils and thousands more residents who speak the Irish language on a daily basis.

The Council also recognises the impressive grassroots movement that has developed in recent years calling for an Irish Language Act, in order to safeguard and strengthen rights for the Irish language community, a call that has received widespread political support.

The Council believes that such a move is crucial in delivering fair and proper treatment for the Irish language community and supports the introduction of an Irish Language Act."

(To be debated by the Council)

g) Neighbourhood Renewal

Proposed by Councillor Milne,

Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst,

"The Neighbourhood Renewal programme seeks to address urban regeneration in the 10% worst areas for multiple deprivation, many of which lie within the Belfast area. The communities in receipt of this funding are indeed the ones most in need of it. The recent announcement that there will be an 11% cut in the Neighbourhood Renewal budgets could potentially devastate these communities and impede the great progress made to date.

Whilst acknowledging that Neighbourhood Renewal powers do not lie with the Council, this Council will, however, write to the Department for Communities

seeking urgent clarification on the process by which cuts will be made, and requesting that they also review whether any shortfall could be addressed via other means, such as the reallocation of expenditure from other Assembly Departments.

In the case that reallocation is not possible, the Council calls for the shortfall in Neighbourhood Renewal funding to be made available via the Westminster Confidence and Supply agreement, wherein £20 million has been allocated for anti-poverty measures every year, over the next 5 years."

(To be debated by the Council)

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

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

Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Thursday, 1st February, 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); the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman R. Patterson and Councillors Craig, Hutchinson, Magennis and Newton.

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 3rd January be taken as read and signed as correct.

Amendment to Standing Order 30

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

That the Council agrees to confirm its decision of 3rd January to pass a Resolution amending Standing Order 30 to read as follows: "A Member

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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.”

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

That the decision of the Council of 3rd January to pass a Resolution amending Standing Order 30 be amended to provide that:

- i. the current Standing Order be renumbered as 30.1; and
- ii. a new Standing Order, numbered 30.2, be adopted, to read as follows:

“When a Member makes offensive reference to any section of the Belfast community in relation to their legally protected background or attribute, then other Members (whether or not they have already spoken in the debate) shall forthwith have the right to speak in challenge to such offensive reference and the Member making such offensive reference shall give way in the debate for the purpose of affording other Members challenge”.

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

<u>For 22</u>	<u>Against 31</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Boyle, Corr Johnston, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, Mullan, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey and

Resolved - That the decision of the Council of 3rd January to pass a Resolution amending 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, thereby reading as follows:

“A Member shall not impute motives or use grossly 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.”

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Murphy, who had replaced former Councillor McCabe, and Councillor Pankhurst, who had replaced former Alderman McKee, to their first meeting.

The Lord Mayor reported that Councillor Hutchinson was recovering from surgery and extended to him her best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended her condolences to Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, on the death of his mother, Edith.

The Lord Mayor invited Members to attend an event which she would be hosting in the Parlour at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 6th February to mark the Centenary of the Representation of the People Act.

The Lord Mayor thanked those Council staff who had contributed to the success of the various events which had taken place around the conferral of the Freedom of the City on Sir Kenneth Branagh.

At the request of Councillor Attwood, the Council condemned a recent spate of punishment attacks across the City.

At the request of Councillor Campbell, the Council extended its condolences to the family of Mr. Michael Cullen and thanked those Council staff and others from across the City who had been involved in searches of the Cavehill area since his disappearance.

Councillor McVeigh

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that this would be the last meeting which would be attended by Councillor McVeigh, as he would be resigning from the Council on the following day.

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Councillor Hargey highlighted the contribution which the Councillor had made during his time on the Council and, together with a number of Members, wished him well in the future.

Requests to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from Mrs. N. Green and Dr. S. Baillie seeking approval for representatives of the City's Islamic and Jewish communities respectively, to address the Council in advance of the motion on Inter-Faith, which Councillor Armitage would be proposing later in the meeting.

The Council acceded to the request and Dr. Baillie, Mr. M. Black and Mr. N. Finch, representing the Jewish community, together with Mrs. Green, Mrs. P. Kashif and Mr. Z. Kashif, representing the Islamic community, were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

Dr. Baillie informed the Council that there had been a Jewish presence in Northern Ireland since the 1860s and referred to a number of members of the Jewish community who had since then made a significant contribution to the arts, business, law, medicine and politics. She stated that the Jewish community respected the religion and beliefs of others and pointed out that the synagogue had hosted many inter-faith events and had an active council, comprised of both Christians and Jews. She added that the Jewish community was building good relations with their Muslim counterparts and that she and Mr. Black had visited the Belfast Islamic Centre and Dr. Wasif Naeem, the Chairman of the Centre, had participated in events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.

Dr. Baillie referred to a number of recent attacks against the Islamic and Jewish faiths, as alluded to by Councillor Armitage within his motion, and thanked those who had condemned those attacks and had offered their support. She provided a definition of the term anti-Semitism and concluded by emphasising that the Jewish community was committed to the values of tolerance and mutual understanding and wished to affirm its common humanity with those of other faiths.

The Lord Mayor thanked Dr. Baillie and invited Mr. Kashif to address the Council on behalf of the Islamic community.

Mr. Kashif provided information around the settlement of Muslims in Ireland throughout the years. He reported that there were now approximately 6,000 Muslims living in Northern Ireland and highlighted in particular the contribution which they had made and were making to the academic and medical sectors and the eminent awards which they had attained. In recent years, the local Muslim community had been joined by a number of asylum seekers and refugees, who had embraced the opportunity to rebuild their lives and were keen to make a meaningful contribution to the communities which had welcomed them.

Mr. Kashif drew the Council's attention to the significant role which the Belfast Islamic Centre had played since its establishment in 1978 and confirmed that it was now used by Muslims from forty-two countries of origin. He highlighted the fact that local Muslims had been founder members of the Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum and that

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they were now working with the Jewish community and with Clonard Peace and Reconciliation Mission to develop a Three-Faiths Forum, with the aim of counteracting hate and challenging misconceptions and creating a platform where people of different faiths could develop positive and meaningful relations, despite their differences. In terms of the future, it was hoped that the increasing diversity of the City would generate opportunities for innovation and creativity and lead to a fair and integrated society where the various communities could learn from and benefit each other.

The Lord Mayor thanked the deputations from the Islamic and Jewish communities for their contribution and they retired from the meeting.

The Council noted the information which had been provided.

Change of Membership on Committees

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

Democratic Unionist Party

- Councillor Hussey to replace Alderman L. Patterson on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Sinn Féin

- Councillor O'Hara to replace Councillor Carson on the Licensing Committee;
- Councillors Baker and Carson to replace Councillors Beattie and Garrett on the People and Communities Committee; and
- Councillors Carson and Garrett to replace Councillors McVeigh and Murphy on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Council approved the changes.

Positions of Responsibility

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Sinn Féin Party indicating that it wished:

- Councillor Garrett to replace Councillor Hargey as Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- Councillor O'Hara to replace Councillor Carson as Deputy Chairperson of the Licensing Committee; and
- Councillor Carson to replace Councillor Garrett as Deputy Chairperson of the People and Communities Committee.

The Council approved the appointments.

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5th and 19th January be approved and adopted.

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

Rate Setting 2018/2019

Councillor Mullan requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute of the meeting of 19th January, under the heading "Rate Setting 2018/2019" being taken back to a special meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson declined the request.

Amendment

Rate Setting 2018/2019

Moved by Councillor Mullan,
Seconded by Councillor Boyle,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th January, under the heading "Rate Setting 2018/2019", be referred back to a special meeting of the Committee for further consideration, with the meeting to be held prior to the deadline for the setting of the rates.

On a recorded vote, four Members voted for the amendment and forty-eight against, with one "no vote" and it was declared lost.

<u>For 4</u>	<u>Against 48</u>	<u>No Vote 1</u>
Alderman Convery; and Councillors Boyle, Milne and Mullan.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors	Councillor Collins.

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	Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	
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Amendment

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

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
 Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th January, under the heading “Motion – Audio Recording of Area Based Working Groups”, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

<u>For 9</u>	<u>Against 44</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Boyle, Dudgeon, Johnston and Mullan.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

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Amendment

Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary Events

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th January, under the heading “Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary Events”, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees not to approve the proposal to avail of the cash flow and to fund upfront costs of £300,000 for the event.

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

<u>For 13</u>	<u>Against 39</u>
Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Dorrian, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, Pankhurst and Reynolds	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Convery and McGimpsey; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5th and 19th January were thereupon approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Walsh,

That the minute of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October, under the heading “City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City’s

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Growing Tourism Infrastructure”, which had been called in, be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October, under the heading “City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City’s Growing Tourism Infrastructure”, be amended to provide that the Council agrees that the £4 million City Centre Social Outcomes Fund be aligned to support community tourism and agrees also that there be an open call for projects to be supported under the community tourism fund, based upon an evidence and outcomes based accountability process.

On a recorded vote, twenty-two Members voted for the amendment and twenty-nine against, with one “no vote”, and it was declared lost.

<u>For 22</u>	<u>Against 29</u>	<u>No Vote 1</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Brown, Convery, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Dudgeon, Heading, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl and O’Neill.	Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hussey, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McVeigh, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O’Donnell, O’Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Councillor Collins

Adoption of Minute

The minute of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th October, under the heading “City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City’s Growing Tourism Infrastructure”, was thereupon approved and adopted.

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People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

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

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th and 24th January be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Belfast Rapid Transport

Moved by Councillor Kyle,
Seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th January, under the heading "Belfast Rapid Transport", be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

On a recorded vote, fourteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty against, with seven "no votes", and it was declared lost.

<u>For 14</u>	<u>Against 30</u>	<u>No Vote 7</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Kyle, Lyons, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl and O'Neill.	Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Magee, McAteer, McConville, McVeigh, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Collins, Dudgeon and Johnston.

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Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th and 24th January were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

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

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage and

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

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

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 22nd January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Dementia Friendly City

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) proposed:

“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.”

The motion was seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland).

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

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

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Room of Reflection in City Hall

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mullan

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

Inter-Faith

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

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

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Audio Recording of Council Working Groups

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Rodgers proposed:

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Johnston.

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

Problem Parking

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

"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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

Support for People with Anaphylaxis

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O’Neill.

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

Provision of Water Refill Points

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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

Leisure Transformation Programme

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

"This Council notes with deep concern news that potential job losses are being considered across leisure services in 2018. In line with the trades

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Milne.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 16th February, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Long, McDonough-Brown,
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. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 5th and 19th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in respect of item 5a "Update on Capital Programme" in so far as he was a shareholder with Glentoran Football Club and he left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.

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 (NI) 2014.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 16th February, 2018**

Local Full Fibre Networks Programme

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, it had agreed that the Council should make an application to the Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme. The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report which provided a summary of the Council's application which had been lodged on Friday 26th January and outlined a number of recommendations that would be required for successful delivery of the Programme should the bid prove to be successful.

The Committee agreed to:

- Put in place the project resources and delivery structure outlined in the report to deliver the Belfast LFFN Programme;
- Allocate £100K for the procurement of External Technical and Procurement Advisors with specialist telecoms expertise to assist with the delivery of the Programme; and
- Prioritise engagement with the UK Government's Barrier Removal Taskforce in relation to adopting a streamlined local approach to highways, planning and wayleaves in partnership with the Department for Infrastructure.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion - Transparency of Council Funding

The Committee was reminded that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor McDonough-Brown and seconded by Councillor Attwood, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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 Committee was reminded further that the motion had been deferred at its meeting on 19th January to enable legal opinion to be obtained. Accordingly, a copy of the legal opinion was submitted for the Committee's consideration.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

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That the Committees agrees to progress the actions as outlined in the motion.

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

The Committee noted, however, at the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel on 8th December it had considered a report to those charged with Governance 2016/17 from the Local Government Auditor (LGA). One of the priority 2 areas identified by the LGA, which are important issues to be addressed by management in their areas of responsibility, related to the Local Investment Fund. The issue raised by the NIAO related to the evaluation of each project for effectiveness against achieving benefits and outcomes, as well as a review of the Fund as a whole to assess and consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of this method of funding projects. This issue and the proposed management response to the audit recommendation was discussed at the Audit and Risk Panel, in line with normal procedure. In summary, management had agreed with the recommendation, indicating that the Fund would be reviewed in the context of the development of corporate neighbourhood regeneration strategy. As with other recommendations, the Panel, through reports from Audit, Governance and Risk Services, would monitor implementation actions.

Motion - Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

The Committee considered the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown, which had in accordance with Standing Order 13(f) been referred to the Committee for consideration:

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

The Committee agreed, in the first instance, to undertake a site visit to the organisation.

Motion – Room of Reflection in the City Hall

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable Councillor Boyle, who had submitted the motion, to be in attendance.

Motion - Inter-Faith

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable Councillor Armitage, who had submitted the motion, to be in attendance.

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Motion - Audio Recording of Council Working Groups

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the motion in relation to the audio recording of the Council Working Groups to enable legal advice to be obtained in relation to the recording of the Shared City Partnership and the Audit and Risk Panel and for information to be provided also on the proposed recording of the Party Leaders' Forum and the Budget and Transformation Panel.

Motion – Leisure Transformation Programme

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Milne, had in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

After discussion, during which Councillor Collins, the proposer of the motion, addressed the Committee, the Committee noted the motion.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Customer Focus

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 24th November 2017, agreed the recommendations contained in the outline business case for an enhanced and innovative approach to customer focus in the council.**

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1.2 The purpose of this report is to outline a proposed way forward to progress the implementation phase of the OBC recommendations.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to agree:

- that a Programme Director post be created to oversee the implementation of the customer focus programme.
- that the Programme Director, once appointed, be tasked with leading the development of a comprehensive Customer Focus Improvement Programme in line with the recommendations contained in the OBC.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Figure 1 below outlines the four main themes of the customer focus blueprint. From this, it can be seen that this work constitutes a major programme of work which will require careful planning and significant resources to deliver. For this reason, the Council has agreed to adopt a three phase approach starting with mobilisation, then discovery and ending with design and implementation.

Figure 1: Overview of Blueprint for Customer Focus

Overview of the Blueprint for customer focus

This section contains the 'blueprint' for the future corporate approach to customer focus for the Council. The 'blueprint' builds on the analysis completed in the earlier sections of the report and represents the preferred way forward from the Options Analysis. The 'blueprint' contains four main themes including Technical, Contact, Organisation and Standards with a series of principles denoted within each. The implementation plan and considerations for implementation will be discussed in the subsequent sections.

TECHNICAL THEMES	Contact Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 corporate contact centre (telephone, email correspondence) Level 1 support (switchboard, triage, signposting, simple queries) Level 2 support (specialist advice) One telephone number/email inbox Caters for out of hours/emergency 	Technology Enhancement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create one single corporate CRM Rationalise IT systems Front and back end system integration Invest in self serve opportunities Utilise applications where applicable Remove offline spreadsheets/databases 	Website/ Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streamlined website Easy to use/navigate Caters for all customers Signposted content/departments Mobile ready/compatible/ use of Apps Links for existing portals e.g. Members 	Data and Customer Insight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced quality of data Remove duplication Easier to extract and manipulate Greater analytics and insight Identify lessons learned Use to improve performance 	
	CONTACT THEMES	Digital First <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify services for digital delivery Increase self serve opportunities Drive channel shift Front and back end system integration Enable new ways of working for admin 	Assisted Digital <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinics/kiosks in selected facilities Accessibility and inclusion for all Consistent telephone support Education/training for customers on new ways of working Communication/engagement strategy 	Multi Channel Approach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi channel approach Adhering to digital first principle Greater use of digital services Restricted face to face support Higher quality of website content Higher quality telephony service 	Social Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent approach/ Corporate Sponsor Streamlined approvals for content Effective resourcing Tailoring messages to customers based on greater insight
		ORG THEMES	Marketing/ Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused and targeted marketing Promote new channels/services Promote customer vision/standards internal/external to the organisation Communication/engagement plan 	Process Redesign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify processes for redesign Improved ways of working Efficiency and productivity gains Organisation transformation/change 	Area Based Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align to 'service integration' project Nominated contact person per area Area field staff advocate for customer Develop Expertise based on area
STANDARD THEMES	Service Quality				
	Customer Contact				
	Focus on the Customer				
	Accountability (Corporate and Business Standards)				
Consistency across Council and Business Areas					

- 3.2 The key element of the mobilisation phase is to assign the appropriate leadership roles for the project. The Chief Executive will have overall responsibility but has assigned the Senior Responsible Officer role to the Deputy Chief Executive. The complexity and scale of the programme, however, means a full time dedicated leadership resource in the form of a programme director for a minimum of three years will be required. This role, if agreed, will be funded through the customer focus specified reserve established as part of the half year finance report. It is important that this leadership role is in place before the discovery phase starts. This phase will produce a comprehensive set of tools and deliverables, along with a thorough understanding of the proposed solutions, which will assist the project in design and delivery.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the discovery phase will take 10-12 weeks to complete. A further report will be brought back to Committee on its completion.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.4 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed at its meeting in November that a reallocation of £500k as part of the Quarter 2 finance report be set aside to cover the costs associated with the implementation of this Customer Focus project. The cost of the Programme Director will be covered as part of this reallocation.
- 3.5 Further information will be brought back to committee on the additional resources that will be required to support the rollout of the Implementation Plan but again it is anticipated that any costs associated with this can be accommodated from the £500k previously agreed.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.6 N/A.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Update on Capital Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers 205 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams

including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, SOF (Social Outcomes Fund) and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This report outlines

- an update on the Capital Programme for 2017/2018
- project updates – King George V Playing Fields: New 3G pitch – proposed replacement of project with new 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields and movement of Blanchflower and Ulidia schemes to Stage 3 – Committed
- the Capital Programme and capital financing for 2018/2019
- Physical Programme 2018/2019 and beyond

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to;

- note the update on the Capital Programme as at 3.1-3.2 below and that the Property and Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed and/or are underway

Project Updates and Movements

2.2

- note the update in respect of the King George V (KGV) Playing Fields proposed 3G pitch project at 3.3-3.7 and agree that given the requirements of the Living with Water Programme and that it is likely to be at least 2022 before this project can be taken forward that this is replaced on the Capital Programme by a 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields given its state of readiness. Members are asked to note that the scope of this project will remain as per the KGV proposal for a 3G pitch and floodlights only - similar to the scope of Ulidia which is also on the Capital Programme
- if agreed, it is further recommended that both the Ulidia and Blanchflower 3G pitch projects are moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £1.1m to be allocated per scheme – the Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. It is recommended that these are held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending the final tender return prices (see 3.8-3.9)

Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2018/2019

2.3

- agree the Capital Programme for 2018/2019 as outlined in Appendix 1-3 (see 3.10-3.13)

Procurement

2.4

agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for the Ulida/Blanchflower 3G pitch projects; and any non-recurrent projects for 2018/2019 and the Social Outcomes Fund projects, as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

3.0

Main Report

Key Issues

3.1

The Council's rolling Capital Programme is a significant regeneration programme and Members agreed the Capital programme for 2017/18 in March last year. An update on the Programme is outlined below:

Completed Projects

- *Connswater Community Greenway* - the completion of the major CCG project which consists of 16km of new foot and cycle paths, improved green spaces, 23 new or improved bridges, 5km of flood walls and embankments, 6 new tourism and heritage trails as well as the C.S. Lewis Square.
- *City Hall Works* –the new dedicated exhibition space on the ground floor of the City Hall which opened last year and which has already seen over 50,000 visitors which has surpassed expectations
- *Tropical Ravine* – the £4.1m recently completed upgrade of the Tropical Ravine which was redeveloped in conjunction with the HLF
- *Upgrades to parks, open spaces and playgrounds and pitches* - including new playgrounds at Hanwood, Botanic, Blacks Road and Colin Valley and a new changing pavilion at Sally Gardens
- *Corporate Projects* - including Fleet Replacement Programme for 2017/2018 and a range of ICT projects

Projects currently underway

- ***LTP –Olympia Leisure Centre*** – the new leisure facility as part of the £21.75m Olympia regeneration was opened last January. Work is continuing on the next phase of the project which includes a new pitch and play park, re-provision of Midgley Park, a new tree lined boulevard leading from the Boucher Road and the marketing of 2 commercial sites. This is due for completion in the Spring with an opening event planned for May
- **LTP – Andersonstown, Robinson and Brook** – work is already well underway at the £25m Andersonstown and £20m Robinson with both projects on track for opening in late 2019. A ‘Cutting the Sod’ ceremony for Brook took place on Wednesday 14th with works again scheduled for completion in 2019
- **Alleygating Phase IV** –the installation of over 180 gates across the city
- **Pitches** – new 3G pitch and pavilions at Cherryvale and Falls Park which are both due for completion in the Springtime
- ***Upgrades to parks, open spaces and playgrounds*** - including environmental improvements at Skegoneil and Falls Park which are currently underway.

- 3.2 Members are asked to note that the Property and Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital programme project.

Project Updates and proposed movements

- 3.3 **King George V Playing Fields: Proposed new 3G pitch – Replacement with a new 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields** – Members will recall that the redevelopment of both the Ulidia Playing fields and KGV 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 KGV had been to develop the facility in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Oval which was due to receive funding under the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme. However, it was highlighted to Members that the ongoing impasse at Stormont meant there had been no movements on this funding which made it extremely unlikely that the Oval would be redeveloped in the short to medium term. Members therefore agreed that given the huge demand and lack of 3G pitch facilities in East Belfast that KGV was decoupled from the Oval proposal and was taken forward in its own right.

- 3.4** Members will be aware that there is a significant project underway across the city in respect of upgrading the city's strategic drainage infrastructure under the Living with Water (LWW) Programme. Subsequent discussions with LWW have indicated that significant enhancement is required at the KGV site including a £25m replacement of the Sydenham Waste Water Pumping Station. While the land for the new pumping station is not substantial and is located on an under-used area close to the Sydenham Bypass the building works will require a substantial portion of KGV for the construction period and the site access roads etc. A new maintenance access road will also need constructed as the plant will require regular inspection. These works are scheduled to take at least 15 months and are not programmed to start until 2021. Council officers have had discussions with the LWW officials about the possibility of bringing these works forward to facilitate the infrastructure works first and then development of the new pitch. However due to the LWW programme it is not possible to do this. In light of this the earliest works could commence on the proposed new 3G pitch at KGV would therefore be 2022. Council officers have also investigated the possibility of developing the pitch now but the works required under LWW mean that the pitch will need to be taken up and therefore it would not represent value for money to progress the proposed 3G pitch now.
- 3.5** Recognising the deficit in 3G provision in East and that KGV cannot happen until at least 2022 officers have therefore been considering what other options are available in respect of 3G provision which could replace KGV as a project on the Capital Programme and updated the East AWG of these at its meeting on 8th February. Members are asked to note that there was a previous proposal to upgrade the Blanchflower Playing Fields. Phase 1 of this scheme, which consists of a 3G pitch, changing pavilion and stand for H&W Welders has been agreed by the East AWG as one of their BIF proposals with £2.37m allocated. H&W are also seeking funding under the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme which is currently at an impasse. Given this H&W Welders have been trying to identify other sources of funding and have had positive discussions with Urban Villages. The project has been identified as one of the potential projects for the next phase of UV capital investment and is currently going through business case. Members are asked to note that the H&W BIF proposal is ready to tender.
- 3.6** The 2nd phase of the proposed scheme at Blanchflower was for additional 3G pitches however these were not progressed due to a lack of commitment and funding. Planning

permission was however granted for the wider scheme including the pitches. Given this state of readiness it is therefore proposed that the Council's proposed capital programme project is switched from the KGV Playing Fields to Blanchflower. Members are asked to note that similar to the Ulidia proposal and in keeping with what was proposed for KGV the new proposal at Blanchflower to be funded under the Capital Programme is for a 3G pitch only. The elements which are being funded under the H&W Welders BIF proposal (the new 3G pitch, stand and changing pavilion) will be for H&W although in keeping with any BIF proposal the Club will need to ensure secured community access to the facilities as a requirement of BIF. As outlined the BIF proposal is ready to go out to tender and so this provides the opportunity to include the new 3G pitch as part of the contract which should allow for value for money and efficiencies.

- 3.7 Members are asked to note that the East AWG have endorsed this proposal and it is therefore recommended that a new 3G pitch at Blanchflower is taken forward in the place of the proposed KGV project given the significant delays that this is facing due to the requirements of the LWW Programme. Members are further asked to note that discussions with LWW will continue and that the potential of a pitch at KGV will be examined in the longer term following the completion of the LWW works and further discussions with them in respect of potential compensation for works being carried out across Council land.

Project Movements – Ulidia and Blanchflower

- 3.8 If Members agree the above change, it is further recommended that the Ulidia and Blanchflower projects are moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £1.1million per scheme. It is proposed that these are held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending the final tender return figures. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

Capital Programme and Capital Financing – Impact of Members decisions

- 3.9 Members are asked to note that the Council incurs both capital expenditure and capital financing costs in the delivery of its Capital Programme.
- Capital Expenditure is the expenditure incurred in the actual delivery of contracts e.g. the actual payments to the contractor for a construction contract

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- **Capital Financing** is the method the council uses to fund the capital expenditure. The capital financing costs include loan repayments (principle and interest); revenue contributions (cash payments to repay or avoid taking out loans); capital receipts and external funding.

Capital Financing 2018/2019

- 3.10** At its meeting on 19 January 2018, the SP&R Committee approved a capital financing budget of £20,706,901. This includes increases to the capital financing budget as a result of efficiencies generated by the Waterfront (£200k) and Accommodation Strategy (£755k) along with the inclusion of £1m increase to the capital financing budget as agreed at the meeting of the SP&R Committee on 5 January 2018.
- 3.11** Members will be aware however that the Council has already committed financing to a range of physical projects under the Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix 1 and 2 and a number of non-recurrent projects which accounts for £17.1m of this. Loan repayments are an additional £2,445,517. Members are asked to approve the Capital Programme Stage 3 – Committed projects and Stage 2 – Uncommitted projects as per Appendix 1 and 2.

Table 1 – Existing Capital Financing Budget 2018/2019

Existing Capital Financing Budget		£20,706,901
<u>Less:</u> Physical Programme Commitments (capital programme and non-recurrent projects)	£17,114,335	
Existing BCC Loans	£1,768,198	
Lisburn/Castlereagh Transferred Loans	£677,319	
		£(19,559,852)
Balance Remaining		£1,147,049

- 312** Members will however be aware that the Capital Programme also includes a number of Stage 1- Emerging Projects. A small number of the emerging proposals are historic proposals which have been on the Programme for some time and which have now been superseded by other projects/programmes which have been agreed and/or will no longer happen as they were originally proposed and it is timely now to update the Emerging list to reflect these changes. Members are asked to agree the Stage 1 – Emerging Projects as outlined in Appendix

3. Members are asked to note that none of the Emerging projects currently have financing associated with them.

- 3.13 As per Table 1 above there is £1.15m of unallocated capital financing to support any emerging proposals already on the Capital Programme and any future additional proposals. Members are asked to note that while this is unallocated currently it will be required to support emerging projects during the course of the year.

Social Outcomes Fund

- 3.14 Members will be aware the Council, at its meeting on 1st February 2018 adopted and approved the minute of the meeting of the SP&Rs Committee of 20th October 2017, under the heading '*City Centre Social Outcomes Fund Update – Proposed Recasting to Support the City's Growing Tourism Infrastructure*'. As per this decision Members are asked to note that officers will now commence work with the projects agreed for funding. As highlighted at the meeting on 20th October these projects have been added as Stage 1 – Emerging projects and will be subject to the Council's three stage approval process for all physical projects.

Approval to Procure

- 3.15 Members are asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for the Ulidia/Blanchflower 3G pitch projects; any non-recurrent projects for 2018/2019 and the Social Outcomes Fund projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

- 3.16 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Ulidia and Blanchflower - The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that the Ulidia and Blanchflower projects which are recommended to move to Stage 3 (as outlined in 3.8) are within the affordability limits of the Council – these will be held at Tier 0 pending the final tender returns

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

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion, the Committee:

- agreed to refer back to the East Area Working Group the proposal to replace the 3G pitch project at King George V playing Fields on the Capital Programme with a 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields to enable representatives of Glentoran Football Club and NI Water to attend the next meeting of that Group;
- agreed that the Ulidia pitch project be moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme, with a maximum budget of £1.1m to be allocated, to be held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk, pending the final tender return price;
- agreed the Capital Programme for 2018/19; and
- agreed that necessary procurement process (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate “framework” arrangements) be initiated for the Ulidia 3G pitch project; and any non-recurrent projects for 2018/2019 and the Social Outcomes Fund projects, as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

Update on Assets/Estates Management

Gloucester Street Offices – Proposed Disposal

The Committee approved the commencement of a disposal and marketing process in respect of a site comprising the former Council offices at Gloucester Street, with further updates to be reported back to the Committee as appropriate in relation to the disposal process.

Land at Cregagh Park – Proposed Disposal

The Committee approved acceptance of an offer of £225,000 to purchase land at Cregagh Park, subject to receipt of planning permission and on other terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and City Solicitor.

62 Antrim Road – Residential Letting

The Committee granted retrospective approval to the letting of a residential property at 62 Antrim Road to a Council employee.

Update on Area Working

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of Area Working Groups as follows:

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- East Area Working Group 11th January and 8th February; subject to the omission of the minute of the East Area Working Group of 8th February under the heading “Physical Programme Update”, in so far as it related to the King George V Playing Fields/Blanchflower Playing Fields, which had been referred back to the East Area Working Group earlier in the meeting;
- South Area working Group 22nd January;
- North Area working Group 23rd January;
- West Area working Group 26th January; and
- Agreed to the recommendation from the South Area Working Group to ring-fence the remaining LIF budget of £40,000 to LORAG towards the John Murray Lockhouse.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2018/2019

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report presents the Quarter 3 financial position for the Council including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack which contains a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

1.2 The Departmental year end forecast is a net year end under spend of £557k which represents a variance of 0.4% of the annual net expenditure budget. Members will recall that as part of the Revenue Estimate setting process for 2018/2019 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 15th December 2017 agreed that non recurrent funding of £147k for Community Grants and £70k for Twilight Markets would be made available for 2018/2019. This means that the forecast surplus at the year-end is only £340k.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report; and
- agree that no further re-allocations are considered until the year end, given that the uncommitted forecast represents less than 0.2% of departmental net expenditure.

3.0 Main Report

Current and Forecast Financial Position 2017/2018

- 3.1** The financial position for Quarter 3 is a net departmental under-spend of £2,031k (2.0%). The forecast year-end departmental position is an under-spend of £557k (0.4%), which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.
- 3.2** The departmental underspend arises mainly from below budget employee costs, due to staff vacancies, staff turnover, additional income and reductions supplies expenditure in Waste Management which has helped offset budgetary pressures within Facilities and the Zoo.

Rates Finalisation

- 3.3** The District Rate forecast by Land and Property Services (LPS) is a favourable outturn of £645k, which is a decrease of almost £500k in the estimated rate finalisation from the position reported at Quarter 2.
- 3.4** Two large buildings which were valued as industrial (one in Queen's Island with a Net Annual Value – NAV of £208k and one in Royal Avenue with an NAV of £195k) were made vacant which resulted in the industrial status being removed. Industrial status entitled a property to 30% rate reduction. However, the move from industrial to vacant status qualifies for 100% (Non Domestic Vacant Rating – NDVR) exemption and this manifests in an increased loss. Associated with this change in occupancy status is a reduction in the de-rating compensation which is evident through the increased de-rated clawback. A third property with an NAV of £143k moved from NVDR 50% to NDVR exclusion.

Capital Projects

- 3.5** Planned capital expenditure for 2017/18 approved as part of the capital programme is £36.5m with forecast expenditure for the year of £24.98m.
- 3.6** The Summary Dashboard on Page 2 of the attached performance report summarises forecast expenditure on other capital programme including Non-Recurring Projects (£1,037k), Feasibility Fund (£191k) and projects in the new boundary areas (£757k).
- 3.7** Committed expenditure approved by the Committee on Belfast Investment Fund projects is £17.02m, with a further

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£4.96m committed on LIF 1 projects and £3.86m on LIF 2 projects.

Capital Financing

- 3.8 The capital finance budget is forecast to be balanced at the year end.**

Forecast Reserves Position

- 3.9 The balance of general reserves is forecast to increase from £13.4m to £14.6m.**
- 3.10 The movements in specified reserves is forecast to reduce the specified reserve balances to £6.7m at the year end.**

Financial Resources

- 3.11 This report considers the Councils financial performance at Quarter 3 2017/18 together with the forecast year end position.**

Equality or Good Relation Implications

- 3.12 None.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council’s electronic procurement system; and
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by monthly extensions where contracts were under review as outlined 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
Supply and delivery of Bottled and Mains Fed Water	Gerry Millar	3 years

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Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and Delivery and installation of Signage	Nigel Grimshaw	Extend to 31 March 2018 and monthly thereafter to allow for new tender exercise
Supply, delivery and dismantling of Marquees	Donal Durkan	Extend to 31 July 2018 and monthly thereafter to allow for new tender exercise

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 5th February, 2018, as follows:

- to note the update on PEACE IV and that an invitation was be extended to the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) to attend future meetings of the Partnership where PEACE IV was on the agenda;
- to agree the recommendations in relation to the Review of the Shared City Partnership, as outlined in the minutes;
- to agree that the East Belfast Community Development Agency's request for financial assistance towards a dedicated staff resource be supported through the District Council Good Relations Programme at a cost of £10,000 per annum for two years, in principle, pending the submission of an action plan and other sources of funding being confirmed; and
- to agree that the Council partners with the William J. Clinton Leadership Institute and the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for the Global Peace Security and Justice at Queen's University to facilitate the launch of the Global Peace Index in Belfast on 14th June and that £500 of match funding would be allocated towards the event.

Operational Issues

Northern Ireland Local Government Association –
Forward Work Plan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To update Members on the NILGA Forward Work Plan for the period 2018-2019

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- note the contents of the NILGA Forward Work Plan for the period 2018-2019; and
- note the annual subscription fee of £71,467, which represents a 0% increase on previous year, which has already been included in 2018/2019 budget.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) is the representative body for the new 11 councils. It seeks to promote, develop and champion the best interests of local government by developing regional positions and approaches to key issues affecting the sector, including elected Member development, collective lobbying and policy development and hosting good practice events including the annual local government awards. The Association also seeks to represent NI Local Government’s interests on regional bodies such as the Partnership Panel with the NI Assembly, within the Local Government Group of Associations in the UK (with over 550 councils as members) and in Europe.

3.2 NILGA members are drawn from the 11 councils with ten elected Members representing Belfast City Council on the Association.

Forward Work Plan 2018-2019

3.3 The Council has received a copy of the proposed Forward Work Plan for the period 2018-2019, a copy of which is attached. A summary of the areas of focus over the coming months is set out below for Members information.

3.4

1. Legislative, powers, investment & transfers of functions e.g.
 - Establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group on Local Government's Development and Sustainability moving into new electoral period.
 - Advocate for an Entrepreneurship Strategy
 - Policy and research support and evidence on key local government priorities e.g. devolution, PfG and NI Budget, Brexit etc
 - Bring forward a new Burdens Framework which seeks to indemnify councils for any future transfer of functions
2. Regional communications activities and support e.g.
 - Scheduling monthly showcase events open to councils
 - Publication of bulletins, press and media releases and other communication materials
3. Statutory representation and co-ordination e.g.
 - Representation on a range of local government related bodies and forums
 - Joint Secretariat support to the Partnership Panel (if Assembly reinstated)
 - Help co-ordinate LG input into the Employer's side of National Joint Council
4. Regional and Sub-Regional awareness and networking e.g.
 - Co-ordinate 24 learning and networking events on key priority and policy related issues for LG
 - NILGA Annual Conference and Local Government Awards
 - National Events e.g. RHS Britain in Bloom 2018 UK Awards Ceremony for NI – to be hosted in Belfast in Oct 18
5. Elected Member Development including Charter / Charter Plus e.g.
 - Help councils retain National Charter / National Charter Plus awards

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- In partnership with LGTG and National Association of Cllrs, deliver a Regional Member Development Programme
 - In partnership with 11 councils, LGTG and SOLACE – develop an Elected Members Induction Programme
- 6. National and regional policy, lobbying, guidance, publications e.g.**
- Provision of policy analysis, best practice examples and guidance
 - Support a number of strategic working groups to consider key policy priorities/challenges for local government
 - Continue the ‘Making Planning Work’ series which produces user friendly guidance around planning and revisions to Cllr Code of Conduct.
- 7. International & European policy, investment and representation e.g.**
- Collaborate with other LGAs to lobby DEXEU to ensure councils are properly resourced for Brexit preparations; and have a full understanding of potential implications and opportunities
 - Lobby for appropriate consultation mechanism for NI councils around EU Withdrawal Bill
 - Coordinate a strategic group of senior economic development officers and liaise with partner organisations to help influence future legislation, strategy and funding frameworks
 - Continue to seek support for NI councils to be showcased through hosting a 52 nation Commonwealth Local Government Forum 2019 International Conference.
 - Work with councils to secure investment opportunities stemming from the EU Committee of the Regions, in particular through NILGA participation in the IEER Boost (entrepreneurship) project
- 8. Strategic, regional working groups e.g.**
- Number of working groups established to consider key policy areas for local government. Involvement of councils, SOLACE and relevant central government departments.

9. NI Councils future sustainability – research and development e.g.

- R&D in the areas of Devolution, EU Withdrawal Bill, The Circular Economy, Waste Management, New Financial and Rating Models, Entrepreneurial Strategy, Coastal Erosion, Winter Maintenance Protocols, developing a Programme for Local Government, Strengthening Participative Local Democracy, Place Shaping, Commissioning and Performance Management.

10. Corporate Planning and Performance Management e.g.

- Continuation of Internal corporate planning, governance, audit, performance management and reporting processes.
- Consult on new NILGA Corporate Plan for the period June 2019 – May 2023 (covering the new Council Electoral Term)

3.5 Annual Subscription

Members will note that the annual NILGA subscription for the 2018/19 period is £71,467 which represents a 0% increase on the 2017/18 subscription fee. This has included in the 2018/19 budget.”

It was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Committee agrees not to pay the annual subscription fee of £71,467 to renew its membership of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

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

Accordingly, the Committee noted the contents of the NILGA forward Work Plan for the period 2018-2019 and approved the payment of the annual subscription fee of £71,467.

ICT Infrastructure Relocation

The Committee noted the contents of a report which outlined timescales, business impact and the complexities of the ICT infrastructure relocation from Gloucester Street to 9 Adelaide.

**Designation of Belfast District (or the city centre)
as a “Holiday Resort”**

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:

- seek approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to further consult the public on their attitudes to Sunday Trading in the city and to gauge public opinion as to whether the Council should designate Belfast as a ‘holiday resort’ under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- A holiday resort designation would provide ‘large shops’ with an option to extend their Sunday trading hours in the city centre on up to 18 Sundays (other than Easter Sunday) between 1 March and 30 September in any calendar year. Such a designation may not come into effect until at least one month after the resolution of the Council.
- Small shops are already permitted to open at any time on Sunday’s throughout the year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report, including the findings from the original public consultation which concluded on 5th May 2017; and
- provide approval for officers to consult the public on their present attitudes to Sunday Trading and to ask the public whether the Council should make a ‘holiday resort’ designation under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1 The initial proposal was made in response to a strong lobby within the city to designate Belfast as a ‘holiday resort’ area in order to improve the tourism offering in Belfast (particularly on a Sunday morning), to boost the local economy and to support the overall regeneration of the city centre.**

The principle of additional Sunday opening hours for large shops in 'holiday resort' areas was established under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (a copy is attached).

- 3.2 Article 6 was included in the 1997 Order as an additional exemption to allow large shops in tourist areas to avail of the additional tourist trade over the summer months. A range of areas and towns in Northern Ireland have been designated and remain as 'holiday resorts' for this purpose including Derry-Londonderry, Newry, Kilkeel, Portrush, Portstewart and Ballycastle. It was felt that Belfast, as a growing tourist destination in both Northern Ireland and wider afield may similarly wish to avail of this exemption.
- 3.3 There is nothing in this proposal which will result in any change in existing legislation or further 'deregulation' of Sunday trading law.

Requirement to consult

- 3.4 Any designation as a 'holiday resort' must be done by resolution of the Council. The legislation states that before making a designation the Council must first consult persons likely to be affected by the proposed designation.
- 3.5 The Council has already consulted widely on this issue during 2017 and the findings from that consultation have been summarised at paragraphs 3.6 – 3.11. It is proposed that the Council undertake an additional 6-week consultation between 16 February and 31 March 2018 on the key questions to allow consultees to further contribute to the existing evidence base and to provide Members with up to date information upon which to make any decision to designate Belfast as a holiday resort or otherwise.

2017 Consultation

- 3.6 In January / February 2017 the Council undertook a four-week pre-consultation exercise (which included one to one meetings with a range of stakeholders), before commencing a formal public consultation between 10 March and 5 May 2017 on Citizen Space, the Council's online consultation platform. In total, 2471 people and organisations responded to the consultation.

Key findings

- 3.7 With regards to the priority question in the consultation –

Should Belfast be designated as a holiday resort in order to provide large shops with the option to extend Sunday trading hours?

Of the total 2471 people and organisations who responded to the consultation:

1531 answered yes (62%)
934 answered no (38%)
5 did not answer

3.8 With regards to the second question in the consultation –

What area should the designation apply to?

Of the total 1858 people and organisations who responded via the Citizen Space online tool:

1398 indicated all of the Belfast City Council area (75.2%)
291 indicated Belfast City Centre only (15.7%)
169 did not answer (9.1%)

3.9 The third question in the consultation asked –

Do you think Belfast would be more attractive as a tourist and/or shopping and leisure destination if the restrictions on Sunday opening times for larger shops were removed?

Of the total 1858 people and organisations who responded via the Citizen Space online tool:

1515 agreed with this statement (81.4%)
294 disagreed with the statement (15.8%)
49 did not answer (2.6%)

Consultees were offered the opportunity to provide reasons for their answer.

3.10 Those agreeing with the statement cited reasons such as this would boost tourism, would provide tourists with an activity to do, the current restrictions are outdated and it would make Belfast feel like a modern international city.

3.11 The reasons given by respondents who disagreed with the statement included those who felt that there are enough other attractions available for tourists, shopping is not a tourist consideration and the current trading hours are sufficient or changes would be unlikely to have an impact.

Potential Benefits

- 3.12 **Tourism** - Tourism NI have indicated that they would position Sunday trading within the context of meeting visitor expectations and providing a range of things to do and see. They acknowledge that flexibility around trading hours sits within a broader debate about what other initiatives are required to make our city centres more attractive and vibrant so that they both help position Northern Ireland competitively on the international stage and encourage local residents to come to them.
- 3.13 Visitor surveys regularly indicate that a lack of range of things to do in the evenings and on Sundays is a weakness with a negative impact on the overall visitor experience. Keeping the issue of flexibility on trading hours to the forefront is important not least for any future major tourism events. Visit Belfast is open from 11am on Sunday and the organisation reports high user numbers from opening time, meaning the tourists are in the City Centre but there is a limited retail offer for them to avail of.
- 3.14 **Economy** – New footfall statistics from the Belfast one Business Improvement District (BID) demonstrate that the footfall profile on a Monday-Saturday is broadly similar. However, on a Sunday, there is a ‘lag’ in footfall until the opening time of 1pm. This suggests that visitors are currently not coming into the city centre due to the limited retail offering and this could be considered a missed opportunity for retailers that are currently under financial pressure, given the competition from online trading.
- 3.15 One of main activities available for access on a Sunday morning is St Georges’ Market. Footfall counters at the market indicate that Sunday is regularly the busiest of the three days that the market is opening. Trading is brisk right from opening and this demonstrates the demand from tourists and local users for activities in the city centre earlier on a Sunday.

Next Steps

3.16 **Six-week Consultation**

It is proposed that the Council go out to consultation for six weeks using the Council consultation hub, Citizen Space to record the public’s current attitudes towards Sunday Trading in order to inform any subsequent decision by the Council as to whether to designate Belfast as a ‘holiday resort’ under the Shops Sunday Trading legislation.

- 3.17 This follow up consultation would be viewed as a supplementary exercise to the formal consultation which ended in May 2017 and its purpose is to give consultees an opportunity to contribute further to the existing evidence base.

Making the Designation

- 3.18 Should the Council decide to make the designation, they must do so by resolution of the Council and the designation cannot take effect until at least one month after the date on which the resolution is passed. Therefore, if the resolution was passed at the 1 May Council meeting then the designation could take effect from 1 June 2018.

How would the Exemption be applied?

- 3.19 To make use of the exemption, the occupier or proposed occupier of a large shop must notify the local District Council of the dates of the Sundays involved. The notification does not take effect until 14 days from the date it is given, unless the Council agrees that it should come into effect earlier.
- 3.20 A Council must maintain a register of shops in its district making use of this exemption and make the register available to the public at all reasonable times.
- 3.21 The Council may not dictate which Sunday's the large shop may open on (within the designated dates) nor the opening or closing times. Having made the 'holiday resort' designation the council's role according to the legislation will be keep a register of the large shops making use of the exemption in addition to their existing enforcement role in respect of Sunday trading.

A co-ordinated approach

- 3.22 If the Council decides to proceed with the designation, the Council will work with key partners including the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Belfast One and Visit Belfast to ensure the effective promotion of the additional hours and to consider the potential impact on city animation due to the additional visitors to the city on that day.
- 3.23 For example, if a major event is taking place in the city over a particular weekend during the summer months, then the Council would aim to ensure that the event would be promoted alongside a programme of supporting activities. The city would effectively be 'open for business' across the entire

weekend thereby maximising the tourism offering in the city and providing the option for both small and large retail stores to avail of the additional visitors into the city whilst the event is taking place.

- 3.24 Likewise, the retail and business partners have been working on the proposals for increased marketing and promotion in order to raise awareness of the change in opening hours, if agreed. It is likely that the majority of retailers will want to open from 11am. The closing hours are likely to remain unchanged.

Employment provisions

- 3.25 Concerns about the impact of additional Sunday trading on the rights of shop workers was a major issue during the drafting of the original legislation in 1997. To counter these concerns Article 11 and Schedule 2 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 was included to provide employment rights for shop workers, except those contracted to work only on Sundays. They aim to ensure that shop workers are not compelled to work on Sundays against their wishes. The rights apply irrespective of age, length of service or hours of work. The Schedule provides that dismissal of a shop worker (including dismissal for reasons of redundancy) is unfair if the reason for it was the worker's refusal to work on Sundays. It also provides the right not to suffer any other detriment (such as denial of normal promotion or training opportunities, or refusal to pay seniority bonuses, etc.) for refusing to work on Sundays.
- 3.26 All shop workers who enter into a contract of employment requiring Sunday working are able to 'opt out' of Sunday working subject to giving the employer three months' notice. Enforcement of the employment rights is by way of complaint to an industrial tribunal.
- 3.27 Before any designation is made the Council will seek assurances from the various retail representative groupings including the Belfast Chamber and Retail NI that their Members (including all large shops wishing to avail of the extended opening hours) are fully aware of their obligations under the legislation to protect the rights of workers. This could take the form of an agreed Charter which all large shops planning on operating extended working hours on designated Sunday's would sign up to.

Review

- 3.28 It is proposed that any decision to designate Belfast (or the City Centre) as a 'holiday resort' will be subject to a full review at the end of the designated 'holiday resort' period.
- 3.29 A full and thorough review could therefore be undertaken between 31 September 2018 and March 2019 in order to inform Members of the impacts that the designation has had over the holiday period.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.30 There will be financial and resource implications for both the Development Department and the Planning and Place Department should the Council designate the council area as a holiday resort under Article 6 of the 1997 Order.
- 3.31 The Building Control Service currently performs the enforcement role in relation to Sunday trading under the 1997 Order and the designation of the Belfast district as a 'holiday resort' would require an additional level of resource to manage the registration of participating shops and enforcement of same.
- 3.32 The Development Department may need to consider how existing resources are re-focused to promote change in opening hours. This may include additional city animation or promotional activities. There may also be a request for additional financial support to supplement planned marketing activity. This will have to be found from existing resources.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.33 A draft Equality Screening exercise was undertaken during pre-consultation process. This document was shared on Citizens Space to help elicit views from respondents.

The screening exercise highlighted minor impacts on the Religious Beliefs and Dependents categories. As part of the online consultation, respondents were asked if they were aware of any equality and / or good relations implications that should be considered around potentially extending Sunday trading.

- 3.34 There were 454 responses to this question via the online consultation. Some respondents made more than one point. The most frequently cited thematic areas are listed below:

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Some people can't work on a Sunday due to religious commitments /going to church/family commitments but will feel obliged/pressured to do so if changes are implemented.	159
Extended Sunday opening during the summer will provide economic opportunities and conveys a positive cosmopolitan image to visitors/tourists.	97
If implemented, extending Sunday trading hours during summer months will provide additional choice for residents and tourists that want to shop on Sundays, for businesses that wish to open and people that want to work on Sundays.	70
9Religious beliefs/current laws should not restrict those who wish to shop on a Sunday	51
Family life will be affected if Sunday trading is implemented. There will be a negative impact on retail workers who are carers/have children.	36
Extended Sunday trading conflicts with personal Christian religious views/faith beliefs	34

3.35 The information obtained during the first consultation will be used to inform and update the Equality Screening document in line with members' decision."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 8th February, 2018.

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

The Committee:

- approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to January, 2018 as set out in Appendix 1 below; and
- approved the waiving of the standard room/hire charge in respect of the Science Festival event.

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
2018 EVENTS						
National Human Rights Commission	6th March 2018	Launch of NIHRC's "Travelers Accommodation in NI" Report - Launch event of report in regard to adequate standard of living into Travelers accommodation. Numbers attending – 80-100	B	Yes - £115	No – government body	Director Delegated approval given due to date Approve Charge £115 No Hospitality
European Commission Office Northern Ireland	6th March 2018	Opportunity Europe Euro-quiz for schools – An event for schools to promote students' knowledge of Europe. Numbers attending - 120	B	Yes - £300	No – government body	Director Delegated approval given due to date Approve £300 charge No Hospitality
Extern	8TH March 2018	Extern 40th Anniversary Campaign Launch – Social Justice charity celebrating their work with the homeless, refugees and people living with addiction etc Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Delegated approval given due to date Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Horn of Africa People's Aid	9th March 2018	International Women's Day – Celebration event with speakers, entertainment and drinks reception.	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine	Delegated approval given due to date Approve No charge Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		Numbers attending - 60				
War on Want NI	27th March 2018	Launch of new beginning for War on Want and Self Help Africa – celebrate the merge of these two charities and promote campaigns and work ahead Numbers attending – 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Queen's University, Belfast	18th April 2018	Global Agent Fam Trip – Dinner with drinks reception to promote Belfast as an International study choice. Numbers attending - 130	A & B	No (Charity)	No – government body	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
Cara –friend	14th May 2018	Launch of LGBT Awareness Week 2018, reception and speeches about theme of visibility for LGBT people and promote upcoming events Numbers attending - 100	D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Active Communities Network	8th June 2018	SIF West Belfast Early Intervention – marking the achievements of over 70 young people - Speeches, Dinner, Presentations &	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		Entertainment Numbers attending - 130				
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	24th June 2018	Belfast City ITF Junior Tournament 2018 Celebratory Event – promoting local young Tennis players with buffet, speeches and networking Numbers attending - 205	B & D	No (Voluntarily)	No – received BCC funding for this event	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
Remembering Srebrenica	10th July 2018	Northern Ireland's National Remembering Srebrenica Commemoration – An annual event to mark the genocide in Srebrenica. Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast Global Shapers	17th August 2018	Shape Belfast 2018 – a network of young people working together to address local and global challenges. Welcome drinks reception followed by dinner and speeches as part of Shape 3-day Conference at Waterfront. Numbers attending – 350	A & B	No (Charity) <i>*awaiting charity number – if not provided then charge of £825.00</i>	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
Co-Operation Ireland	20th August 2018	Northern Ireland National Citizen Service Graduation and Celebration - celebration event for young people who have completed NCS training with reception, presentation and speakers. Numbers Attending - 350	C & D	No (charity)	No	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Ulster Journals Ltd	6 September 2018	Ulster Tatler Awards 2018 Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending; 420	B & C 1 in 3 rule	Yes - £825.00	No as commercial company	Approve Yes, £825 No Hospitality 1 in 3 rule
International Society for Eye Research	9th September 2018	ISER Conference 2018 – 1000 people expected to participate in the 5-day conference in the city. Welcome reception to launch the conference. Numbers attending; 500 - 700	A & B	No (charity)	Yes – Wine Linked to Visit Belfast	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Aisling Events	5th October 2018	The Belfast International Homecoming Banquet – Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment as part of a 3-day festival to promote Sister Cities connections.	B	Yes - £300	Yes – Wine due to BCC links	Approve Yes, £300 Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		Numbers attending; 250				
Ulster College of Physical Education Former Students Association	14th October 2018	65th Anniversary of Inception of Ulster College of Physical Education – Drinks reception for former students followed by speeches. Numbers attending - 300	C & D	No (Voluntarily)	No	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Barnardo's Northern Ireland	6th November 2018	Barnardo's NI Supporters Event – Celebrating volunteers and supporters - Speakers, panel session and lunch. Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Corrymeela Community	9th November 2018	Decade of Centenaries – Centenary of end of WWI Schools Event – An event for school children to commemorate WWI with drama, discussion and lunch. Numbers attending - 350	C	No (Charity)	No – as Good Relations have a budget for catering for students	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Pharmacy Forum NI	15th November 2018	Pharmacy Forum NI Rewarding Excellence Event 2018 – Fellows Dinner, annual event to recognize excellence and	C	No (Charity)	No – not linked to Belfast Agenda	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		professionalism across the industry. Numbers attending - 100				
Polish Educational and Cultural Association	18th November 2018	Polish Independence Day 2018 – Celebration event to promote diversity and reflect on positive contribution of Polish community. Numbers attending - 160	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
The Scout Association, Northern Ireland Scout Council	4th January 2019	Queen's Scout Award and Chief Scout's Award Presentation – 175 young people receiving awards, reception with awards ceremony Numbers attending - 450	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Agri-food and Biosciences Institute	8th September 2019	Campylobacter, Helicobacter and Related Organisms Conference Welcome Reception – Conference promotes microbiological food safety, drinks reception to launch this conference in Belfast Numbers attending - 300	A & B	No as this event is linked to Visit Belfast endorsed	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

Development of Building Regulations in Northern Ireland

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The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th December, in considering a report on the “Grenville Tower Fire – Update on actions of Belfast City Council”, it had agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Finance, Building Standards Branch, seeking an update on the process of recruitment of the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee and the outcome of its review of Technical Booklet E (Fire Safety). It was also agreed that the letter should indicate that the Department should be more proactive in reviewing the Building Regulations rather than awaiting the outcome of the review in England.

The Committee was advised that a response had been received from the Chief Executive of the Department of Finance. The Department’s position on each of the issues raised was as follows:

1. *‘A progress update on the recruitment process for The Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee (NIBRAC)’* - The Department is currently finalising the recruitment arrangements and expects to advertise for candidates during February or March 2018.
2. *‘The outcome of the Department’s review of Technical Booklet E, Fire Safety’* – An interim review looking at possible measures around high rise residential accommodation is ongoing, after which any policy proposals would be subject to Ministerial consideration and consultation.
3. *‘The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee’s view that the Department should take a more proactive approach to updating building regulations in NI and that this should commence now rather than awaiting the outcome of the review in England’* – The Department continues to work with officials in England and the other devolved administrations regarding building regulation amendments and Dame Judith Hackett’s Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. The Department has no plans at this time to move from its policy of following England’s general position, as recommended in the McConnell Report, or to bring forward significant changes in advance of the outcome of Dame Judith’s review.

At that meeting, it had also been agreed that officers should engage with the NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) with a view to them appearing before the Committee to discuss their capacity to enforce the Fire Services Order. The Building Control Manager had been in contact with the NIFRS and Director of Community Protection, Alan Walmsley, who had confirmed that he would attend the Committee’s meeting scheduled for 23rd March.

The Committee noted receipt of the response from the Chief Executive, Department of Finance; and noted also that the Director of Community Protection NIFRS had accepted the Committee’s invitation and would be in attendance at the March meeting.

Rainbow Project Fundraising Event –

Employee Sponsorship

The Committee was reminded that the Council's Equality and Diversity Network championed and steered the Council's strategy on matters relating to diversity and equality in both service delivery and employment and in particular fed into the development of the Council's Diversity Action Plans. The Council was a member of the Rainbow Project's Diversity Champions Programme which provided support and advice to the Council on the delivery of its LGB&T action plan in particular.

It was reported that the Rainbow Project was one of the Lord Mayor's charities this year and the City Hall would host the final ever Rainbow Project's "Out2Dance" charity fundraising event on 19th May, 2018. A member of the Council's LGB&T staff network had volunteered to participate in the fundraising event and the Council had been asked to sponsor the employee's participation at a cost of £200. The sponsorship would afford the Council, like other businesses involved, the usual benefits of charity event sponsorship via promotion at the event and in publicity materials.

The Committee approved the sponsorship as outlined.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 16th February, 2018**

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

In considering the minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 7th February, the Committee's attention was drawn to the decision of the Group to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Historic Working Group cease to operate.

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to reject the recommendation of the Historic Working Group and, accordingly, the Historic Working Group continues to operate.

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

The Minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 7th February were thereupon approved and adopted.

Head of Policy and Strategy – Recruitment Panel

The Committee agreed that the Elected Member representation on the recruitment panel for the Head of Policy and Strategy consist of the Chairperson (Councillor Garrett), the Deputy Chairperson (Councillor Graham) and Councillor McDonough-Brown (or their nominees).

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Procedure – Voting at Council Meetings

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Convery raised the issue of the procedures during voting at Council meetings.

After discussion the Committee agreed that, when an amendment was made at a meeting of the Council, the default position would be that the amendment would be read out in advance of the vote being taken on that amendment.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Wednesday, 31st January, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Armitage, McCusker,
McReynolds, Milne and Newton.

Also attended: Councillor Magee.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director;
Mr. D. Elliot, Principle Environmental Health Officer Public
Health and Housing Team; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation

Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Update Presentation on new Heating Contract

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. J. Hawthorne (Belfast Regional Manager), Mr. P. McCarthy (Senior Project Manager) and Mr. B. O’Kane (Senior Principal Officer), representing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

Mr. McCarthy commenced by advising that the Housing Executive had a new heating service contract that commenced on 1st November, 2017. He outlined that the NIHE had a requirement as Landlord to meet its statutory obligations by ensuring that it protected both the customer and the asset. The NIHE had to ensure both the safety and continuity of operation, this required the prompt repair of heating installations in its properties, regular servicing and when necessary the replacement of heating systems.

The representative detailed that the service applied to gas, oil, electric, biomass, LPG, solid fuel, gas pipework installations for customer’s cookers and other appliances, open fires, focal point fires, renewable sources (solar thermal panels, solar PV roof tiles and panel), oil spillage remediation works and asbestos services (surveying and removal). He stated that it would not cover tenants gas cookers or other appliances, tenant installed oil/electric heating systems or tenant installed wood burning/multi-fuel stoves.

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He then proceeded to highlight the key changes in the new contract as follows:

- the contract and its delivery were now managed by the Regional Heating Units;
- local maintenance staff no longer had a formal role; and
- the local office role in relation to customers (refusals, access etc.) remained unchanged.

He concluded the presentation by outlining the contractors working hours and he explained the text message facility that the contractor used to contact the customer. He stated that the contractor appointed to undertake any required works must try to accommodate the requirements of the customer in order to gain access to a property.

In response to a Member's query, the representative confirmed that carbon monoxide detectors were fitted to all properties. He advised that they were located within 1 metre of the boiler and were tested and serviced regularly.

Following a further query, the representative explained the process regarding the installation and maintenance of gas appliances. He stated that, as a landlord, the NIHE were legally responsible for the safety of its tenants in relation to gas safety and he assured the Members that any contractor involved with the installation of gas was Gas Safety Registered and had to leave a CP12 Gas Safety Certificate.

Several Members stated that, following the changes to the frontline services in the NIHE, there appeared to be much confusion as to who tenants now needed to contact to report issues.

The representative advised that the NIHE had endeavoured to communicate these changes effectively to the community. Housing Executive representatives had attended meetings of the Housing Community Networks to explain the changes and he stated that he would be willing to facilitate meetings to community groups if it would be helpful.

Mrs Hawthorn referred to a 'Who, What, Where' contact information booklet that had previously been circulated to Members and she undertook to forward an updated information pamphlet. The Democratic Services Officer advised that she would ensure this was circulated to all the Elected Members of Council and suggested that this be uploaded to the new Members' Portal where it would be available for all the Members to access.

Noted.

Update Presentation on Homelessness in Belfast

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th December, it had considered a Notice of Motion in relation to the growing homelessness problem in the City and it had agreed that the Committee would receive an update presentation on how the NIHE addressed homelessness in Belfast at its next quarterly meeting.

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Mr. O'Kane commenced by advising that the Housing Executive as an organisation took homelessness very seriously. He then drew the Members' attention to the Belfast Region Homelessness Statistics for 2016/17. He stated that, whilst the problem was still very serious and figures overall remained high, there had been a very slight reduction in the number of people who presented to the Housing Executive as homeless, most recent figures had been 4500 people (up to the end of December 2017).

The representative then proceeded to outline to the Members the range of options available for temporary accommodation to try and meet the demand:

- twelve family hostels across the City (self-contained units/on-site support);
- fifteen homelessness projects for single people (self-contained units/on-site support);
- supply of single lets within the private rental sector (furnished accommodation which is demand led – currently just over five hundred properties).

In terms of people sleeping rough in the City, the representative referred to the important role of the Housing Executive and its various Partners, including the Council, in progressing the inter-agency response that had been implemented. He detailed that the following resources were now available in the City:

- thirty 'crash beds' (emergency placements open throughout the night to receive people);
- the Welcome Organisation provided five beds for vulnerable women; and
- Morning Star House provided an additional four units.

He advised that when the provision of this support was under pressure the Salvation Army had undertaken to open up an additional six units. He stated that the organisations were endeavouring to work together to try and ensure that the necessary arrangements were in place to prevent any individual having to sleep rough, however, due to the high level of demand this sometimes proved to be challenging.

The representative highlighted the vulnerability of people who found themselves in a housing crisis situation and advised that dedicated housing officers were automatically appointed to work with people who had spent the night in temporary accommodation to try and assist them with a long term housing solution.

The representatives then provided clarification in respect of a number of issues, some of which are set out hereunder:

- the quality of single lets;
- sofa surfing; and
- mitigating against the impact of universal credit.

A Member reiterated the need for greater clarity in terms of points of contact within the organisation.

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The Belfast Regional Manager accepted that this appeared to be a recurrent theme and undertook to update the relevant points of contact and to forward to information to the Democratic Services Officer as soon as it was available.

A further Member requested a breakdown of the most recent homelessness statistics and the percentages of people currently living in the various temporary accommodation options and it was agreed that these would be forwarded to the Democratic Services Officer and uploaded to the Members' Portal.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, praised the work and efforts of the staff within the NIHE in trying to tackle homelessness in the City and also in assisting with the progression of the longer term/multi-agency approach that had been adopted in an attempt to try and tackle this ongoing problem.

Noted.

Update on Tower Blocks

The Regional Manager advised the Committee that, following the recent publication of the independent inspection report which the NIHE Board had commissioned following the Grenfell tragedy, a leaflet had been prepared that contained details in respect of the recommendations and this would be hand delivered to tenants living in tower block buildings within the next week.

She assured the Committee that the NIHE Board was committed to progressing a detailed action plan to remedy building regulation contraventions and to implement Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service recommendations.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Committee noted that the next quarterly meeting was scheduled to be held at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 16th April, 2018.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 6th February, 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, Baker, Carson, Corr Johnston,
Heading, Lyons, Milne, Murphy, McCusker, McReynolds,
Nic Biorna, Nicholl and Pankhurst.

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

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors Corr, Magennis and Newton.

Minutes

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

Declaration of Interest

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) declared an interest in agenda item 1 (d), viz., Marie Curie Northern Ireland - Request to Present to Committee, in that she volunteered for the Charity.

Request to Present to Committee

The Committee agreed to invite representatives of Marie Curie NI to present at a special meeting of the Committee on its case for a whole society approach to end of life care.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion - Dementia Friendly City

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st February, the following motion, which had been proposed by the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and seconded by Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland), had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

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“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.”

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

Notice of Motion - Support for People with Anaphylaxis

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st February, the following motion, which had been proposed by the Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor O’Neill, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

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

Notice of Motion - Provision of Water Refill Points

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st February, the following motion, which had been proposed by the Councillor Milne and seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

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

Committee/Strategic Issues

**Minutes of Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium
Development Working Group**

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 29th January, the following key items had been considered:

- the lifting of heavy coffins;
- update in relation to the water infrastructure at Roselawn Cemetery;
- update in respect of the preferred options for the Crematorium Development;
and
- discussion regarding poor attendance at meetings of the Working Group.

Following a query from a Member, the Democratic Services Officer undertook to clarify directly with the Member the protocol around the Independent Member attending the Working Group.

The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 29th January;
- agreed that the Chairperson would write to the Party Group Leaders highlighting the lack of attendance over the last two years at the Working Group and suggesting that the Party might wish to consider reviewing its Membership in an endeavour to ensure cross-party participation at future meetings; and
- noted that Party Group Briefings were being offered on the proposals in respect of the Crematorium options, as agreed at the January meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Request for Special Workshop for
Committee Planning 2018/19**

The Committee agreed to hold a strategic planning workshop on 27th February, from 12.00 noon - 2.00 p.m. (venue to be confirmed) to review the achievements of the 2017/18 Committee Plan and to consider the priorities to be included in the Committee's 2018/19 Plan.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

North Belfast Hills Greenway Project Partnership

The Committee was advised that Ligoneil Improvement Association was seeking the Council's formal support of its application for a Heritage Lottery Fund Great Places application for its North Belfast Greenway Project.

The application was for £250,000 to promote and develop community activity and participation along the walking route from Ligoneil, through Ligoniel Park, across the

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Cavehill to McArt's Fort and down to Belfast Castle. This would involve developing interpretation and extending the historical exploration of significant features along the route.

The Assistant Director advised that Ligoniel Improvement Association's application for the North Belfast Hills Greenway project had been shortlisted in the first round and was now one of five finalists.

The Committee noted that both the Belfast Hills Partnership and Cavehill Conversation Campaign had endorsed the project.

The Committee agreed, in principle, to enter into a Partnership Agreement with Ligoniel Improvement Association, in support of its funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Great Places for its North Belfast Hills Greenway Project. This would be subject to consultation with Legal Services and the Property and Projects Department and the agreement of terms with the City Solicitor.

Comber Greenway Update

The Committee noted that the Comber Greenway had been constructed in 2008 and was currently under the ownership of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). It was 6.5 miles long and passed through three Council areas, namely, Belfast City Council (3 miles), Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (2 miles) and Ards and North Down Borough Council (1.5 miles). It was the only greenway in Northern Ireland in the ownership of DfI.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th January 2017, it had agreed that the Council would request to meet with DfI officials to try and establish the Department's commitment to the greenway within its strategy. It had also agreed that officers would aim to create a Steering Group with the DfI and the other relevant Councils to try and develop costed plans for the Comber Greenway that would identify contributions and responsibilities.

The Assistant Director advised that officers from the three Councils had since met and the Comber Greenway Steering Group (CGSG) had been established.

The officer then drew the Members' attention to the proposed Terms of Reference for the Steering Group. She advised that the anticipated outcome for the project would be the production of an options appraisal for the future of the Comber Greenway, this would have to be considered and agreed by all three of the Councils.

The Committee agreed to the Terms of Reference for the Comber Greenway Steering Group, subject to agreement by Legal Services.

Temporary use of Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Ballysillan Swifts Football Club seeking permission for the temporary use of Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion from which to deliver a programme of events for younger people. The officer advised that the proposed programme would be aimed at building capacity and addressing

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antisocial behaviour problems and she stated that it would benefit from being located within the local community.

The officer detailed that access to the pavilion would be required for evening and weekends on a temporary basis and a key holding agreement would be drawn up between the Club and the Council, subject to the proposal being agreed and the club being able to meet the requirements of the agreement.

The Committee approved the request from Ballysillan Swifts to have temporary free use of Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion, to provide a programme of events for younger people, which would help build capacity in relation to sporting activities and help tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour in the area.

Installation of temporary structure in Victoria Park

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 In 2014 the Council secured funding of £11.7m from Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) under Peace III for the construction of the Girdwood Hub and associated environmental works. As part of the project Belfast City Council purchased a temporary marquee structure through a budget uplift provided by SEUPB as part of the Peace III allocation. The purpose of the temporary structure was to animate the outdoor space in Girdwood Park and complement a programme of outdoor activity and a series of seasonal events. Consultation with key stakeholders recognised the need for outreach and detached youth work to address nuisance and anti-social behaviour on the site and it was agreed that the temporary marquee structure could provide a base from which to engage with the local community. The current position however at Girdwood Community Hub is that key stakeholders and youth practitioners are not yet in a position to provide the support required to successfully manage the structure as a long term feature in Girdwood.**
- 1.2 In March of 2017 the marquee was erected at Girdwood Community Hub for the first birthday celebrations. The use of the structure was very successful, it's size provides an impressive central point for activities and event information; and in inclement weather will provide much needed shelter for activities. As a result, Council officers have been tasked with finding a suitable alternative home for the structure so that the investment from SEUPB is utilised accordingly.**
- 1.3 Council officers have discussed a number of different locations for the placement of the temporary structure and at this stage the rose bed/grassed area next to the bowling pavilion in Victoria Park is the preferred option. There is consensus that**

the structure could be put to good use at the park for both weekly and annual events that are held there.

- 1.4 If this proposal is approved, then further consultation will take place with the various user groups and community organisations in partnership with the Connswater Community Greenway team. In partnership BCC will develop a programme of animation to support the positive use and engagement of this asset in line with the council's strategic outcomes. We hope to develop a diverse programme of activities and interventions to suit a wide audience including local communities and visitors. It is anticipated that once the structure is operational that further opportunities will also arise as a result of community engagement and changing needs therefore as issues in the community may arise we will be able to develop some flexibility into the programme.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to;

- Give approval for Council Officers to continue to engage with community partners and stakeholders to design a robust programme of activity that will enhance the work of the Connswater Community Greenway and will also include youth detached and outreach work particularly targeting hard to reach young people. Following commitment from community partners and agreement around programme delivery Council will move to install the temporary structure at Victoria Park.
- 3.1 The structure is 21m x 12m in size and although considered a temporary structure can be erected and left on site for a considerable time. There will be a requirement to carry out some grounds works to level the site and make it suitable to house the structure and safe to host public events thereafter.
- 3.2 There are 2 desirable locations available within Victoria park. The final decision will rest with Council officers but will take into consideration suggestion and recommendation from partner organisations who will be responsible for a large part of the programme delivery.
- 3.3 To ensure the successful management of the structure and associated programmed activity a budget will be required to support the events and activity programme. It is anticipated that Council will make resources available but that partner organisations will also contribute through their own funding arrangements.

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

Landscape design, groundworks and installation is estimated in the region of 40K.

Utility costs at this time are unknown but it is anticipated that costs will be met from the existing utility budget for the park.

3.5 Asset & Other Implications

To situate the temporary structure at Victoria Park may require an application to planning.

3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no implications at this stage. However, equality and good relations factors will be taken into account with regards programme design and delivery in Victoria Park.”

Following a query, regarding whether it would be possible to relocate the marquee structure to other parks in the City, the Assistant Director advised that whilst this was a temporary structure, due to its scale, there would be limitations to transferring it to other suitable locations. She highlighted that the proposed relocation, including landscape design, groundworks and installation was estimated to cost in the region of £40k.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Orangefield Park - Proposed Feasibility Study

The Assistant Director advised the Members that the East Area Working Group had recently considered a request, from both Bloomfield Football Club and Cycling Ireland, that the Council consider making a capital investment at the grounds of Bloomfield Football Club and the adjacent outdoor velodrome in Orangefield Park, in order to make the area a more usable space for both clubs. The Working Group had requested that the potential of the proposals be assessed further.

She advised that, whilst there was no current budget for such a project, there was a limited amount of capital finance available to support capital proposals, however, to access this funding, all projects had to go through the three stage approval process for capital projects. It was noted that it was important that these proposals be considered within the context of the emerging thinking around area planning, projects that were currently underway and/or planned investments in the area and emerging proposals. She advised that, as this would be a capital project, it would have to be considered by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in its role as investment decision maker.

The Committee noted that at this stage there were no costs associated with the proposal and it was not an agreed Council project, furthermore, neither Club had funding for the proposed projects. The Members were advised that Sport NI intended to open a Multi Facilities Fund in 2018, this would target sites that offered at least four sporting

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facilities and the proposal could potentially make an application through this fund. More details would not be available until spring 2018.

The Committee recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in its role as investment decision maker, that the upgrade of Orangefield Park be considered as part of the Parks Improvement Programme which was an existing Stage one project on the Capital Programme. It was noted that this would enable it to be assessed in line with the Council's three stage approval process for all capital projects and would allow it to be aligned with the emerging area planning discussions and other planned and/or emerging capital investments within the area.

**Waterworks Park - Management arrangement
with Families at the Waterworks**

The Committee was advised that the Council had entered into a Facilities Management Agreement with the Families at the Waterworks on 1st January 2005. This agreement had set out the respective responsibilities of both the Families and the Council, it had been for an initial period of six years, extended for a further six years and had terminated on 31st December 2017.

The Assistant Director advised that the management agreement related to the use of the upper pond for fishing and also allowed for the use of a container on the site. She reported that the Families continued to make use of the facility and sought to encourage greater use of it on a cross community basis and inter-generationally, however, the standard of the existing facilities were inadequate to meet the aspirations of the group.

The officer reported that representatives of the Families had met with Council officers and advised that they were seeking additional funding through the ALPHA fund to enable them to add to the existing storage facilities and to provide a space that would support them in delivering educational programmes to local groups who might wish to learn more about fishing and related activities. It was noted that a report would be submitted in due course to seek any necessary approvals.

The Assistant Director also advised that, despite regular maintenance, there was an ongoing issue regarding the presence of invasive species and weeds within the top pond at the facility. She highlighted to the Members that recent reservoir legislation required the Council to carry out works to ensure that the waterways remained safe and fit for purpose. A hydraulic assessment had been carried out in 2016, this had included the upper and lower ponds at the Waterworks and Alexandra Park. The officer reported that the required works were currently on the capital programme as an emerging project and highlighted that further work was required. At this stage, the ponds would have to be drained and it was proposed that the treatment of the invasive species would also be undertaken at this time.

The Committee:

- agreed to extend the existing agreement on a month by month basis, not to exceed March 2019 without seeking further consents;
- agreed to review and revise the existing agreement, in consultation with the relevant fisheries authority and the Families;

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- noted the need for works to the waterways under the Reservoirs legislation and that an environmental assessment was underway and agreed that these works be aligned;
- noted that the Families at the Waterworks, if successful, would seek an appropriate licence agreement to locate the building on Council land within the existing compound; and
- noted that a further report would be submitted in due course.

Operational Issues

Affordable Warmth - Consultation Response

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

1.2 This report provides an update on the scheme and contains a response to a consultation on the scheme issues by the DfC.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- 1. Note the contents of the report and**
- 2. Agree the contents of the response to the consultation to be submitted to the DfC by 16th February as subject to council ratification in March.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 In the report brought in November 2017 members were updated on the progress of the scheme including proposals made by the DfC, the number of referrals provided to the NIHE and the ongoing pressures to deliver the service given the significant amount of self-referrals being made to the scheme. Members agreed that the scheme should continue to be fully funded by the DfC on an 11 council model.

3.2 Subsequent to the committee meeting it was agreed at the full Council meeting in December that the council would write to the Head of Fuel Poverty within the DfC requesting an urgent

meeting to discuss the funding arrangement for Belfast. This letter was sent on 21st December 2017, but at the time of submitting this report, no response had been received.

The current position with the scheme is as follows:

3.3 Referrals sent to NIHE 2017-2018

The target number of referrals for January – March 2018 reduces to 30 per month and the team is endeavouring to process as many referrals as possible during this period. The DfC have confirmed that in order to manage the NIHE budget and ensure no underspend they will take additional referrals from councils that can provide them. It was hoped that this could be discussed with DfC officials at the meeting mentioned above.

	Target	Actual
April	25	25
May	25	25
June	25	25
July	40	40
August	40	27
September	40	24
October	40	44*
November	40	25
December	40	23

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

3.4 The Service has received 1493 calls from July 2017 (on average 52 per week) regarding the scheme and is working to call back those on the backlogged waiting list. When we receive the details from a phone call we assess if the person is likely to be eligible for the scheme, and prioritise their case on the basis of need. The current live cases are collated as follows:

3.5 Number of high priority cases currently being processed (these are mainly those with no heating due to boiler issues): approximately 40 cases. This number fluctuates on a weekly basis based on calls made and prioritised accordingly based on the circumstances including age and health issues.

Number of case confirmed eligible but lower priority (these include new windows, insulation and radiators): approximately 550.

Number of lower priority cases awaiting call back to determine eligibility: approximately 300

- 3.6 The need within Belfast is clear due to the number of self-referrals received which are eligible for the scheme. The overall referral targets set are inadequate to meet this need and the associated funding for the AW team means that the reduced level of staff cannot visit the number of properties required to process referrals and cannot return calls in a timely fashion regarding queries.
- 3.7 As outlined previously, with the reduction in funding for a business support staff member for the team, the additional calls are impacting on the existing business support teams within the Service. Measures have been introduced to assist in streamlines calls to alleviate the situation in the short term, as a stop gap measure. This will have a knock on impact on existing service delivery for the wider Building Control Service. The Service is also compiling the costs absorbed by the council including this business support assistance, in order to document the support that the council currently makes to the running of the scheme.
- 3.8 Given the interest and number of calls, we are having to manage customer expectations in terms of timeframe for response as we balance this with the ability to carry out site visits. It will be the case that people who are eligible for the scheme will have to wait some time for measures while those in greater need are considered.
- 3.9 In the absence of confirmation of funding for next year the financial estimates for 2018-2019 include the same funding we have received for this current year. Given the uncertainty we will also have to put staff on notice as we did last year.
- 3.10 It is hoped that further clarification will be given by the DfC at the next managers meeting which is due to be held in mid-February.
- 3.11 Consultation on Affordable Warmth Scheme

THE DfC released a consultation document on certain aspects of the scheme with a response date of 18th February. This included four proposals:

3.12 Proposal 1 The Department proposes that one installer, managing the installation of all measures to the household, becomes the preferred delivery method.

- We would welcome any changes that would improve the householder experience and application process, however would need to see more detail on how this delivery method would work in practice.
- It has proved difficult for householders to engage with contractors for the range of measures. Additionally the building regulation application process has suffered from multiple or duplicate applications, resulting in additional administration and refunding of fees.

Proposal 2 The Department proposes to raise the income threshold to £23,000 for households with more than one person and reducing it to £18,000 for all single person households.

- The current threshold for all households is £20,000.
- Strongly agree with the increase to £23,000 but strongly disagree with reducing the threshold for single person households.
- The experience of the AW team would indicate that there are some multiple occupancy households that would fall just outside the current £20,000 threshold, including single parent families.
- We would also have concerns that reducing the threshold for single occupancy households could disadvantage more elderly householders.

Proposal 3 The Department proposes that Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Personal Independence Payment and Carer's Allowance are removed from the calculation of income for the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

- Strongly agree that these benefits are removed as in many cases they take households over the income threshold and makes them ineligible for the scheme.

Proposal 4 The Department proposes the removal of age-related and disability-related eligibility criteria from the boiler replacement element of the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

- Strongly agree with the removal of these criteria as providing high efficiency boilers is key to addressing the amount spent on fuel and this would assist a wider group of homeowners.
- It is noted that the disability and age related issues should be a consideration where prioritisation of referrals is required.

It should be noted that if these proposals are implemented it is likely that there would be more households eligible for the scheme, increasing the number of self-referrals, and therefore the funding for the scheme would need to reflect this change.

The full proposed response to these proposals is available on mod.gov

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

DfC have indicated that a business case is being prepared which would propose a further five year lifespan for the scheme. However, no formal confirmation of funding has been received for 2018-2019. For planning purposes the financial estimates include £73,000, the same figure received for 2017-2018, to cover salary costs. If formal confirmation of funding is not forthcoming, the Service will be required to follow procedure within the Fixed Term Contract policy and potentially place employees on notice. Further discussions may be required to assess the financial risk if the Council continue to employ staff in order to deliver the service.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations issues.”

The Assistant Director reminded the Members that the Council, at its meeting on 4th December 2017, had raised its concerns regarding the impact of fuel poverty on the citizens of Belfast and had requested a meeting with the Department for Communities to discuss the current funding allocation. Subsequently, a meeting had been arranged for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, along with any Members of the Committee who wished to attend, with Mr. M McDermott, Head of Fuel Poverty and Private Sector Grants on 14th February at 2.00 p.m. in the Conor Room to discuss the Affordable Warmth Scheme, with a pre-briefing at 1.30 p.m.

A Member requested that the draft response include reference to the significant cost of childcare on many household budgets over the income threshold.

The Committee:

- noted the scheduled meeting with the Department for Communities to discuss the Affordable Warmth Scheme;
- endorsed the draft response to the Department for Communities in respect of the changes to the Affordable Warmth Scheme, subject to the insertion of the following additional point “Belfast City Council would also request that consideration is given to the cost of childcare which is a significant expense for many households over the income threshold”; and
- agreed that it be submitted by the required deadline of 16th February, on the basis that it was subject to Council ratification in March.

Proposal for a Dual Language Street Sign

The Committee approved the erection of a second street nameplate in Irish at St. Galls Avenue.

Not-For-Profit Energy Company Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To consider a motion in relation to the establishment of a not-for-profit energy company which, in accordance with standing orders, was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 4th December 2017.

1.2 The report provides Members with background on not for profit energy companies and suggests next steps around the options for establishing a Belfast City Council ‘not-for-profit energy company’.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- agree that the options for establishing a Belfast City Council ‘not-for-profit energy company’ are explored within the development of relevant strategies including Belfast’s Sustainable Development Framework and a city energy programme.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

At the meeting of the Council on 4th December, the following notice of motion was proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Milne:

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

The Council notes that the first and best-known publicly owned energy companies, Robin Hood Energy in Nottingham and Bristol Energy, have given consumers, particularly those on low incomes, more choice and the

option of a supplier whose only job is to secure the lowest price for consumers.

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

- 3.2 Initial research has shown that there is a growing interest in the area of alternative energy suppliers and the benefits it can bring including tackling of fuel poverty. The Council has considered this issue previously and in March 2013 a report was brought to the former Health and Environmental Services Committee on the issue of Collective Switching. Collective switching is when a large group of people, known as a community or closed group, uses its collective purchasing power to negotiate its own tariff with energy suppliers. This was as a result of a Council Motion agreeing that an investigation be conducted exploring possibilities for the introduction of a ‘collective switching’ scheme in Belfast. Members agreed that the collective switching scheme was not feasible locally and it was not progressed at that time.
- 3.3 Officers have also explored options around community energy schemes but potential legal issues were identified with the Council getting involved in these schemes and they have not been progressed. However, this is an evolving area and there have been new developments since this work was undertaken, so there may be merit in revisiting some of this work.
- 3.4 In addition, the Belfast Agenda has identified a key workstream to ‘Develop a city energy programme’ and it would be expected that this would include consideration of some of these new developments.

Examples of work going on elsewhere

- 3.5 There are good examples of work going on elsewhere in the area of energy supply. These include examples where Councils have established not-for profit energy companies: Robin Hood Energy was established by Nottingham City Council in September 2015 and Bristol Energy was established in the autumn of 2015 by Bristol Council.
- 3.6 There are also examples of where the issue of tackling fuel poverty is being tackled within wider energy projects which look not just at the provision of affordable energy but also at ensuring secure and sustainable energy.
- 3.7 It is also clear however that given the different energy market conditions in Belfast that some of these projects may not be

directly transferable and further exploration is required to determine the relevance and application to Belfast.

Next steps

- 3.8 Elsewhere issues around energy are linked to the Sustainable Development Agenda, Belfast's Sustainable Development Framework is due to be reviewed and there is potential to include exploration of the options around not for profit energy companies within this.
- 3.9 As previously mentioned within the Belfast Agenda one of the workstreams under city development is 'Develop a city energy programme' and part of this is to tackle fuel poverty. It would be possible therefore to consider this issue within this piece of work.
- 3.10 Given the breadth of considerations required it is recommended therefore that the options for establishing a Belfast City Council 'not-for-profit energy company' are more fully explored within the development of relevant strategies including Belfast's Sustainable Development Framework and a city energy programme.
- 3.11 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- There may be expenditure on expert advice and consultancy fees as this issue is further explored. Any support required will be procured in the line with Council's process and will be met within existing resources.
- 3.12 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**
- Any future developments would be required to equality screened in line with the Council's process."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Potential Sponsorship of open spaces and roundabouts

The Assistant Manager advised that the Council had been approached by representatives from local communities who were keen to assist in the improvement and maintenance of their local verges, roundabouts and open spaces. In addition, officers involved in the Belfast in Bloom Competition, a campaign to encourage residents and business owners to add flower and colour to their homes and businesses were also keen to engage with potential sponsors with a view to enhancing the entries to the competition.

The officer detailed that, as the Members would be aware, many cities, towns and villages already engaged with local businesses with a view to seeking financial support to

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enhance their local areas and it had proven to be a popular way of seeking additional revenue.

Following a query from a Member regarding the protocol around any advertising/sponsorship, the Assistant Director advised that, if the sponsorship proposals were to be progressed, policies and guidelines would have to be established regarding what would be permitted.

A further Member stated that it was essential that the various statutory agencies all played their role in the maintenance of these open spaces.

The Committee granted officers authority to engage:

- with statutory agencies, public and private companies with a view to seeking agreement regarding obtaining sponsorship to improve and enhance roundabouts, open spaces and to stimulate civic pride in local community spaces; and
- with statutory agencies with a view to seeking agreement for local communities to take responsibility to enhance and assist with the maintenance of open space and verges within their local community.

Update on Castle Arcade

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Members will recall Committee consideration in February 2016 of a request to commence the formal and statutory pre-consultation for possible alleygates in Castle Arcade. The purpose of the proposed alleygates was to address ongoing criminality and anti-social behaviour in Castle Arcade.

1.2 At that meeting, a number of Members stated that they felt the erection of alleygates at this location would not be an effective solution to the issue and whilst they recognised the ongoing concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour, concern was also expressed around the potential for displacement of vulnerable people who used the Arcade.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to

- **approve the proposed regeneration and environmental improvement approach to increasing the footfall in Castle Arcade and reversing the physical decline of the area.**

3.0 Background

- 3.1** Members will be aware that Castle Arcade is a partially covered entry running between Castle Lane and the corner of Cornmarket and Castle Place. The Arcade is part of the wider Belfast Entries network of narrow alleyways in the city centre around which the city of Belfast developed and was an entrance in to the old Belfast Castle in the city centre. The Arcade has lost its historical character unlike some of the other entries in the city centre and in recent years the area has become disused by workers, tourists and shoppers.
- 3.2** The Arcade has also become associated with graffiti and criminal damage, drug related incidents, begging, assaults, street drinking, public urination/defecation, and rowdy behaviour. Additionally, a number of the individuals known to frequent the area are thought to be vulnerable due to being homeless and/or having addiction/mental health issues.
- 3.3** Police are called daily to the area with the calls ranging from low level ASB to serious assaults and the area is an ongoing priority for police in the city centre. Police do not report any difference in the number of calls they receive before and after the closure of the anchor tenant in the area British Home Stores (BHS), however, there is no doubt the closure of BHS has further reduced the footfall in the area and contributed to the overall feeling of degradation.
- 3.4** There is a sizeable cost to Council as part of its city centre street cleaning operation in attempting to minimise the issues in the Arcade

Stakeholders

- 3.5** A significant lobby developed in 2015 from British Home Stores and Belfast City Centre Management around the cost of these issues to the economic prosperity and vibrancy of the area. This culminated in a proposal by British Home Stores to pay for the installation of dusk to dawn alleygates in the area and to take responsibility for opening and closing these alleygates.
- 3.6** At that time, Council People and Communities Committee did not consider alleygates the appropriate response to the issues in the area and that remains the position to date.

The issues highlighted above remain with the solicitors' firm in the Arcade reporting a further deterioration in the

seriousness of what is taking place in the area and pushing for action, despite Council's additional street cleaning efforts in the area.

3.7 Additionally, Outreach Services supporting vulnerable people in the city centre are aware of the challenges at this location and are committed to working with the Council to address these challenges in a constructive manner.

3.8 The Department for Infrastructure which owns the main thoroughfare and is responsible for street lighting in the Arcade is committed to working with Council as well as Department for Communities which has a statutory remit around the public realm in the city centre. It is within this context, that Officers were asked to consider what alternative measures (other than alleygates) may be appropriate.

3.9 Challenges

There are a number of environmental, social and economic challenges contributing to the current situation in Castle Arcade. They are:

- Existing lighting not working well
- Generally poor and inadequate lighting which does not create a feeling of safety or vibrancy
- Broken windows theory which argues that if small events are ignored, the lack of care and ownership leads to an ongoing downward spiral of conditions and invites ever worsening crime conditions and opportunity
- The practical challenges of maintaining the cleanliness of the Arcade when Council is only responsible for the main thoroughfare and not the buildings on either side
- The loss of the anchor tenant in the main retail premises in the area
- The lack of activity in the area and the wider city centre after 6pm
- The vulnerability of the individuals known to frequent the area
- The concentration of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area

3.10 Opportunities

There are also a number of opportunities which if harnessed could provide a platform for gradual improvements in the appearance, footfall and overall vibrancy of the area. These are:

- The Belfast Agenda and the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy which focuses on making the city centre a prosperous but shared and inclusive space
- The central location of Castle Arcade and its proximity to large volumes of people on a daily basis
- The historic nature of Castle Arcade which is largely unknown to the large volumes of people using the area
- The opportunity to redefine the narrative and visual impact of Castle Arcade as a platform upon which to encourage new tenants to the old BHS retail space and to improve the wider area
- The strong partnerships which exist between statutory organisations, businesses and voluntary organisations operating in the city centre

3.11 Risks

Police reports, feedback from elected members and businesses in the area, along with the continuing demands on Council's street cleansing operations indicate that some action is required to manage the following risks:

- Ongoing decline and impact of this on wider city centre
- Impact of decline on likelihood of new tenants for the old BHS retail space
- Risk of serious injury or fatality
- Risk of displacement of vulnerable people to other locations in the city centre
- Lack of agreement on way forward
- Reputational damage if any interventions are not managed sensitively

3.12 Status of Vacant British Home Stores Retail Unit

Officers met with the managing agents of the empty BHS Retail Unit in January 2017 who advised that the owner has authorised them to appoint contractors to take forward a strip out and refit of the retail units. That work is due to commence in Spring 2017 with a view to being completed in a maximum of 18 months ready for prospective tenants.

- 3.13 The managing agents have also appointed architects to work on the redesign of the retail unit and to work up some improvements to the façade of the building. The architects were present at the meeting with the managing agents and general commitment was secured from both parties to work with Council when developing and implementing plans to ensure they benefitted the wider Castle Arcade area and worked towards establishing a strong and vibrant identity for the area.

3.14 Regeneration and Environmental Improvement Plan

Actions to address the challenges, take advantage of the opportunities and minimise the risks are provided on mod.gov for Members consideration. The identified objectives are:

- To reverse the ongoing decline of Castle Arcade
- To increase footfall in Castle Arcade
- To re-define the identity of Castle Arcade as an asset

3.15 This Plan has been developed involving a range of Council services including Community Safety, Landscape Development, Property and Projects, City Centre Regeneration, Belfast Health Development Unit, Economic Development, Cleansing and Community Services.

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

Initial costs associated with short and medium term actions are minimal and can be met from within existing revenue budgets and match funding will be sought from partners to support the longer term regeneration of the area.

3.17 The action to improve the quality and effectiveness of lighting in the Castle Arcade on a temporary basis will cost a maximum of £10,000. This cost can be met from within existing departmental revenue budgets and Department for Infrastructure has agreed to provide access to power at no extra cost as their contribution to the short term improvements in the area.

3.18 The Department for Communities, which owns the wall mounted historical murals in the Arcade, has agreed to remove and restore/replace the murals within its existing budgets as a contribution to the short term improvements in the area.

3.19 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee approved the proposed regeneration and environmental improvement approach to increasing the footfall in Castle Arcade and reversing the physical decline of the area.

Belfast Castle Mountain Biking

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report in respect of Mountain Biking at Cavehill to enable officers to undertake more consultation with the various stakeholders and to attend Party Group Briefings. It was further agreed that the matter be forwarded to the North Area Working Group for consideration, following which, a report would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee.

Belfast Mela - Request for use of Botanic Gardens

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report outlines a proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Belfast Mela, a multicultural festival for approximately 20,000 people, in Botanic Gardens. If, from a logistical point of view, Botanic Gardens is not suitable, ArtsEkta have requested to hold the same event in Ormeau Park. The event will take place on 26 August, 2018, from 12noon – 6.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.

1.2 It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000) given the positive economic impact it has for the city, improved good relations and attractiveness of the Council assets.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve this proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Called Belfast Mela, in Botanic Gardens. If, from a logistical point of view, Botanic Gardens is not suitable, ArtsEkta have requested to hold the same event in Ormeau Park.**
- The event will take place on 26 August, 2018, from 12noon – 6.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.**
- To provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000) given the positive economic impact it has for the city, improved good relations and attractiveness of the Council assets.**
- Agree that the appropriate legal agreements for each programme, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the Town Solicitor;**
- Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including**

Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing (including for the sale of alcohol, where required);

- Agree the timely payment of the agreed charges and bonds as required in the legal agreements; and
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces.
- 3.2 The partnership has delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets.
- 3.3 This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 26 August 2018.
- 3.4 It is proposed that Council continues to provide financial support to the event (up to £20,000) given the positive economic impact it has for the city, improved good relations and attractiveness of the Council assets.
- 3.5 As a condition to funding, it is recommended that ArtsEkta is requested to facilitate community engagement and taster events in other local neighbourhoods, to build the audience from across the city. Specific locations could be identified in conjunction with the Community Parks Outreach team, ensuring a spread across the city.
- 3.6 In particular, the Mela organisers have highlighted the imminent completion of the Tropical Ravine and they are working with the Outreach team, in order to profile this city heritage venue as part of its launch.
- 3.7 In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:
1. In this particular instance the Council has received a request for use for Upper and Lower Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 26 August 2018 from 12.00noon to 6.00pm;

2. The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
3. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 20st August to 29th August 2018 inclusive in Botanic Gardens;
4. ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access will be restricted to ticket holders only;
5. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy; and
6. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.
7. If logistically the event cannot take place in Botanic Gardens, the organiser has requested to hold the same event in Ormeau Park.

3.8 Consultation by ArtsEkta will be undertaken with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.

- An occasional licence will be applied for by the organisers for the sale of alcohol and an entertainment licence for the period of the event;
- This application will be supported by an Event Management Plan and will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;
- Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.

3.9 A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which, due to the nature of the events, will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

3.11 Finance

Up to £20,000 to support the event, from existing Council revenue funds.

3.12 Human Resources

Staff may be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and this will be charged to the hirer, in line with the process adopted in previous years.

3.13 Asset and Other Implications

Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Events Policy for Parks and Leisure facilities and venues was previously screened. It is anticipated that this type of events will deliver a positive impact for equality and good relations.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Mary Peters Track - Management Arrangements

The Committee was advised that Athletics Northern Ireland (ANI) currently managed the Mary Peters Track as part of a contract that had been awarded 4.5 years ago.

The Assistant Director informed the Members that the contract was due to terminate on 30th June 2018, as a result of this, a new tender was being prepared and was scheduled to be released in late February 2018. The officer reported that, as June was one of the facilities busiest months, it was felt that it would be an inappropriate time to terminate the existing contract.

The officer confirmed that officers had been in contact with ANI and it had agreed to continue the management of the facility until 31st August 2018.

The Committee granted permission to extend the existing tender, which was due to terminate on 30th June 2018, for a two-month period to ensure a more appropriate date of 31st August 2018 for any potential handover of the management of the facilities at Mary Peters Track.

Support for Mary Peter's Trust and Commonwealth Games

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Mary Peters Trust seeking the Council's financial assistance to help support the work of the Trust for the 2018/19 financial year.

The Assistant Director detailed that an agreement was in place to co-ordinate funding allocations between the Mary Peters Trust, GLL Sports Foundation and Support for

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Sport individual grants in order to avoid duplication. She stated that it was suggested that a contribution of £5,000 be made to the Trust, which was in line with contributions from previous years.

The Assistant Director reported that a request had also been received from the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council (NICGC), seeking financial support to assist in the costs associated with sending the Northern Ireland team to the Commonwealth Games, which would be held in Australia during April.

The Committee:

- agreed to provide the amount of £5,000 to the Mary Peters Trust which provided significant financial support for developing talented athletes from Belfast; and
- agreed to provide the amount of £15,000 to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council (NICGC) in support of the team attending the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast, Australia.

Request for Approval of World Celtic Spey Casting event at the Waterworks Park

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from the Families at the Waterworks Fishing Club to support the third year of the Celtic World Spey Casting Invitational Challenge Event at the Waterworks Park.

The officer advised that the event would bring world class fishermen from all over the globe to Belfast, with over fifty competitors and 250 spectators estimated daily.

The Committee noted that the event would greatly enhance cross community relations and promote the Waterworks Park as a shared space.

The Committee agreed:

- to host the event on 18th – 20th May 2018 at the Waterworks Park, subject to completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and on the condition that the Event Organisers meet all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance and provide relevant Health and Safety documentation and Risk Assessments; and
- to provide additional funding up to £7,500 to host the event, to assist with the following:
 - £2,000 towards medals, gifts and trophies;
 - £2,000 towards the cost of daily lunches and hosting a reception at the Belfast Castle;
 - £1,000 for a compere for both the event and the competition;
 - £1,000 for bouncy castles for family engagement;
 - £500 for toilet hire;
 - £500 for first aid provision; and
 - £500 for the transport of International Competitors.

Live Here Love Here Campaign

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 inform members on the progress of the Live Here Love Here Campaign (LHLH) to date and to propose further support for the campaign.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the progress made with the LHLH campaign to date and the benefits in collaborating in a wider behavioural change campaign.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

At a meeting of the Health and Environmental Services Committee on 6th February 2013, a report relating to the Council committing funding to the proposed Civic Pride Programme was considered. Committee agreed to commit £41,000 per annum of the Council's existing anti-litter campaign budget to the project for a 3 year period, subject to appropriate funding from other agencies. On 7th August 2013 the Committee was updated and advised that the commencement of the project was delayed. Committee agreed that the Council would continue to support the campaign for 2014/15 and 2015/16. On 8th December 2015, the People and Communities Committee agreed that Council's funding for the project would continue for the third year 2016/2017.

3.2 The 'Civic Pride Programme' has subsequently been re-branded as 'Live Here Love Here' (LHLH) and has been developed by a partnership of organisations including Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (formally Keep Northern Ireland Tidy), the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs and local Councils. Last year additional supporters, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Choice Housing came on board, and this year, McDonalds and Coca Cola have contributed to the project.

3.3 In year 4 of the campaign (2017/18), 9 councils supported the programme, 2 more than the previous year)

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Ards and North Down Borough Council
- Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon
- Belfast City Council
- Derry and Strabane District Council
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
- Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
- Mid Ulster District Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

3.4 The programme is made up of three elements: a media campaign; a volunteering support programme and; a small grants scheme. The aims of the LHLH programme are:

- To create a movement in the Northern Ireland community focused around the concept of Civic Pride;
- To effect behavioural change in the public and business community through the promotion of Civic Pride;
- To improve the quality of the built and natural environments in Northern Ireland;
- To continuously improve street and beach cleanliness in Northern Ireland;
- To promote and support local volunteers and volunteer networks to lead Civic Pride initiatives in their local areas;
- To increase opportunities for volunteering in Civic Pride Initiatives;
- To encouraging a sense of 'active communities' / local activism in Northern Ireland;
- To create a sense of ownership among local communities and individuals in waste reduction, waste management and recycling, use of green space;
- To promote public health through increased community engagement and community involvement in local and regional communities; and
- To encourage tourism through increasing the aesthetic appeal of the Northern Ireland landscape.

3.5 The LHLH Programme is managed by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. The small grants scheme was launched in September 2014 and the media campaign commenced in January 2015.

3.6 As well as an anti-littering message, the campaign also aims to improve the local environment by encouraging people to take action in their local communities through volunteering activities. The campaign consisted of local outdoor, bus and press advertising as well as Northern Ireland wide TV

advertising and digital activity within the participating Council areas

- 3.7 There are advantages to the Council in contributing to a collaborative approach to behaviour change campaigns. Previously the Council has developed and paid for its own TV campaign but as the advertisements were shown regionally all council areas received the benefit. In this collaborative approach, funding for the campaign is also being provided by other councils, DAERA and other agencies. In addition, community and other groups within Belfast have benefited directly through the small grants scheme, with £27,500 allocated to Belfast groups in 2017/18 including £7,000 allocated to Choice Housing and McDonalds' projects in the Belfast area this year.
- 3.8 Millward Brown Ulster was commissioned in 2015 to undertake quantitative research into the effectiveness of the small grant scheme. There was unanimous agreement across all groups interviewed that the funded projects helped to instil a feeling of civic pride among local people. These projects helped to make positive changes in the areas and in turn encouraged people to be more aware of the environment around them and to take pride and responsibility in their local areas.
- 3.9 The Live Here Love Here Campaign has achieved good progress towards its targets:
- Awareness - Community engagement and involvement – the LHLH steering group set a target to achieve a 40% brand awareness of the Live Here Love Here programme across Northern Ireland. The most recent results in the market research to measure key impacts of Live Here Love Here showed (unprompted) brand awareness had increased on the previous year, achieving 23% in participating areas in 2016/17. Prompted recognition of Live Here Love Here advertising stood at 43% for TV and 27% for targeted social media. It is likely that the brand awareness will continue to increase given that the campaign is still ongoing and is mid-way through the 2017/18 media plan. On reflection the initial target was an ambitious given the level of funding for the campaign, which is Northern Ireland wide, and the DAERA target for 2017/18 is set at 24%.
 - Cleaner streets – achieve a reduction in the Litter Pollution Index of three % points by the end of year 3. The annual Litter Pollution Index (LPI) measurements available since the campaign media activity first commenced has shown a decrease from 17% in 2014/15

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to 15% in 2016/17. Over the same period dog fouling has decreased across Northern Ireland from 12% to 6%.

- **Number of volunteers – e.g. to engage 50,000 volunteers in the Live Here Love Here programme within 3 years. The annual total number engaged has increased from 107,616 in 2015/16 to 112,834 in 2016/17. This figure looks set to increase again in 2017/18. Final figures for 2017/18 will be available in May 2018.**

3.10 In Year 3, 2016/17; Total funding was £325,000

By engaging new partners in Year 4, 2017/2018; Total funding was £434,500

LHLH Partners	2016/17	2017/18
Local Council's Support	170,000	273,000
Tourism NI	20,000	0
DAERA	70,000	91,500
Choice Housing	22,000	25,000
NI Housing Executive	20,000	20,000
McDonald's	0	25,000
TOTAL	325,000	434,500

3.11 Funding for year 5 (2018/19) £83,500 has been confirmed from DAERA. Continuation of funding has also been confirmed from Choice Housing (£20,000) and the NI Housing Executive (£20,000). In addition, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has received positive indications from a number of partners that they intend to support Live Here Love Here next year including, for the first time, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

3.12 In light of the growing awareness of plastics escaping into our oceans (est. 8m tonnes per annum) as highlighted by the recent documentary Blue Planet II, the restrictions on the exports of low grade plastics to China, and the UK

Government's recent publication of the 25 Year Environment Plan: A Green Future, which recognises the problems caused by litter and proposes new actions for England, the Council's ongoing support for the Live Here Love Here campaign is both timely and demonstrates its commitment to environmental improvement.

- 3.13 The original Committee report had agreed 3 years funding. In January 2017 this Committee agreed to extend this funding for a further year. Funding had been provided for the project in revenue budgets for this coming year 2018/19 to ensure delivery of the priorities and aims of the Council as outlined in the Belfast Agenda. This will also be on the proviso that all other contributors continue to fund the project to a level which makes the project viable.**

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost of the council's contribution of £41,000 will be met from within the existing Cleansing Services anti-litter campaign budget for 2018/19, there will be no additional resource implications to the council.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications in this report."

The Committee noted the update provided.

Mobile Catering Concessions

The Assistant Director advised that the Council's former Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting on 8th August 2013, had agreed to establish pilot programmes in four parks through a public expression of interest process in order to gauge the uptake and assess if further mobile catering outlets should be provided in other locations. She advised that the department had since undertaken a review of the pilot.

The Committee was advised further that an expression of interest had taken place in April 2015 in relation to the above pilots, however, expression of interests had only been received for two of the four sites, namely, the Waterworks and Cherryvale. The terms of those agreements were now ending and the department had reviewed the level of income received and the level of administration required to manage the agreements. As a result, the department had launched an expression of interest process, based on a new approach, for a three-year period, to commence on 1st April, 2018. The sites identified in the original pilot were to be included as well as sites that had existing hot food and ice cream concessions, she advised that those included, but not exclusively, Belmont Park, Botanic Gardens, Cavehill Adventurous Playground, Cherryvale Park, City of Belfast Playing Fields, Drumglass Park, Dunville Park, Falls Park, Grove Playing Fields, Musgrave Park, Ormeau Park, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Victoria Park, Waterworks and Woodvale Park.

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The officer explained that the submissions would be evaluated over the next few weeks for arrangements to commence at the beginning of April 2018.

Following a query regarding the proposed change to how the rental fees would be calculated, the Assistant Director undertook to update the Member directly.

The Committee agreed that any additional proposals for sites outside of the existing ones would be considered through the Area Working Groups and that a further report would be submitted to Committee in due course.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Japanese Knotweed

In accordance with notice on the agenda Councillor McReynolds raised:

“This council acknowledges the massive impact Japanese Knotweed is having in properties across Belfast and Northern Ireland; acknowledges that the matter remains civil in law; agrees that the Council must do more to assist individuals whose homes are negatively impacted upon; agrees to write to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) to see if they would be content to co-fund a Belfast City Council 'not for profit' service to treat properties across Belfast.

I would therefore ask the Committee to consider assessing the feasibility of this request.”

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillor McReynolds addressed the Committee and outlined his concerns regarding the management and control of Japanese Knotweed across the City. He requested that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would consider options as to how the Council could, in conjunction with the NIEA, assist the ratepayers of Belfast with the removal of this highly invasive species.

The Assistant Director advised that the Council received regular enquiries and complaints regarding the presence of Japanese Knotweed on residential and commercial sites and on vacant land. However, she explained that the Council had no legislative authority to deal with Japanese Knotweed beyond its own properties and open spaces.

Several Members cautioned against the Council taking on any role in respect of Japanese Knotweed removal and highlighted the significant resource implications which the Council might incur should it agree to co-fund an eradication service.

A Member requested that, when considering this matter, officers would also consider alternative ways to treat Japanese Knotweed rather than herbicide injection which involved injecting the pesticide glyphosate directly into the stem. She explained that the long-term safety of this product was, as yet, unknown.

The Committee agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting.

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Signage at Cavehill Country Park – Councillor McCusker

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor McCusker addressed the Committee and outlined his request which sought the erection of signage at various locations which would provide contact information for people who were in distress.

The Committee noted the sensitive nature of the request and the ongoing work throughout the City to prevent suicides in public places. In addition, a number of the Members stressed the importance of ensuring that any measures taken in relation to this work were appropriate and proportionate and would not cause unnecessary fear or anxiety associated with any of the locations.

The Committee agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 7th February, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Heading.

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

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Johnston and McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 10th and 24th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Howard and Graham declared an interest in Item 3a – European Social Fund, in that Councillor Howard was an employee of Belfast Met, and Councillor Graham was an employee of LEMIS. Both Members left the room for the duration of the discussion.

Item Withdrawn from Agenda – Events and Festivals Strategy

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

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion: Problem Parking

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st February, had considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Dorrian and 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.”

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

A Member stated that he had met with the PSNI in relation to the serious parking problems across the City and that the situation was getting worse.

A further Member agreed, stating that she lived in an area which had been affected by problem parking for a number of years. She stated that the communities which bounded the city centre should be involved in discussions with the Department for Infrastructure.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the motion; and
2. agreed that there would be engagement with those communities which bounded the city centre, in conjunction with the Department for Infrastructure, to discuss the issues within the motion.

Restricted Item

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.

European Social Fund

(Councillors Graham and Howard left the room for the duration of the discussion on this item)

The Committee agreed to defer consideration, to a Special meeting on 21st February, of the allocation of the Employability and Skills European Social Fund (ESF) match funding budget.

Requests to Present

NI Water

The Committee acceded to a request from NI Water to attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide an update on the investment which it was making within the City and also to receive an update on the Living with Water programme.

MJM - Refurbishment of Cruise Ships

The Committee acceded to a request from the MJM Group to present to a future meeting on its property investments within the city and on its plans to develop a new high value industry fitting out cruise ships in the Belfast Harbour.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

MIPIIM 2018 – Update

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Committee with an update on the preparations for MIPIIM 2018, which would take place at the Palais de Festivals in Cannes, between 13th and 16th March.

She reported that, following the successful launch event for Belfast at MIPIIM 2018, which had taken place on 22nd November, 2017, private sector sponsorship was higher than last year and that sponsors included representatives from the property development, architecture, construction and professional services industries.

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The Committee was advised that the Belfast delegation would use more high impact, targeted events this year, with an increased presence on the main conference agenda and co-hosting events with other cities.

The Director highlighted that a number of high profile marketing events would take place over the three days, showcasing the City's key sectors, cultural offering and development and investment opportunities to the occupier and investor communities. She also outlined that there would be a number of investor focused events sponsored by Invest NI and Arup respectively.

In addition, the Committee noted that Belfast had been invited to take part in a number of events alongside other cities, including a panel discussion on the main MIPIM conference stage on the topic of "Global cities: the new powerhouses".

In response to a Member's question regarding the VU.CITY interactive 3D model, the Director confirmed that it would be completed by the end of February.

The Committee noted the approach to Belfast at MIPIM 2018, including the programme of events being planned.

City Events Unit - Programme 2018/2019

The Director of Development outlined to the Members that the Council's City Events Unit delivered a series of high profile public events which were free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city.

He explained that, in 2017/2018, it was estimated that those events had generated over £16million of additional economic activity and 317,527 visitors through the programme.

The Committee was advised that the programme included a number of specific events in 2018, for which the Committee had previously agreed to provide funding. He outlined that these included the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, the BBC Biggest Weekend, the BBC Proms in the Park and the World Vespa Gathering. It was also pointed out to the Members that the Committee had agreed, in January 2015, to fund the Royal Scottish Pipe Bands Association's UK National Piping Championships for three years.

He outlined to the Committee the following draft programme of events which would be delivered or supported by the Council's City Events Unit in 2018/2019:

Event	Proposed 2018-2019 Programme Agreed Estimates (£)
Lord Mayor's Day	50,000
UK Pipe Band Championships	165,000
Maritime	211,114

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Autumn Fair	50,000
Halloween	155,000
Christmas	93,000
Vespa World Gathering	30,000
BBC Music Events	200,000
St. Patrick's Day	140,000
Support for Sport	77,000
Sail Training	20,000
Belfast City Marathon	26,000
Major Sports Events Bidding	10,000
	£1,227,114

The Committee agreed the draft City Events Unit Programme of Events for 2018/2019.

NI Tourism Alliance - Governance and Structure

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 (NITA). At the City Growth & Regeneration Committee meeting in January, Members asked for a number of clarifications on a previous report on this proposal.

1.2 TNI have asked that Belfast City Council becomes a member of the 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.
- Funding to come from within the Development Department's existing budget.

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 1,000 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** Recently, a number of trade associations and tourism businesses comprising senior and influential stakeholders from across the NI tourism sector have come together in recent months to seek the formation of such a body. Tourism NI as the lead agency for the development of tourism in Northern Ireland has sought to support the group in its efforts by facilitating this process. However, it is important to note that whilst Tourism Northern Ireland is a non-departmental public body of the Department for the Economy (DFE) this initiative is private sector led.
- 3.5** The group has progressed matters to the point of incorporation of a LTD Company with agreed Articles of Association in place. It is their desire for this Limited Company to be formally known as 'The Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance'. Such a name will demonstrate that the organisation speaks with the necessary authority as a pre-eminent and substantial representative for its sector across Northern Ireland.

- 3.6** 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.
- 3.7** A Steering Group has been established to explore the potential for creating an independent, private sector – led representative body for the tourism industry. The group met in early December 2017 and the meeting was facilitated by Tourism NI and chaired by Ellvena Graham, Chair of NI Chamber of Commerce and Chair of Belfast Waterfront Board.
- 3.8** 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.
- 3.9** Membership of the NI Tourism Alliance
- Currently seventeen organisations from the tourism industry have agreed to become members. These organisations will represent the views of its membership (smaller organisations) and make submissions and representations to industry leaders, government departments, agencies and other bodies which impact upon the tourism industry in Northern Ireland so as to develop a collective position on behalf of the sector. In order to ensure the Alliance is suitably resourced these organisations have also agreed to make a financial contribution of £5,000 so that the alliance is suitably resourced to fulfil its objectives. These organisations include: 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.
- 3.10** In addition, it was felt that local authorities would have a good understanding of local tourism opportunities and challenges so it would be productive to have local government representation on the Executive.

3.11 Partnership with ROI (The Irish Tourism Industry Confederation)

The Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance will work with the equivalent partner in the ROI (The Irish Tourism Industry Confederation - ITIC) and other jurisdictions where it is mutually beneficial to do so, collating research in international markets for example and the sharing of information and best practice. The former CEO of the ITIC was an adviser to the steering group tasked with setting NITA up.

3.12 Tourism NI's Role

Tourism NI will provide £30,000 support and will act as observers at meetings of Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance. This is to ensure that there is no conflict of interest and that the group is independent from Government. This reflects the position adopted by Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland in relation to Irish Tourism Industry Confederation in the ROI.

3.13 The Steering Group has proposed that each of the Councils contribute £2,000 per annum towards the running costs and all Councils have been approached to provide this support.

3.14 A Board will be appointed by the members at the first full meeting of the Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance. It has been agreed that the Board should be reflective of the breadth of the tourism industry. It has however been agreed by the Steering Group that there will be at least one local government representative on the Tourism Alliance Board to reflect the collective contribution of Councils to the body and its importance within the tourism industry.

3.15 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.

3.16 Equality and Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations implications.

3.17 Financial and Resource Implications

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.”

The Committee:

1. agreed to the request for Belfast City Council to become a member of the NI Tourism Alliance;
2. agreed the contribution of £2,000 per annum for an initial period of 3 years;
3. agreed that officers should engage with Tourism NI to ensure that Belfast had appropriate representation on the NI Tourism Alliance Board; and
4. noted that funding would come from within the Development Department’s existing budget.

BelTech Conference 2018

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 recommend a funding contribution of £6,000 from the agreed economic development budget (reduced from the previous year) towards the delivery of the Belfast Technology Conference 2018 (BelTech).**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- **Consider and approve the request for sponsorship of £6,000 to support the BelTech conference to be held in Belfast on 3-4 May 2018.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that one of the key priorities of the Belfast Agenda is Growing the Economy. Central to this pillar of activity is the commitment to increase business start-up, build support for business growth and encourage additional investment in the City.

- 3.2** Belfast's economic growth in recent years has been driven by technology-focused businesses operating across a range of sectors. These companies are both FDI businesses and small, indigenous companies that are developing products and services here that are being exported worldwide or have the potential to do so.
- 3.3** Over the course of the last few years, there have been a number of annual tech-focused business conferences and events that have sought to showcase best practice, encourage collaboration between businesses and encourage young people to become engaged in the tech sector. The growing support for the Smart City Agenda means that the Council and the City are now looking at technology not only as a business product but also as a way of changing the way we all do business.
- 3.4** Belfast City Council supported the inaugural Belfast Technology Conference event which took place in April 2014 and the subsequent conferences in April 2015, 2016 and 2017. Sponsorship from the Council was reduced from £15,000 to £10,000 in 2016 and £8,000 in 2017 with the view to reducing the reliance on Council funding each year as the conference grows and becomes self-sustaining.
- 3.5** The 2017 conference took place over the course of 3 days at Titanic Belfast and brought together technology and business leaders from around the globe to showcase emerging technologies to support the industry to innovate and compete effectively at a global level.
- 3.6** The 2017 conference also helped educate and inspire the next generation by engaging with school children, parents and teachers about the potential of a career in digital technology.
- 3.7** BelTech 2017 attracted a total of 650 attendees, which is an increase of 250 since its inception in 2014. Around 250 of these were technology professionals and 400 were students. 2017 was the first year that the event trialled two stages with a technology theme. Whilst one focused on Software Engineering only, the other featured discussions on Internet of Things (IOT), Immersive Tech and Cyber Security.
- 3.8** The 2018 conference will be held at the new BelTel Print Hall (the old Belfast Telegraph building) and will target technology professionals, technology business owners and potential funders as well as post primary school children, teachers and university students.

- 3.9** We are currently working with the Department of the Economy and Digital Catapult UK, to develop space within the BelTel building as a hub for the Digital and Immersive Technology sectors and the city.
- 3.10** Housing the Beltech 2018 Conference in the BelTel Building will add value to and support our ambition for the building and the wider Cathedral Quarter area.
- 3.11** Key thematic areas for this year's conference include informing technology professionals and businesses of the emerging technologies and approaches that will allow them to innovate and compete effectively at a global market. As well as this the conference will also educate and inspire students and teachers about the potential of a career in technology, thereby building the digital skill base and reinforcing Belfast's global lead in this area.
- 3.12** BelTech 2018 will run over 2 days and will feature the following:
- **3 May:** Day 1 will focus on technology professionals and businesses and will feature curated conversations on User Experience, Artificial Intelligence, Immersive Technology, Software Engineering, Smart Cities and Cyber Security. An audience of 300 is expected on this day.
 - **4 May:** Day 2 is aimed at attracting 400 post primary school children and teachers and will feature a mix of engaging technology demonstrations, safety in using social media and a discussion of career pathways and opportunities.
 - **4 May:** On the evening of 4 May, the BelTech 50 awards will take place in order to highlight the success of the technology talent here in Belfast. This is expected to attract 200 attendees.
 - **Exhibition:** Throughout the 2 days, an exhibition of leading NI and Global high tech organisations will run to allow attendees to get a more detailed understanding of the people, products and innovations covered in the Conference. Education providers will also be among the exhibitors to advise students.
- 3.13** The overall aims and benefits of the BelTech conference include:

- Gaining an awareness of emerging technologies and practices that will improve participants' effectiveness and career development
- Interacting with highly successful tech/business leaders and role models
- Building personal networks and enhancing career prospects
- Contributing to building a vibrant technology community and culture in Belfast and NI that can compete effectively on a global scale
- Contributing to the NI Innovation Strategy
- Informing students and young people about the types of technology careers available and advising them on routes into employment
- Inspiring students and young people by successful role models and their stories
- Supporting teachers to provide quality careers guidance and advice on future employment opportunities for students in this field
- Developing awareness among key international companies of Belfast capability as a source of technology talent.

3.14 The finance requested from Council is £6,000, a reduced amount to the previous year. Sponsorship of the event will provide Council the following:

- Speaking roles for the Lord Mayor, CEO and for a representative of the council on the Smart Cities panel
- Full page advertisement in conference magazine
- Primetime positioning of BCC logo on all materials including website and all promotional materials
- Prime exhibition space
- Permission to display unlimited company marketing stands at the venue
- Included in pre and post event publicity
- 10 delegate passes
- Sponsorship of an award at the BelTech Awards
- 10 tickets for the awards

3.15 It is proposed that the delegate passes will be offered to local technology businesses on our Venture for Success and Creative Industries programmes. A number of Council Officers will also attend to staff the exhibition stand. Should Members wish to attend the event, they should advise Officers and arrangements can be made to enable them to do so.

3.16 Members will be aware that Business Support activities delivered by the Council's Economic Development Unit concentrate primarily on starting a business, growing a business and investing in Belfast as well as supporting Employability and Skills. The range of initiatives delivered are developed based on research and engagement with partners to identify what will make the most significant contributions to the outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda.

3.17 In addition to programme activity, Council's Economic Development Unit identifies opportunities to engage with local events, such as BelTech, that are aligned to the Council's strategic priorities. These events act as a pipeline of enquiries and clients to avail of Council led business support programmes.

3.18 Financial & Resource Implications

The total budget requested is £6,000 which will be met from Economic Development Budgets. This has already been set aside as part of the 2018/19 estimates.

3.19 Organisers are forecasting an additional £50,000 in sponsorship from other private and public sector partners. They consider that, in the longer-term, the event will become self-funding.

3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations considerations.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

City for Investment Service

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the City for Investment Service, in order that Party Group Briefings would be provided on the matter.

The Committee further agreed that the research referenced in the report, in relation to the levels of under-represented groups involved in entrepreneurship and business start activity across Belfast, would be made available at the briefings.

Peace and Beyond Conference – Update

The Director of Development provided the Committee with an update on the upcoming Peace and Beyond Conference, which would take place in Belfast from 10th-12th April.

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He pointed out to the Members that 10th April, 2018, would mark twenty years since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement and that the British Council was working with both Queen's University and Ulster University, as well as the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, to host a major conference in Belfast to mark the event.

The Director explained to the Members that the objective of the Conference was to bring together policy makers and peace practitioners from around the world to share reflections on the experience of various peace processes, with the events building on the Northern Ireland experience of, and expertise in, conflict resolution and peace building.

He outlined to the Committee that the British Council had invited a number of individuals who had played a key role in the Good Friday Agreement negotiations to attend, including former President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton. The Members were advised that, while a decision on whether President Clinton would attend the Conference had not been confirmed, a number of senior representatives involved in peace-building in South Africa, Libya, Colombia, Serbia and Lebanon had already confirmed their attendance. It was pointed out to the Members that the event would attract more than 200 international visitors to the City.

The Director highlighted to the Members that one of the main aims of the Conference was to highlight the key role played by local organisations and institutions in building and securing the peace process in Northern Ireland. He explained that one day would be dedicated to a series of site visits, including the Girdwood Hub and the Innovation Factory, which would also offer an opportunity to showcase and highlight the role that Belfast City Council played in supporting local communities to build sustainable approaches to peace and to encourage inclusive economic growth within the City.

He advised the Members that the opening reception for the Conference would take place in Belfast City Hall on 10th April, with a proposed budget allocation of £20,000 towards cultural animation and hospitality at the opening event. He explained that the funding had been set aside in departmental estimates for 2018/2019.

The Committee was advised that the British Council had offered to provide six complimentary tickets for elected Members to attend the Conference. During discussion, a Member suggested that the Committee request additional complimentary conference tickets to enable independent Councillors, who were not members of one of the six main political parties, to also attend.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the update on the upcoming Peace and Beyond Conference which would take place in Belfast from 10-12th April 2018;
2. noted that the opening reception would take place in Belfast City Hall on 10th April 2018 and agreed a budget allocation of up to £20,000 towards cultural animation and hospitality at that event. The funding had been set aside within existing Development Department budgets;
3. agreed to accept the offer from the British Council to provide six complimentary tickets, to include the attendance of the

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and a representative from each of the other four main political parties to avail of the other complimentary tickets; and

4. agreed that a request be made to the British Council for additional complimentary tickets for other Councillors to attend the Conference.

Profiling Belfast Through International Cultural Engagement

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

Update Members on a number of international profiling opportunities for Belfast, focusing on the cultural and creative talent in the City.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Note the range of international profiling opportunities for Belfast, profiling the City’s creative and cultural talent**
- **Note the opportunities for increased engagement with the City’s investment messaging as well as the potential for additional partnership engagement with relevant organisations in Belfast’s Sister Cities, to promote cultural and business exchanges.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware of the increased focus of the Council and its partners in promoting Belfast as a business and investment location. On the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) side, the Council works closely with Invest NI in supporting that organisation’s work in bringing new investment to Northern Ireland. As set out in a separate report, working relationships are extremely positive between the organisations and we are in the process of putting in place an MoU to set out our parameters of engagement on Foreign Direct Investment support.

- 3.2 On the capital investment side, the City Centre Development Team has been leading on a number of initiatives to create confidence in the investment market and to bring forward new investment schemes. This includes the Council support for the £18.7million City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) as well as proposals for the development of a new City Centre Visitor Attraction and regeneration frameworks for key development zones in the City Centre and surrounding areas.
- 3.3 One of the key factors in any investment decision – either capital investment or Foreign Direct Investment – is the wider City ‘offer’ in terms of quality of life, city ambition and vibrancy. A City’s cultural provision is a key pillar of that ‘offer’ as it gives confidence to investors that it is a City that open to attracting people in and catering for the range of cultural tastes and interests. Recognising that this is a critical factor in our efforts to sell Belfast internationally, the marketing materials and messaging draw attention to the fact that Belfast is a dynamic, vibrant location with a sense of energy and ambition. The city narrative and brand emphasises this sense of vibrancy and uniqueness in a very competitive investment market.
- 3.4 The sense of momentum and ambition created through the development work on the European City of Culture (ECoC) bid as well as the success of some of the major cultural events and initiatives that take place across the City each year highlight the ambition and potential of the City’s cultural sector. Recognising this potential, the Council has committed to supporting a number of profiling opportunities in which the cultural offer is in the lead but where it is supported by the City investment messaging. These include:
- 3.5 South by South West (SXSW)
- South by South West (SXSW) is a global gathering for the interactive, digital and music sectors. The event takes place in Austin, Texas every year and regularly attracts visitors from all across the world. The event comprises a series of conferences, seminars, workshops and presentations on issues related to the development of the creative sectors.
- 3.6 Belfast has attended the event over the last ten years. Delegations have involved both civic and business representatives. The Council has provided support for five local companies to attend the event and has helped them prepare for the event in order to maximise the benefits of their visit. The Council will also host three investment and

business to business events. The Lord Mayor will accompany the Belfast delegation.

- 3.7 The five Belfast companies will be accompanied by another 10 NI companies – supported by Invest NI. There will also be four musicians from Northern Ireland who have been successful in their application to attend the event (there is an open call process by SXSW for musicians' attendance).**
- 3.8 The planned format for 2018 takes into account learning gained from the previous missions, which highlighted the need to increase businesses access to buyers and to better utilise SXSW to promote Belfast as an investment location for the CDI sector. The key elements of the mission – hosted by the Lord Mayor – include:**
- 3.9 Output Belfast: City Investment – event to promote Belfast and investment opportunities in the City through the promotion of key sectors and initiatives including the creative digital, Cyber sectors and the Smart Cities ambitions. This will be an invitation-only networking event that provides business to business networking for Belfast City Council and the delegation and key US companies and civic stakeholders and partners/associates from the City of Austin, our Sister Cities of Nashville and Boston. This event will take place in Austin's leading digital hub, the Capital Factory.**
- 3.10 Output Belfast: Creative Convergence – event to promote Belfast and the key sectors and initiatives with a focus on the creative digital industries. This will be an invitation-only networking event that provides business to business networking for Belfast business delegation and key SXSW attendees including Sony, Warner Brothers and Spotify.**
- 3.11 Output Belfast: Music – music showcase and networking event with a focus on promoting the music industry in Belfast and supporting participating bands and musicians identify business opportunities which will be marketed as a key part of the 'Official SXSW 2018 Programme'.**
- 3.12 Belfast International Arts Festival**

The Belfast International Arts Festival (BIAF) is a key city international arts event, with performances, exhibitions and spectacles taking place across the city in October each year. Their mission is to create a civic event of contemporary arts and ideas of international appeal and stature. The international significance of the Festival is reflected in both the programme and its ability to attract leading artists

and events from around the world together with an extensive social media reach.

- 3.13** The International Festival has embarked on an ambitious programme to ensure that the event really is international in every aspect. That includes not only the international performers who come to the City for the event but also the visitors who are attracted by the standard of the cultural offering. In the last two years, BIAF have undertaken a number of international ‘launches’ of the event – focusing on the US (mainly New York) as well as Dublin and London launches.
- 3.14** For the New York launch, the Lord Mayor of Belfast travelled to New York to provide civic support to the messaging around the cultural offer. This helped present a joined-up perspective of Belfast as a dynamic cultural and business location. At that time, the Lord Mayor also highlighted the development activity around the City’s plans to become the European Capital of Culture in 2023.
- 3.15** This visit also generated significant additional ‘ambassador’ support for Belfast as a dynamic cultural location and investment destination. For example, the team was able to secure video message support for ECoC from Liam Neeson, Roma Downey, Geraldine Hughes and other major figures from the creative sector who are originally from Northern Ireland. They also met potential investors and companies.
- 3.16** The New York launch event for the International Festival provided a focal point for discussion on and promotion of the transformation of Belfast into a vibrant, outward-looking City with a rich heritage and a strong cultural product. Leveraging Council support for this work, the Northern Ireland Bureau and Tourism Ireland also provided funding to support the delivery of the event and to secure PR and media coverage. On the back of the launch event, the Lord Mayor also met a number of existing and potential inward investors through the Invest NI Office as well as some of the key political representatives in New York. This visit has generated additional opportunities in terms of inward investment and cultural and education partnerships which are currently being pursued by the Council and other partner organisations.
- 3.17** Final monitoring reports for the Belfast International Arts Festival are not yet complete but, at this point, it is understood that the event attracted more than 60,000 visitors (excluding visitors to the Poppies: Weeping Window at the Ulster Museum) and the print, online and broadcast value of the

coverage was in excess of £1million. This illustrates the potential to use events such as BIAF as a platform for profiling the City, as well as the importance of agreed messaging across all partners who are profiling Belfast on the international stage.

3.18 Beckett at The MAC

As part of an earlier visit to Belfast by a Boston delegation, connections were established with the creative team at the MAC. One of the Boston delegation – Professor Bob Scanlon – is an Associate Professor with Harvard University and a friend of the playwright Samuel Beckett. Prof Scanlon worked with the team at the MAC to support the staging of a co-production by the Poet's Theatre in Boston of four Beckett Plays – 'Beckett Women'. This was the inaugural project of a long term cultural exchange as part of the Boston-Belfast Sister Cities project.

3.19 11 performances took place at the MAC in early November 2017. As part of the Council support for this initiative, there were substantially discounted tickets for community groups, school children, tertiary level students, and for those under twenty-five, alongside standard concessionary rates.

3.20 As a direct and linked follow up, Belfast-based creative directors / artists will take part in a follow up Development programme in Boston later this year in order to consolidate links and partnerships and develop training in specialist theatre practice and skills immersion led by Professor Scanlan and Harvard University, with a view to co-producing a new production which will be showcased in Belfast and Boston towards the end of 2018.

3.21 An update report on our International Relations activity will be presented to the Committee in March 2018. This will include details of a proposed visit to Boston in 2018 as well as an inward mission from the City later this year. The cultural links established provide a unique platform for widening the City narrative as a dynamic business location with a vibrant, international cultural scene.

3.22 Financial and Resource Implications

The Council contribution to the SXSW attendance is £40,000. The Council support to the Belfast International Festival for its international programming and promotion work totalled £75,000. The Council support to the MAC for the hosting of the Beckett work and the ongoing cultural exchanges with Boston

totalled £30,000. These funding allocations have been set aside within the Development Department's budget for the financial year 2017/18.

3.23 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no specific equality or good relations implications."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Local Tourism Product Development Support

The Director of Development advised the Members that work was currently under way to support the development of new tourism products across the City.

He reported that the vision was to develop Belfast and share its history by creating a destination that visitors to the city would want to experience first-hand. The Members were advised that the strategic goal was to double the value of tourism by 2020 by generating discretionary tourist overnight stays, especially higher value leisure and business tourism. He highlighted to the Committee that, currently, the tourism and hospitality sector contributed around 5% of Belfast's Gross Value Added (GVA), whereas other comparable locations had a figure closer to 11%, which showed significant potential for growth within the sector.

He explained to the Committee that, in order to encourage visitors to stay longer, the city needed to be assured that there was sufficient volume of high-quality tourism products which would allow them to fill their time in Belfast.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 10th May 2017, it had agreed to provide support towards the development of local tourism in order to ensure that the benefits of tourism growth were felt across Belfast and not just in the City Centre.

The Members were advised that officers had been working with partners including Tourism NI, the East Belfast Partnership and Fáilte Feirste Thiar to identify and explore opportunities for supporting the development of local tourism and encouraging improved visibility of and access to the tourism product. The Director explained that some of the emerging ideas included the need for investment in local capacity building, as well as the need to support the development of new tourism product to capture the unique offer in each of the areas and an authentic Belfast experience.

The Director advised the Members that, while the work on the Local Tourism Programme would continue and extend to cover all areas of the City, it was felt that external support should be utilised in order to test out the feasibility and viability of a number of the product development concepts. He outlined that it would establish whether there was merit in seeking further investment support to help bring the new products to market in the context of potential investment opportunities through the City Deal and other relevant funding streams, including the re-casted Social Outcomes Fund, to support the City's growing tourism infrastructure.

The Committee agreed to provide up to £25,000 to commission external support to test the viability of emerging product development ideas in the City's neighbourhoods with a view to helping the Council and its partners to focus their investment on those products that were most likely to become sustainable businesses.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

**Brexit N.I. Affairs Committee –
BCC Response to Consultation**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee has opened a call for suggestions for themes for their next Brexit and Northern Ireland Inquiry. The call for suggestions will close on 22 February 2018. Suggestions are to be submitted electronically, and should set out the theme and why Brexit poses a particular challenge or opportunity in that area.**
- 1.2 The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Northern Ireland Office and its associated public bodies. It consists of 13 Members of Parliament and works principally by undertaking inquiries. For the inquiries, evidence is sought from a wide range of groups and individuals with relevant interests and experience to inform the Committee's findings and recommendations. The NI Affairs Committee has carried out Brexit related inquiries into the land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland and has opened a sub-inquiry into the implications of Brexit for the fishing industry in Northern Ireland.**
- 1.3 On 21 November 2017, the Committee held a Special meeting to focus on Brexit in order to explore the potential economic impact and to consider Belfast's resilience to meet the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities for the future to ensure the economic growth and regeneration of the city. With input from a range of external expert perspectives, the Committee noted a number of potential areas of impact of particular relevance to achieving the ambitions for inclusive growth, attracting investment and growing the Belfast economy at its meeting on 6 December 2017.**
- 1.4 The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee's request for suggestions provides an opportunity to highlight the issues and opportunities of particular relevance to Belfast, and to**

have the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee apply its resources to investigate it.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Based on the Committee's consideration of Brexit, the Committee is asked to:

- Note the NI Affairs Committee themed approach to its next Brexit and NI Inquiry; and
- Consider and approve the suggested themes outlined at paragraph 3.6 to be submitted to the NI Affairs Committee as topic areas for the next Brexit and Northern Ireland Inquiry.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

At its meeting on 21 November, this Committee considered the potential impact and opportunities of Brexit within the context of the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan which have set a challenging and ambitious vision for the city in 2035, with inclusive growth at the centre. These plans are set within the current strategic and economic context, acknowledging the uncertainty and challenges and highlighting the importance of tackling the city's systemic social and economic issues such as economic inactivity to create sustainable economic growth.

3.2 The potential impacts of Brexit are wide-reaching and there may be other issues that impact more directly on other Committees, such as regulatory and legislative changes. This Committee has acknowledged the following broad areas of particular relevance to achieving the ambitions for inclusive growth, attracting investment and growing the economy:

- Attracting and retaining investment (particularly high value growth services such as financial services)
- Increasing trade (focusing on high growth services sector)
- Movement of people - securing a pipeline of talent and increasing tourism
- EU funding and any replacement funds
- European Capital of Culture designation and funding

3.3 The Committee has noted that the growth and diversification of the Belfast economy is critical to maintaining its resilience in order to manage future economic changes, potential

shocks and stresses. The success of Belfast as the region's key city is vital in the post-Brexit environment and there needs to be a real focus on ensuring that it continues to attract employers, visitors, investors, students etc to ensure economic prosperity for the city and the region as a whole.

3.4 While further clarity and detail will be required to enable a full assessment of the impacts and opportunities as a result of Brexit; the following summary points have been noted by Committee at its December 2017 meeting:

- The need for clarity on the movement of people in terms of attracting and retaining talent for the city's high growth sectors/knowledge economy as well as cross-border workers, researchers, students etc. and boosting tourism;**
- The importance of growing the local business base and accelerating alternative models such as social enterprises, co-operatives etc;**
- The need to encourage social innovation to promote and secure prosperity across the city;**
- The importance of harnessing the city's anchor institutions, such as universities, to maximise the local impact of their procurement as well as attracting investment;**
- There are ways in which Belfast may benefit in certain sectors due to its location and proximity to Dublin; its competitive cost base may be an advantage;**
- The professional services 'axis' of Belfast – Dublin - London offers a real opportunity to position the city;**
- Ensuring connectivity (air, road, rail and digital connections) and appropriate infrastructure are crucial for growth;**
- The Belfast Region City Deal is both a vehicle to improve prosperity and quality of life in the city-region as well as making the city-region more globally competitive;**
- The vital role played by Council in demonstrating leadership to drive inclusive economic growth and the importance of delivering the programmes and plans to progress the ambitions for the city outlined in the Belfast Agenda.**

3.5 The NI Affairs Committee request for suggestions for future themes for the Brexit and Northern Ireland Inquiry provides a timely opportunity to highlight the issues and opportunities of particular relevance to Belfast and to inform the focus of work for the NI Affairs Committee.

3.6 Focusing on delivering the Belfast Agenda ambitions to secure sustainable inclusive growth and position Belfast successfully in a more globally connected world, it is proposed that the following themes are submitted to the NI Affairs Committee for the next Brexit and Northern Ireland Inquiry:

- **Assessment of the impacts, measures and incentives to ensure Belfast remains competitive in attracting and retaining investment especially Foreign Direct Investment**
- **The impacts and opportunities for attracting and retaining EU and international students and staff; and their contribution to the regional and city economy.**
- **The impacts and opportunities for the key growth sectors (including business and professional services, financial services and fintech, creative and digital sector, clean tech, cyber security). There are around 32,000 people employed in the Financial Services sector, this focus would enable consideration of the potential to maximise the professional services ‘axis’ of Belfast – Dublin – London**
- **The vital work on peace and social inclusion**
- **The Erasmus Programme of exchange**
- **The future role of the tourism sector in terms of connectivity (particularly air routes), labour supply, ease of movement and contribution to the economy (in 2016, over 1.5m overnight trips to Belfast, contributing £334m to the economy).**
- **Exploring opportunities to incentivise exports and priorities for trade (e.g. geographically and/or sectorally) to support and develop small business growth post-Brexit.**
- **Consideration of the impact and opportunities of EU funding and any replacement funds to support social, economic and cultural regeneration in the city.**

3.7 There is currently no clear information available as to how the Committee will select the subject for the inquiry; however, it is likely to be based on the judgement of the committee members, influenced by lobbying and the volume of support for each potential subject area. Therefore the suggested themes at paragraph 3.6 cover a range of areas that the Committee have raised when considering Brexit.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial costs for the Council associated with this report.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McAteer,
Seconded by Councillor Boyle,

That the Council’s submission to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee would state:

1. the issues contained within 3.6 within the report;
2. that Belfast City Council had considered a number of motions in favour of:
 - Northern Ireland remaining in the European Union (E.U.);
 - seeking special status for Northern Ireland within the E.U.; and
 - Northern Ireland remaining in the Customs Union and in the Single market,

all of which were subsequently carried;

3. that the Council was extremely concerned to learn of the information contained in the E.U. Exit Analysis Cross-Cabinet Whitehall Briefing, which indicated that the economy of Northern Ireland would be severely impacted by exiting the EU and would experience suppressed economic growth;
4. that the Council expressed concern regarding the loss of a number of E.U. programmes which were specifically focused on targeting social inclusion and the cohesion of communities, particularly through skills and employment, and through the loss of INTERREG programmes; and
5. expressed concern regarding the impact of the hard border.

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

Markets Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **To update the Committee on markets including the Christmas Continental Market, St George’s Market and Twilight Markets**

and the proposed increase in stallage fees for St George's Market

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the update on the Christmas Market
- Note the update on the St George's Market and Twilight Markets
- Note and agree the proposal to increase the stallage fee at St George's Market, from £15 to £16 per stall per day, from 1 April 2018 and to increase the stallage fee for hot food concessions from £15 to £25 per stall per day, from 1 April 2018

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that the Spring and Christmas Markets at Belfast City Hall are operated on behalf of the Council by Market Place Europe (MPE). The contract runs from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019.

3.2 This year's Christmas Market took place from 18 November to 23 December 2017. In all, there were 98 stalls. As part of the contract with the Council, there is a requirement for at least 30% of the traders to be local. In reality 34 (33.3%) of the traders at this year's Market were from Belfast or Northern Ireland.

3.3 As a result of the removal of the large screen, the Market organisers drew up a revised layout plan for this year's Market. This included the establishment of a Food Court area in the location previously occupied by the large screen. This development has been welcomed by traders and shoppers. It meant that visitors could circulate more easily as there was dedicated seating space for the Food Court. There was also a small performance space with regular performances from local musicians at peak times.

3.4 As part of their contractual obligations to the Council, MPE must undertake a bi-annual economic impact survey to assess the economic value of the Market in terms of visitor spend and contribution to the wider city economy.

3.5 While MPE are not due to undertake their economic impact survey until after the 2018 Christmas Market, they have undertaken some evaluation based on engagement with a sample of traders and visitors. Traders reported that trade

increased by 5% on the previous year. They also remarked on an apparent increase in coach tour business – particularly during the week. Finally, traders noted an increase in the number of overseas visitors this year – many of whom also appeared to be visiting the Market as part of an organised tour.

- 3.6** visitors to the Market commented most regularly on the improved layout, the range of new traders and the additional provision for children, including the Helter Skelter. Almost 1000 school children and young adults took part in the Christmas Market Educational Tours which were provided free of charge.
- 3.7** Markets are traditionally a good platform for traders who are starting out in business. The Market experience provides an invaluable opportunity for customer engagement and feedback on the products on offer. Each year, MPE organises a ‘Pitch Perfect’ competition. This provides new local businesses with an opportunity to trade at the Market free of charge. The winners of this year’s competition were Upstyle Originals and The Gift Box. Upstyle Originals, from North Belfast sold upcycled glass bottles that were turned into lamps and ornaments. The Gift Box Company from Newcastle, Co. Down, sold pre-gift boxed Irish products. We also awarded a stall to Outside In, a Social Enterprise company working with the homeless. They sold hats, gloves and sweatshirts. Each product purchased was matched by the company and given to a homeless person.
- 3.8** Members may recall that, for the first time in December 2016, MPE placed new, smaller chalets at the front of the City Hall, just outside the perimeter railings. These were targeted at small food businesses, as part of the 2016 Year of Food and Drink. These units were open to all types of small businesses this year. For the 2018 Market, MPE will work closely with the Council’s Economic Development Team to ensure that local businesses are given the opportunity to trade at the Market.
- 3.9** Members were advised of additional security arrangements at this year’s Market based on engagement with the PSNI. This included additional security personnel at all entrances at peak times as well as random bag searching. There has been no significant adverse reaction to this approach and there were no incidents.
- 3.10** While the MPE report for the 2017 Market was limited in scope (a fuller report is due next year), research undertaken by the Belfast One Business Improvement District (BID) highlights the value of the Christmas Market to the city – and to other

traders in the city centre. According to this research, 100% of those surveyed (sample of traders and city centre users) were aware of the Christmas Market (and 85% were aware of the Spring Continental Market). 75% of respondents felt that the Christmas Market was of significant direct value to Belfast City Centre; 15% felt that it had some direct value, 5% felt that it had some indirect value and 5% felt that it had no value to Belfast. When asked about the impact of the Christmas Market on their business, city centre traders responded as follows: 21% felt that it was of some indirect value and 18% felt that it was of no value to their businesses. All in all, this is a very strong endorsement of the contribution of the Christmas Market to the city and to city centre traders.

- 3.11 MPE's own economic impact research from the 2016 Christmas Market (carried out by an independent research company) found that more than 1,300,000 people visited the Market over the five week period that it was operational. Almost 25% of the visitors were from outside Northern Ireland. The gross economic impact of the Market in terms of visitor spend at the Market and elsewhere in the city as well as trader spend on food/accommodation while trading at the Market was in excess of £78,000,000. Members will be aware that MPE pays a fixed fee of £80,000 and a percentage of rent from the stalls to the Council for operating the Market and is also contractually obliged to make good all damage to the front lawn by replacing the lawn after the event.
- 3.12 Work is already underway on plans for the Spring Continental Market (dates are Thursday 24 to Monday 28 May) and for the 2018 Christmas Market. Feedback from traders and Market users will form an important element of the lessons learned in order to inform plans for future events.
- 3.13 St George's Market and Twilight Market update
- St George's award winning Market is going from strength to strength and in 2017 attracted customer numbers of over one million. This is an increase of 20% on 2016. The weekend Market is continuing to grow and recent research conveyed that 66% of customers interviewed cited St George's Market as their main reason for visiting Belfast City Centre. Tourist visitors have also increased into the market by around 20%. In addition the estimated economic impact for the city is £40.9 million a year.
- 3.14 St George's Market is also now a popular venue for events from Monday to Thursday. In 2017 the venue hosted conferences, exhibitions, youth markets, wedding fairs, as

well as key events such as Digital DNA, NI Science Festival, Generation Innovation, and the extremely popular Twilight Markets.

- 3.15 The original Twilight Market in 2015 was conceived as a means of trying to boost evening trade and economy in the city, as well as to promote our local food and drink industry. It grew from a pilot event to become one of the largest events in the city calendar.
- 3.16 Over 140 traders from the local food and drink industry take part in each event and traders from the restaurant sector and arts and crafts industry are also represented. In addition there are local musicians and local entertainment.
- 3.17 Twilight Market is now firmly 'on the map' in terms of our city's calendar of events. Having received a Tourism NI award in 2016 for Market Innovation, Twilight Market has welcomed over 80,000 visitors since it opened its doors in 2015 and has gone from strength to strength. The Twilight Market is now a two day event and regularly attracts over 25,000 customers to St George's. Planning work is currently underway for the 2018 Twilight Markets. While dates are currently being finalised, it is likely that four events will take place in May, August, November and December. 2018 will also see an increase in other events in the Market with some bookings already in place.
- 3.18 Members have advised that they wish to realise savings in the Council's budget and to increase revenue generation opportunities. In addition to the weekend markets, a new staffing structure with additional front-facing Customer Service and Duty Manager roles means that the team is now equipped to explore new opportunities for increasing income at the Market. In addition to the planned Twilight Markets, there are a number of additional mid-week bookings at St George's Market and the management team are now actively seeking new business opportunities to offset the costs associated with running the Market.
- 3.19 St George's Market Stall Increase

At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 10 February 2016, Members agreed to increase the stall fees at St George's Market by £1, to £15 per stall, with effect from 1 April 2016. It was also agreed that a review of stallage fees, and other potential income sources, would be undertaken with a view to identifying how the fees can support the investment required to sustain the Market into the future. There has not

been an increase in stall fees since that date. Members will be aware that the success of St George's Market has grown significantly in recent years. Much of this success is due to ongoing investment by the Council in the venue, working in close partnership with the traders.

3.20 At present, the Market attracts between 6,000 and 7,500 visitors on each Market day (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). It is now one of the most significant visitor attractions in the city. In the 2017 calendar year, over 1 million people visited the market. In addition to the weekend Markets, St George's hosted three Twilight Markets in 2017 as set out above.

3.21 The current stallage fee of £15 represents very good value for money for traders, as it also includes marketing and promotion of the Market. Members will be aware that there are now a number of markets across the city. All of these markets are charging more than the fee for St George's. For example, Folktown Markets charges £50 per stall per day, and Fine & Dandy Market charges £25 per stall per day.

3.22 It is proposed that the stall fee is increased to £16 per stall per day, with effect from 1 April 2018. It is also proposed that the stallage fee for hot food concessions is increased from £15 to £25 to reflect the additional costs i.e. cleaning and maintenance and its current significant investment in ventilation units.

3.23 Financial and Resource Implications

- Christmas and Spring Continental Markets
The Market operator, MPE, makes a payment to the Council for the operation of the Market. This involves a flat fee and a rate per stall. They also cover all utilities and repairs to the lawn.
- Twilight Markets
A budget of £70,000 has been set aside as part of the budget estimates for 2018/19 and have been included in the cash limit agreed by Members on 10 January 2018 at SP&R Committee.
- St George's Market Stall Increases
This increase of £1 per stall per day, from £15 to £16, will generate an annual increase of approximately £24,100, the increase of stallage fees for hot food concessions from £15 to £25 will generate an additional £30,600, the increased income will be used to offset the running costs of the Market and have been already

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 7th February, 2018**

**factored into the Revenue Estimates for 2018 / 2019 and
have been included in the cash limit agreed by
Members at its meeting on 10 January 2018.”**

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. P. Lynn and Mr. S. McCann, National Market Traders Federation, were in attendance and had requested to make a short presentation to the Committee. The Committee acceded to the request and the Chairperson welcomed them to the meeting.

Mr. Lynn acknowledged that, while the footfall in St. George's Market had increased, not all traders were benefitting from the additional visitors. He requested that the Members considered implementing a phased increase in the stallage fees for hot food traders, and suggested that they be increased by £5 per day in the first year and by £10 per day in the second year.

Mr. McCann advised that the increase of 60% would represent a significant increase in his fees.

The Director of Development highlighted to the Committee that the proposed increase for hot food traders was to reflect the additional cleaning and maintenance costs associated with the hot food traders. There was also a need to invest in new ventilation equipment to deal with smoke and odours generated by the hot food traders. The current system had been reviewed by the Council's health and safety team and they had advised of the need for a new system in order to meet all relevant health and safety obligations. The costs associated with this investment are significant and, in the current financial context, the Council needs to consider how these costs can be met.

During discussion, a number of Members stated that a stepped increase over two years for the hot food traders at St. George's Market was preferable.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the update on the Christmas Market;
2. noted the update on St George's Market and the Twilight Markets;
3. noted and agreed to increase the stallage fee at St George's Market, from £15 to £16 for non-hot food stalls per day, from 1st April 2018; and
4. agreed to increase the stallage fee for hot food concessions from £15 to £20 per hot food stall, per day, from 1st April 2018, and to £25 per hot food stall per day, from 1st April 2019.

Belfast City Centre Management Review

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update Members on the key recommendations from the Review of Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) which was independently completed by consultants Baker Tilly Mooney Moore;
- Approve an approach to support BCCM in their transition towards a commercial model; and
- Consider resource and project planning implications of the proposed transition on the Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the findings of the independent review undertaken by Baker Tilly Mooney Moore Consultants and the planned transition by BCCM towards a commercial model;
- Provide core funding of £95,000 to Belfast City Centre Management and up to £30,000 to cover Project Management costs and technical expertise within the 2018/19 financial year;
- Note that throughout the transition period, dependent on need, the Council may enter into Service Level Agreements (SLAs) / commercial agreements with BCCM to ensure service continuity throughout the transition period, subject to normal procurement procedures.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The review focused on Belfast City Centre Management's (BCCM) Business Plan, its operating model and its alignment to Belfast's strategic and operational context. Baker Tilly Mooney Moore consultants completed the review reporting to a Steering Group with representation from BCCM, Belfast City Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCTC). The key recommendation advocates for BCCM to adopt a self-financing/income generating model.

- 3.2 A robust approach was undertaken to complete the review including consultations with 85 key stakeholders, international city comparisons (Auckland, Copenhagen, Stockholm) and considerable desk research of approaches in other locations and current research and thinking on City Centre Development models. The consultants also undertook an organisational review and analysis including value for

money and definition of remit, role and City Centre Management Services across a number of organisations. As part of the review process, Party Group Briefings were held and there was broad agreement around the key findings and recommendations.

3.3 Overview of Key Findings

The initial findings of the review, which were accepted by all parties, including BCCM Board were:

- The city landscape and operating environment has changed significantly with the Council heavily involved in the development of the City Centre and taking a much more proactive role in this work;
- The strategic context has also changed with the introduction of new policies and strategies guiding city centre design, management and development;
- BCCM provides a good co-ordination role and is well connected to parts of the City Centre. Staff are well engaged and enthusiastic about their roles and the BCCM offer, however there may be a need for a new skills set to deliver the services required in the future. There is a sense that BCCM's relevancy is less than it could or should be and the value of some of its services does not add sufficient value to the City Centre development or management;
- The emergence of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Belfast has altered the funding and service delivery landscape. BIDs are a common feature in most major cities in the UK and RoI. This change has led to a shift in service delivery and engagement mechanisms in all cities in which BIDs have been introduced. Two Belfast BIDs have been developed (Belfast One and Destination CQ) and a third BID will operate from February 2018 (Belfast Two), bringing further changes to the role of BCCM in supporting City Centre development (Belfast City Centre Map available on modern.gov);
- There is evidence of duplication of services across the City Centre while there are gaps in other areas, principally around support for Council and other partners in developing a strategic approach to City Centre development, taking account of issues such as investment, planning, regeneration and public-private partnerships
- Consultation feedback indicated mixed views on the effectiveness of current arrangements

- The current Board composition is not reflective of the key issues impacting on the City Centre and is largely focused on retail. This does not recognise the changing role and function of the City Centre and the ambition set out by the Council for this area.

3.4 Review Recommendations

The Review provides examples of services that could be continued as well as those that need to be refreshed, and has highlighted the opportunities for a focused organisation which can make a meaningful contribution to city development. The key recommendations include:

- The preferred option is to create a self-financing option for BCCM. The move towards this way of working will require a change in focus and structure;
- There is a core of services which BCCM could continue to deliver via SLAs and there are opportunities to compete commercially for contracts emerging from traditional funders and from other sources. The Review identified a number of commercial opportunities which a re-configured BCCM would be well positioned to compete for and generate sustainable income;
- A changed operational structure will require a refreshed governance model with associated changes to board membership, staffing roles, focus and responsibilities;
- The consultants developed an outline business case for BCCM Board's consideration as a blueprint for effecting a transition throughout 2018/19
- The Council should phase out its grant funding over the course of 2018/2019 but should be prepared to commit 50% of its existing grant (£95,000) in that financial year.

3.5 Changing roles in the City Centre

Before BCCM was established, the Council did not have an engagement mechanism to support interaction with Centre Centre businesses and to act as a sounding board on City Centre issues. The changing landscape referred to above reflects wider changes in the Council's approach to City Centre issues. In 2015, Members agreed the first City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy and, since then, the City Centre Development Team has been established to support its development and delivery, including rolling out the £18.7million City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF).

- 3.6** In addition, both the Development Department and the City and Neighbourhood Services Department are directly involved in a range of business support and service delivery functions impacting directly on the City Centre. Likewise, the Financial and Resources Department are collecting the levy for all three Business Improvement Districts.
- 3.7** In parallel to the Council engagement, Belfast Chamber of Commerce is changing its focus to become an advocacy and lobby organisation representing the interests of Belfast businesses – with their membership drawn predominantly from city centre businesses.
- 3.8** The emergence of the BIDs marks the emergence of a new series of strategy and investment partners in the City Centre. Each BID has a mandate from its levy payers to deliver on a series of priority activities that are in addition to core Council and partner services. The Council is a levy payer in all three BIDs and the total annual Council contribution across the three BID areas is around £51,000.
- 3.9** The consultants identified the potential for significant duplication of delivery in the City Centre due to these changes, as well as the changing external environment. Partners were unclear about who was delivering what and the review considered that there was a need to look again at what was being done in order to identify what specific support the Council and its partners needed to provide to support a successful, vibrant City Centre.

3.10 Impact on Services

The recommendations of the review have been broadly accepted within the context of streamlining services, reducing duplication and ensuring efficient and effective delivery. Any changes to the current approach will have an impact on how Council services work with and through BCCM. Appendix 2 (available on modern.gov) sets out the range of services provided by BCCM, the likely impact on Council Services and how Officers will work with BCCM and other partners to mitigate these risks through SLAs or commercial arrangements. Economic Development Unit will be the key interface to support BCCM's transition alongside DFC.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

Belfast City Centre Management is a company limited by guarantee and currently employs ten people. Since the

inception of BCCM, the Council has been a key funder (providing £190,000 annually) alongside a funding contribution from DfC and income from SLAs and contracts with BID One and Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

- 3.12 As the Board of BCCM embarks on a new commercial model, the review report recommends that the Council should phase out its core funding over the course of 2018/2019. As a consequence, BCCM's board of directors will need to assess the organisation's liabilities, resources and potential to raise income from other private sources. This work is already underway.
- 3.13 The spirit in which the Board of BCCM has adopted a change in approach is to be commended. In keeping with the review, it is proposed that 50% of the 2018/19 allocation originally set aside within the Development Department budget to support BCCM (£95,000) is allocated to the organisation to support business continuity. To assist in the transition phase, the BCCM Board has approved the recruitment of a Project Manager who will oversee the commercial development and governance changes to the organisation.
- 3.14 It is also recognised that technical professional assistance may be required for HR, legal or marketing advice. In addition to 50% core funding, it is therefore proposed that up to £30,000 is profiled in 2018/19 to support these aspects of the transition (DfC has also agreed to set aside £30,000 for this work). It is important to note that, during the transition phase, commercial contracts may be put in place with BCCM to carry out specific elements of work, subject to normal procurement procedures. This financial commitment will be met from 2018/19 Economic Development budgets.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no specific equality or good relations implications."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Strategic and Operational

Belfast City Marathon

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

The City Events Manager outlined to the Committee that Belfast City Marathon Limited (Ltd.) had advised the Council of its proposed changes to the city's marathon

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Wednesday, 7th February, 2018**

course and for the event to be staged on a Sunday, instead of May Day, from 2019 onwards.

He reminded the Members that Belfast City Marathon Ltd. was a free-standing, legally constituted organisation which had no legal connection to the Council other than funding arrangements. He explained that the Council funded the Marathon through the City Events Unit's budget, where the contribution for the 2018 event was £26,000.

He reported to the Committee that, over the last 36 years, the marathon had used various routes throughout the City and, given its increased popularity, that there had been calls from the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce for the Marathon to be held on a Sunday. He explained that the recent request for the event to be moved to a Sunday was due to the level of traffic disruption created on what was now an important day in the retail calendar.

The City Events Manager advised the Members that a new route had also been proposed for the marathon, which included key iconic locations across the city.

He explained that the Belfast City Marathon Ltd had requested the Council's support for the new route and the change of day which would see the event taking place on Sunday, 5th May, 2019 and then annually on the Sunday of the first May Bank Holiday weekend.

It was highlighted to the Committee that Belfast City Marathon Ltd intended to consult widely on the proposed new course and on the move to a Sunday. He advised that the consultation would include stakeholders and the various places of worship which would be affected by the new course both directly and indirectly.

The City Events Manager outlined that Belfast City Marathon Ltd had advised that the timeframe in which to develop and deliver the proposed changes would need to be implemented 12 months in advance of the 2019 event taking place.

During discussion, a number of Members expressed concerns in relation to the proposed new route, particularly that the Ormeau Road had been almost entirely removed. A number of Members stated that the change would have a detrimental economic impact on the traders along the Ormeau Road, which had historically been an area of the course with a high number of supporters. A further Member stated that the route within the north of the city was disappointing.

In relation to the proposed change of day, a Member expressed some concerns in relation to the number of churches which would be impacted along the route. He stated that there were other churches which were not listed within the report which would need to be consulted about the proposed changes to the day and the route.

A number of Members suggested that Belfast City Marathon Ltd. be invited in to discuss the proposed changes at a future Committee meeting.

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After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that it would reserve its position on the proposed changes to the Belfast City Marathon at this stage;
2. agreed that Belfast City Marathon Limited be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss the proposed changes to both the route and the day;
3. agreed that it would consider its position on the proposed changes after the public consultation had concluded; and
4. noted that the Belfast City Marathon Limited was a free standing, legally constituted organisation that had no legal connection to Belfast City Council, other than funding arrangements.

Proposed Committee Planning Workshop

The Director of City Centre Development advised the Members that a second Workshop, which was proposed to be held on 28th March, was no longer deemed necessary and that, instead, it was proposed that the Workshop which was scheduled for 21st February would incorporate all elements of the Committee Plan for 2018/2019, including a focus on Employability and Skills as previously agreed.

The Committee agreed to the course of action as outlined.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 21st February, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Mrs. N. Gallagher, Director of City Regeneration
and Development; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard), Alderman Haire and Councillor Johnston.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Graham declared an interest in Item 3a – European Social Fund, in that she was employed by LEMIS+, which was being recommended for funding, and left the room for the duration of the discussion.

Presentation

Belfast City Marathon

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th February, it had agreed that Belfast City Marathon Limited be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss proposed changes to the City's marathon.

Accordingly, Mr. D. Seaton MBE, Chairman, Mr. J. Glover, Course Developer, Mrs. C. O'Neill, Event Manager, Mrs. E. Riddell, Marketing and Events Officer, and Mr. J. Allen, Board Member, were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Seaton informed the Committee that the Belfast City Marathon had first been held in 1982 and that it raised over £1 million annually for local charities. The event had since been expanded to include a Fun Run, an eight mile walk and a Team Relay. He explained that, following feedback from a number of sources, Belfast City Marathon Limited was proposing to change, from 2019 onwards, the route of the marathon, which he pointed out had remained unchanged for the past thirteen years. It was proposing also to stage the event on the Sunday immediately prior to May Day.

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He drew the Committee's attention to the revisions which had been made to the current route and pointed out that it was being proposed that the marathon would commence at the City Hall and would finish within the grounds of the Stormont Estate. He outlined the primary factors which had influenced those revisions, including the fact that the route was regarded as being more 'runner friendly' and that it would incorporate iconic landmarks such as The Queen's University, the Falls and Shankill Roads and the Titanic Quarter. In terms of running the event on a Sunday, there would be likely to be increased participation, resulting in additional hospitality and retail spend, and policing costs would be reduced.

In response to a number of issues which had been raised by the Members around Belfast City Marathon Limited's proposals, Mr. Seaton and Mr. Glover confirmed that:

- should the Ormeau Road be reinstated on the route and the event finish, as proposed, within the Stormont Estate, it would be likely that it would pass too early in the morning to benefit residents and businesses and would necessitate the crossing of several arterial routes;
- Belfast City Marathon Limited would be engaging extensively with local churches around both the revised route and the change in the day of the marathon and would be seeking to keep disruption to a minimum;
- that section of the route which passed through parts of West Belfast had changed little in the past ten years but now included the Peace Walls;
- the Stormont Estate had been selected as the finishing point, on the basis that it had been offered free of charge and there were increasing costs associated with the continued use of the Ozone Complex/Ormeau Park for that purpose;
- Belfast City Marathon Limited was limited in its choice of routes by restrictions imposed by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other stakeholders; and
- the Waterworks Park had been included within the marathon route as it provided an attractive backdrop for runners.

Mr. Seaton concluded by confirming that Belfast City Marathon Limited would, as part of the consultation process, take into account the comments which had been expressed by the Members, in relation to its proposals.

The Chairperson thanked the deputation for their contribution and they left the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that officers provide, in advance of the consultation process, details of the Police Service of Northern Ireland's input into the choice of routes for the Belfast City Marathon and of the charges levied by GLL for the use of the Ozone/Ormeau Park.

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Restricted Items

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

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.

European Capital of Culture Bid 2023

The Committee endorsed a press statement to be issued jointly on 28th February on behalf of the five United Kingdom cities which had submitted bids for European Capital of Culture in 2023.

The Committee noted that the Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, together with Council officers and representatives of the other four competing cities, would, on 5th March, be meeting with the Minister for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to discuss future proposals. It noted also that the Chairperson of the aforementioned Committee and the leaders of the other Political Parties (or their nominees) would, on 10th April, be holding meetings in Brussels in connection with this issue.

European Social Fund

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 7th February, it had agreed to defer to this meeting consideration of a report on the allocation of the Employability and Skills European Social Fund match funding budget.

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that the European Social Fund (ESF) sought to reduce economic inactivity and increase workforce skills by primarily targeting those which were furthest removed from the labour market. He provided information on those projects which the Council had match funded for the period from 2015/2016 to 2017/2018 and confirmed that the Department for the Economy, which managed the Fund, had, in September, 2017, released a final funding call for projects to be delivered between April, 2018 and March, 2022.

He provided a brief overview of the ESF funding process and pointed out that the Council had set aside £240,000 annually for projects, with up to a further £100,000 being provided by Urban Villages. He reported that, following the aforementioned call, the Department for the Economy had advised of those projects which had listed the Council as a potential match funder and that those had been assessed by a panel of officers from the Council and from Urban Villages. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee approve the following projects for funding under the European Social Fund:

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Rank	Organisation	Match Funding (Council)
1	Springboard	£27,255
2	Workforce	£54,699
3	Specialisterne NI CIC	£9,080
4	USEL	£50,000
5	Ashton Comm. Trust (LEMIS+)	£98,967
		£240,000

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendation and noted that, in the event of any of the five projects listed above no longer requiring funding from the Council, funding would be awarded to the next highest ranking project until all of the £240,000 had been allocated.

Update on the Former Belfast Telegraph Building

The Committee noted an update which had been provided by the Director of City Regeneration and Development on the former Belfast Telegraph site and the proposed programme and planning strategy and noted also that it would have an opportunity to consider the options for the use of the building prior to the planning application being submitted.

UEFA Super Cup 2020

The Director of Development reminded the Committee that, over the last fifteen years, the Council had delivered a series of high profile national and international events. Such events required significant lead-in times in relation to the bid development process and the preparations involved.

He explained that the Irish Football Association had invited the Council to support its bid to host the UEFA Super Cup event in 2020. The event, which would involve the winners of the UEFA Champions League and the UEFA Europa League, would attract visitors to the City and generate significant media coverage. He pointed out that a draft bid was required to be formulated by 5th March to allow for a document to be finalised by 29th March and that Council support for the event would be subject to a full legal contract being put in place with the event organisers, at least one year in advance. Any default on the terms of that contract would immediately be brought to the attention of the Committee.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee:

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1. note the details of the 2020 UEFA Super Cup event;
2. agree to provide support for the IFA to bid and host the event and authorise officers to engage with the IFA in this process;
3. agree, in principle, to allocate a total of £200,000, which would be funded through the City Events baseline budget in 2020/2021, towards the UEFA City Bid fee, city animation and the event dinner; and
4. note that, should Belfast be short-listed for the event, a report would be submitted to a future meeting to provide an update on the progress of the project.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 14th February, 2018

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Alderman L. Patterson; and Councillors Baker, Boyle, Clarke, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Hussey, McConville and McReynolds.

In attendance: Mr. P. Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager; Mrs. L. McGovern; Solicitor; and Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Alderman Spence) and Councillors Campbell, Collins, Heading and Hutchinson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

Licences issued under Delegated Authority

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

Applications for the Renewal of Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions – Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club/The Spaniard

The Committee was reminded that, under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it had a duty, when considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, to take into account any convictions of the applicant relating to an offence under the Order which

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had occurred within a five-year period immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

Accordingly, the Assistant Building Control Manager drew its attention to applications which had been received for the renewal of Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club, Wilgar Street and The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street.

He reported that a representative of Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club had, on 23rd July, 2013, been fined £400 and ordered to pay £69 in costs, following an inspection in November, 2012 whilst entertainment had been taking place, which had found that the premises had been overcrowded and that an emergency exit had been obstructed.

In terms of The Spaniard, the licensee had, on 11th August, 2015, been fined £150 and instructed to pay costs of £69, as a result of an inspection in December, 2014, which had revealed that entertainment had been taking place within an area which was not covered by the Entertainments Licence.

He pointed out that the Committee had, in subsequent years, agreed to renew the Entertainments Licence for each venue and that inspections which had been undertaken over the past year, either whilst entertainment had been taking place or as part of the current application process, had indicated that all management procedures were being implemented effectively. Finally, no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

The Committee agreed to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Dundela Football Athletic and Social Club, Wilgar Street and The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street.

Application for the Grant of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence with Previous Convictions – Nu Delhi Lounge

The Committee was informed that an application had been received for the grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Nu Delhi Lounge, 25-27 Bruce Street.

The Assistant Building Control Manager reported that an Entertainments Licence had been held by the previous licensee, however, it had expired in February, 2011. The current licensee was now seeking to provide entertainment from Monday to Saturday till 1.00 a.m. and on a Sunday till midnight on the first floor of the premises and an occupancy figure of 150 for that area had been approved by Council officers.

He drew the Members' attention to the fact that the applicant had on 15th August, 2017, been fined a total of £400 and instructed to pay costs of £73 for providing entertainment on two occasions without an Entertainments Licence. He reminded the Committee that it had, on 18th January, 2017, agreed that, in future, any person applying for the grant, renewal or variation of an Entertainments Licence, who had been convicted

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of an offence under the Entertainments Licensing legislation, would be invited to appear before the Committee to outline the reasons why their application should be approved.

The Assistant Building Control Manager pointed out that, following the aforementioned breaches, the licensee had been advised of the licensing process and of the fire safety procedures and measures to be put in place in the event of an emergency. He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered objections. In addition, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had indicated that it had received no complaints of noise breakout or patron dispersal associated with the premises and that it had no concerns regarding noise nuisance generally.

The Committee agreed, on this occasion, not to hear from the applicant and, accordingly, agreed to grant a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Nu Delhi Lounge, 25-27 Bruce Street.

Application for the Transfer and Renewal of an Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences – The Great Eastern Bar

The Assistant Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received for the transfer and renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of The Great Eastern Bar, 273 Newtownards Road.

He reported that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had submitted an objection to the application and pointed out that, under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee must have regard to it.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to consider the application at a future meeting, to which the applicant and a representative of the Police Service of Northern Ireland would be invited.

Consideration of a Designating Resolution for a Street Trading Site – Cupar Way

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 13th December 2017, it considered proposals for Designating Resolutions for a number of Street Trading sites across the City.**
- 1.2 The Committee deferred some of these proposals to allow for additional information to be obtained. One of those proposals related to Cupar Way and further information has now been received for consideration.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Based on the information presented, the Committee is requested to consider the proposal and to decide whether to:

1. approve a Designating Resolution to designate the site, where it may allocate a street trading pitch. The Designating Resolution will include the operational date and may stipulate either:

- only specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that may be sold or supplied; or
- specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that are prohibited.

2. Decide not to proceed with the proposal.

2.2 In addition to making any Designating Resolution, the Committee may, having considered all of the comments, record any reasonable conditions that should be applied to a subsequent licence. For example, hours of trade, days of trade, duration of licence, etc.

2.3 The Committee is reminded that, once a site becomes designated, it will have to consider any applications which may be received for a Street Trading Licence on that site.

2.4 At that time, you will assess the suitability and quality of the proposals and may decide to grant or refuse a licence within the requirements of the Act. Any Street Trading Licence granted may also be subject to reasonable conditions which can be used to control the commodities being sold, and potential nuisance, etc.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The designation process involved seeking comments from interested parties, including relevant statutory bodies, through public advertisement and consultation.

3.2 The Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 requires the Council to ensure that each application is fairly and objectively assessed, that all relevant factors are considered and, in doing so, the Council must consult with the:

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 14th February, 2018**

- a) PSNI, and
- b) Department for Infrastructure - Roads.

3.3 The Council may also consult other persons as it considers appropriate. Such consultees may include:

- a) relevant Belfast City Council Departments;
- b) Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM);
- c) nearby Street Trading Licence holders who may be affected; and
- d) local residents, business and commercial premises in the vicinity of the site in respect of which the application has been received.

3.4 The Service has received responses to the application from a variety of interested parties and individuals.

3.5 Members are advised that BCCM conducts its business within a determined geographical area of Belfast City Centre and has, therefore, not responded to this proposal.

3.6 Copies of the responses received have been circulated to the Committee.

3.7 A map and photographs of the proposed site along Cupar Way will be presented at your meeting.

Cupar Way

3.8 The proposal is for tourist souvenirs or similar commodities on a site which will operate during the day. No details have been provided regarding how the commodities will be sold, such as a stall, etc.

3.9 The proposed site is opposite the Peace Wall, operating in front of the perimeter fence bounding Cranmore Court and Cranmore Street.

PSNI

3.10 No objection.

DFI Roads

3.11 The Department has advised that this part of the footway is quite narrow because of the placement of street trees. It recommends that the street trading pitch would need to be away from these trees to provide a minimum 1.8m passing room for pedestrians.

Visit Belfast

- 3.12 Visit Belfast has stated that it believes that the application needs further discussion with the communities. It also recommends that feedback would be required from Fáilte Feirste Thiar and the Greater Shankill Partnership.
- 3.13 Following Visit Belfast's recommendation, we contacted both Fáilte Feirste Thiar and Greater Shankill Partnership for their views.

Published 28-day Notice

- 3.14 No responses were received to the notice.

Deferred Actions

- 3.15 The Committee deferred consideration to allow for responses to be sought from Fáilte Feirste and the Greater Shankill Partnership and to seek the views of Coiste and the Ex-Prisoners Interpretative Centre (EPIC), both of which provide cultural tours in that area.
- 3.16 Despite further efforts to obtain feedback at the time of writing this report, only one response has been received from these organisations.

EPIC

- 3.17 EPIC has stated that it agrees with the proposal to have a designated pitch for trading located on Cupar Way. EPIC has conducted tours for many years that include this area and it would be beneficial to have some further tourist revenue invested for the benefit of the local area.
- 3.18 EPIC has recently formed a partnership with Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA) and established a Community Interest Company (CIC), 'The Belfast Experience'; the objective being to further the range of services provided in community tourism and encourage wider community involvement.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.19 The cost of all notices is included in current revenue budgets. The required notice to confirm the designation will cost approximately £5,000 as our policy states that it must be placed in three newspapers for two consecutive weeks.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.20 There are no equality or good relations issues.”

The Committee agreed to designate the site in Cupar Way as a place in respect of which it might grant a stationary Street Trading Licence and noted that, should it decide at some point to do so, it would have an opportunity to impose certain conditions, as alluded to within paragraphs 2.2 to 2.4 of the report.

Non Delegated Matters

**Road Closure – Categorisation of Events,
Fees and Advertising of Notices**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the above-mentioned report to enable officers to discuss with Athletics NI and other relevant parties the fees which they could potentially be required to pay to allow for road closures for 10k and other sporting events.

The Committee agreed also that, until such time as it had approved a fee structure, those applications which had been submitted by film companies requiring road closures should be progressed, on the basis that advertising costs would be met by the film company and that officer costs would be absorbed by the Council.

Chairperson

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Pre Determination Hearing

Tuesday, 13th February, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Garrett, Carson and Armitage declared an interest, in that they had met with the Planning Department in relation to the application, however, they had not committed themselves to any particular course of action in relation to the application.

Councillors Lyons and McDonough-Brown declared an interest, in so far as they had met with some of the objectors, the applicant and the agent in relation to the application, however, they had not committed themselves to any particular course of action in relation to the application.

**Pre Determination Hearing to consider Planning Application
LA04/2017/2126/F - Redevelopment including the construction of a new six
storey building on the existing surface level car park and part change of use
to create a mixed use development comprising retail units, restaurants and
cafes, residential units, offices, church and related community floor space,
new streets and public realm works. Demolition of 53 Royal Avenue and 27-
31 Rosemary Street and restoration of Central Halls (37-39 Rosemary Street),
Masonic Hall (15 Rosemary Street), 43/43a Rosemary Street and retention of
30-34 North Street. Lands bound by North Street Royal Avenue Rosemary
Street and building south of Lower Garfield Street located approximately
400m west of Laganside bus station 300m northeast of City Hall and 1km
northwest of Central Train Station.**

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 16th January, 2018, it had agreed to hold a pre-determination hearing and to defer formal consideration of the application until after the hearing had taken place. It had agreed also to receive

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representations from the objector and the applicant, limiting both deputations to ten minutes speaking time.

The Chairperson explained that the Pre Determination Hearing would be used to hear the views of the interested parties and for Members to seek clarification from those parties on the facts surrounding the development. He advised that a decision on the Planning Application would not be reached at this meeting, however, it would be formally considered at a future Planning Committee.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager outlined the context of the application and explained the relationship to the previous application covering the wider area, which had already been approved by the Department for Infrastructure. He advised that this application, Phase 1B, was adjacent to Phase 1A of the approved scheme but was a separate application in its own right. He highlighted that there were also a number of separate applications associated with this application including the listed building consents and those required for demolition within conservation areas.

The case officer referred to the published report in outlining the application and advised that the site was located within Belfast City Centre Conservation Area. He advised that 211 representations had been received (2 letters of support and 209 objections) to date.

During discussion, Members were apprised of the separation distances between the buildings outlined in the application, the size of the proposed apartments, the height of the proposed office building, listed building works and the retention of the John Luke mural at the Masonic Hall.

The Committee received a representation from Ms. R. McCabe, Ms. M. Quigley, representing Save CQ, Ms. N. McVeigh, representing Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS), and Dr. P. Topping, representing First Presbyterian Church, in objection to the application.

Ms. McCabe outlined a range of issues in objection to the proposed development. She suggested that Save CQ supported the development, in principle, and were realistic about the weight of the extant permission in the Committee's consideration of this application. She suggested that, in light of the forthcoming publication of the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), a decision on this application would be premature, and an approval would set a precedent that would compromise the ability of the Council to deliver the LDP, such as the repopulating of the city centre. She questioned the reduction in housing provision of the current application and suggested that more affordable housing could be delivered as part of the development. She also questioned the removal of a pedestrian street, previously outlined in the extant application and suggested that the proposal was contrary to CC009 of BMAP, and a range of other historic building policies. She pointed out that the Historical Environment Division (HED) had objected to the application, and the Council's Conservation Officer had also raised key concerns.

Ms. McVeigh suggested that the development would put the built heritage of Belfast under threat and it would cause a detrimental impact on the fabric and the setting of listed buildings and the conservation area. She suggested that UAHS had not been

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given enough time to present at the Pre Deamination Hearing and outlined their objections as follows:

- the consultee response from the HED expressed that the application was contrary to policy PPS6 and SPPS due to its effect on listed buildings which included the Masonic Halls, Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church and it appeared that this advice had been ignored by the case officer;
- concerned that Block 6 of the development was 10m higher than in the extant permission, and located closer to the listed church;
- suggested that the proposed Block 6 required Listed Building Consent;
- highlighted that the HED consultee response had expressed that the new development had failed to satisfy SPSS 6.12 and BH11 - Setting of a Listed Building;
- suggested that the Council's conservation officer's report, if in existence, should be made available to the public;
- suggested that the case officer's report in relation to the conservation area was inadequate; and
- the major application was difficult to understand and should have been considered by the Department for Infrastructure.

Dr. Topping, representing the First Presbyterian Church, provided an overview of their objections to the development. She advised that the church on Rosemary Street, which would be affected by the development, was the oldest Church building in Belfast, designed by Roger Mulholland. She indicated that the church officials had been working with the Developer to find a solution to a few deficiencies in the plan on the following issues:

- Car parking;
- Security of the building;
- Boundary treatments/curtilage; and
- Vehicle access and car parking facilities of parishioners in the building period.

She suggested however that communication had become slow with the applicant and outlined how the church was used by the congregation and the wider community.

During points of clarification, Ms. McVeigh explained further the issues outlined in the consultee response from the HED in relation to internal alteration to the Masonic Hall and the omission of Listed Building Consent for Block 6.

The Committee received a representation from Craig O'Brien, Savills, and Dawson Stelfox, Consarc Conservation Architects, representing the applicant. They outlined the following support for the proposal:

- Consultation had been undertaken with stakeholders and the community over two years and included two public exhibitions in February and July, 2017;

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- The site of the development had been designated for regeneration for over 30 years;
- The applicant had agreements with all the land owners to deliver the scheme;
- There was no reliance on public funds, compulsory purchase orders or vesting to complete the project;
- A high profile tenant was waiting to occupy the development;
- The proposal was linked to the Belfast Agenda, delivering jobs and other benefits;
- It had been carefully designed and was a standalone scheme, deliverable in its own right;
- The current application was consistent with the extant planning permission and the current outline planning application;
- It would kick start regeneration, ultimately bringing forward a department store to the area;
- The applicant was committed to Belfast and Phase 1A of the scheme had already commenced;
- The overall investment in the scheme was £7m (£2m in phase 1B);
- It would create 217 local construction jobs, including apprenticeships; and
- They had worked on an agreement with the First Presbyterian Church in relation to the detail of the scheme, which included funding the refurbishment of Central Halls.

In response to the objectors' comments, they suggested:

- Phase 1B was not in the Cathedral Quarter, as defined by the Cathedral Quarter Trust or the Cathedral Quarter Conservation Area;
- Save CQ had not provided an alternative scheme, did not own any of the site and did not have funding to deliver the scheme;
- Save CQ had not responded to public consultation from September, 2017, until last week;
- There were no listed buildings being demolished, however, restoration was planned;
- Only one retailer would be relocated;
- The new streets and spaces would be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the public, which was currently private land;
- There were no legal issues with overlapping consents;
- The Department Store could not be accommodated on the site of 1B as the site was not big enough;
- The numerous changes which had been made to the scheme throughout the Planning process were meaningful;
- The development would create 766 permanent full time jobs, produce £35 million GVA into the local economy and add £800,000 in business rates, per annum;
- The application would help invest in built heritage and bring buildings back into use; and

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- The phases of the scheme allowed the restoration of buildings to commence earlier; and
- The Masonic Hall was not currently in use, however, the new street would give public access to the building.

During points of clarification, the agents answered a range of Members' questions in relation to access to the John Luke mural at the Masonic Hall, the position and height of the proposed 6 storey building, listed building consent, consultation dates and responses, additional drawings and plans of the listed buildings, and housing need in the area.

After discussion, the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the scale of the development and impact on the surrounding area, agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand. The Committee also agreed that the Planning Committee, scheduled to take place on Thursday, 15th February to formally consider the application, be deferred to a future date so that a briefing on the wider implications of the phased development could take place.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 13th February, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 16th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February, 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 received.

Planning Appeals Notified

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission, together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

Planning Decisions Notified

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under delegated authority by the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 3rd January and 5th February, 2018.

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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.

In the circulated report, he provided a breakdown of the monthly performance up to 31st January, 2018 as follows:

Planning Applications

- 179 applications had been validated in January, 2018;
- 131 applications had been validated in December, 2017; and
- 2100 applications had been validated since 1st April, 2017.

Planning Decisions

- 124 decisions had been issued in January, 2018;
- 124 decisions had been issued in December, 2017;
- 97% approval rate; and
- 95% decisions had been issued under delegated authority.

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 949 live applications were in the system at end of January, 2018;
- 880 live applications were in the system at end of December, 2017;
and
- 6 legacy applications were outstanding.

The Development Planning and Policy Manager highlighted that there were 31 live major planning applications, eight of which had been approved by the Committee but were awaiting the execution of Section 76 agreements. He advised that 13 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 31st December, 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 68% of enforcement cases had been concluded within the target of 39 weeks, 2% below the statutory target, which represented a 3% improvement on November's performance.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to commence quarterly meetings of the Planning Committee to focus solely on performance, the first of which would take place on Thursday, 19th April.

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Miscellaneous Items

Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th January 2018, it had requested an update on the current status of all planning applications for Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA) in Belfast.

It was explained that, the map and table included in the appendix of the report, illustrated the number and status of new Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation in Belfast and a detailed breakdown of the 18 remaining developments were summarised as follows:

Planning Status of Applications	No. of planning applications	No. of Bed Spaces	Development Status		
			Complete	On-going	Not started
Permission fully granted (including section 76 Agreement where required)	9	3,059	614	2,415	30
Development allowed at appeal (following refusal by Council)	3	1,034			1,034
Recommended approval (pending section 76 Agreement)	4	2,228		717	1,511
Refused	1	375			
Under consideration	1	185			
TOTAL	18	6,881	614	3,132	2,575

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to invite Ulster University, Queen's University Belfast and the Belfast Metropolitan College to attend a workshop of the Committee to discuss the need and projected levels of student accommodation in Belfast, including the extent of disability provision and childcare facilities.

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that the item 6.j) LA04/2017/2618/F - Extension to mezzanine floor Dunelm Unit 8 Shane Retail Park Boucher Road, had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Planning Applications

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

LA04/2017/1489/F - Proposed ground excavations from a 'Borrow Pit' to provide 30,000m³ of clean natural clay soils capping material for use within remediation capping layers and associated Remedial Strategy for the approved Mixed Use Residential and Commercial Development (granted permission under Ref Z/2013/1434/F) on lands at former Visteon Factory, Blacks Road

The case officer provided an overview of the application and advised that ground excavations would be undertaken in a phased and progressive approach to limit the size of the exposed excavated area at any one time. He explained that this would result in a 'Borrow Pit' void which would be backfilled with existing made ground material comprising sandy gravelly clay with angular gravel and would also include sporadic asbestos cement fragments (typically less than 5cm in size and equating to approximately 0.015% of the made ground mass) from within the development site, and then be covered with a remediation capping layer, in line with remedial strategy.

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

- Concerned that asbestos was highly toxic and exposure to extremely small volume of fibres can be fatal;
- Concerned about the health and safety of burying asbestos in land adjacent to homes;
- Suggested there were other ways to remedy the site - possibly more expensive and time consuming , but this should not matter when set against human health;
- There were already risks of 'visible' asbestos fibres travelling to nearby homes and gardens in the wind, by birds and other animals, vehicles and people;
- The applicant should be required to put full details of the relevant public liability insurers into the public arena. Asbestos related conditions might not manifest for many years, therefore, insurers and contractors details should be published for residents, so that they have redress to pursue and enforce;
- Suggested there should be a public consultation about this plan; and
- Requested details of a remediation plan that had taken place in Carrickfergus, in relation to the removal of contaminated soil.

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

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The Committee received representation from Mrs. B. Early, representing residents in objection to the application. She suggested that the development posed Health and Safety risks of asbestos being buried in the land adjacent to homes and believed there were other ways to remedy the site. She suggested that there were already risks of visible asbestos fibres travelling to near by homes from the contaminated site and the applicant should publish the relevant public liability insurance and contractor details, so that residents had redress, in case of health conditions as a result of the asbestos, in the future. She advised that residents were concerned regarding the effects the buried contaminated land might have on current and future residents who live near the site.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Attwood in objection to the application. He suggested that residents were very concerned regarding the contaminated land being buried in a Borrow Pit adjacent to their homes and the health and safety of current and future residents. He indicated that there were viable alternatives to remove the contaminated land from the site and suggested that information on the health and safety monitoring should be communicated to residents.

During points of clarification, Councillor Attwood suggested further that reassurance was needed for residents in relation to future proofing the site.

The case officer advised that monitoring of the site would form part of the work plan which would form part of the conditions of the planning approval and the site would be monitored in consultation with Environmental Health Service and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The Committee received representation from Ms. A. Conway, Radius Housing, Mr. C. Lydon and Mr. G. McCaughan, White Young Green, representing the applicant. In response to objectors' concerns, they outlined a range of support for the proposal which included:

- Environmental improvement and economic benefit to the area;
- The delivery of 244 new homes, employment and leisure space;
- The applicant had spent £4 million to date on demolition and remediation of the site;
- It would provide construction jobs in the initial building phase and employment space, subject to sale, which could deliver up to 400 jobs;
- The applicant was a responsible developer with a long term relationship with the area;
- The Borrow Pit was required to achieve clean capping material needed for the broader site, and was the best strategy to achieve this;
- The Borrow Pit was the best solution for the site as it contained all the asbestos fragments to one location and covered with a capping material; and
- Excavation of the site would happen in a progressive manner and the Borrow Pit was an improvement on original remedial strategy.

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During points of clarification, Mr. Lydon explained that once the piling had been put in the Borrow Pit and it was fully constructed, it would be capped by 1.5m clay and any subsequent development of the land would be subject to a pile risk assessment to demonstrate new pathways had not opened or penetrated the Borrow pit. He highlighted that the design of the Borrow Pit also included a further 5m clay material below the base of the pit and works completed to date would suggest that the piles would self-seal. Mr. Lydon also indicated that the Borrow Pit was a recognised form of remediation of contaminated land, which had been used on a site at Ravenhill and in the UK also.

During discussion, the case officer clarified that risk assessments were conditioned as part of the application approval and explained the monitoring of the Borrow Pit.

After discussion, a recommendation to approve the application was proposed to the committee, and, with one Member voting against, the Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/2018/F - Seven 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. Lands adjacent to 14 College square North and South of 62 - 76 Hamill Street

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, new and amended information had been submitted by the agent to address issues raised in the planning report, as follows:

- Revised front and side elevations to address massing;
- Revised amenity space arrangements including additional space provision via balconies for more apartments;
- Revised elevations to reduce overlooking;
- Shadow study submitted to demonstrate overshadowing impact is acceptable;
- In relation to transport issues: The parking provision was comparable to other city centre apartments, the site was in close proximity to public transport; coach parking had already been reduced by the provision of a cycle lane; and
- In relation to drainage, the request for additional information was disproportionate and unnecessary as Northern Ireland Water confirmed that the storm water could be discharged to a combined sewer and further approval would also be required under separate legislation.

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

The case officer provided an overview of the application and explained that, after assessment, it had been recommended for refusal on the following grounds:

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1. The proposal was contrary to Policy BH12 of Planning Policy Statement 6 Planning Archaeology, and the Built Heritage, and Policy QD1 of the Department's Planning Policy Statement 7: "Quality Residential Environments", in that the proposal would, if permitted, result in overdevelopment of the site due to its inappropriate layout, scale, form, massing and design causing harm to the character and appearance of the City Centre Conservation Area;
2. The proposal was contrary to Policy QD1 of the Department's Planning Policy Statement 7: "Quality Residential Environments" and Policy OS2 of Planning Policy Statement 8: "Open Space, Sport and Recreation", in that it would, if permitted, result in overdevelopment of the site in that it would be harmful to the living conditions of existing residents through overlooking, dominance, and overshadowing resulting in a loss of residential amenity due to inappropriate scale, massing and design. The proposal also failed to provide adequate amenity space for prospective residents. The proposed development would therefore fail to create a quality residential environment;
3. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3: Access, movement and parking; Policy AMP2, Access to Public Roads, in that the applicant had not demonstrated an acceptable vehicular access for vehicles that would be attracted to the development;
4. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3: Access, movement and parking; Policy AMP7, Car Parking and Servicing Arrangements, in that the applicant had not demonstrated acceptable parking arrangements for vehicles that would be attracted to the development; and
5. The proposal was contrary to Policy FLD 3 of the Department's Planning Policy Statement 15: "Planning and Flood Risk", in that it had not been demonstrated that the proposal would provide satisfactory measures for the mitigation of flood risk and in particular drainage.

The Committee received representation from Mr. M. Gordon and Mr. M. Martin in objection to the case officer's recommendation for refusal. Mr. Gordon suggested that the proposal had the support from the local Residents Association and that the technical issues raised by the case officer were easily resolved. He suggested that a site visit would be beneficial for the Committee. He indicated that NI Water had confirmed that a combined sewer could be used to discharge storm water and a planning condition could be attached to the approval in relation to this. He suggested that Transport NI had an issue with the absence of a parking survey and the loss of a coach space; however, parking provision had been included for 25 car parking spaces in the scheme, and the site was very accessible to public transport and the principle of losing coach spaces had already been established through the provision of a cycle lane. In terms of the design, he suggested that the height of the proposal was in line with office building heights in the area and the development should be assessed within the context of the whole

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surrounding area, not just the conservation area. He suggested that a small adjustment to the plans had been submitted which illustrated the provision of amenity space at the back of the development.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the refusal.

LA04/2017/2361/F - Reconfiguration of interior to provide 16 bar / restaurant units, health club, arena hospitality suite, climbing wall, refurbishment of Pavilion interior, new foyer, access deck bridge, new front façade and building access strategy at the Odyssey Pavilion, 2 Queens Quay

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application located within the development limits of the Belfast Metropolitan Area and within the City Centre boundary as defined in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

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.

LA04/2017/2268/F - Demolition of existing building Oxford and Gloucester House for 11 storey mixed use building, basement car parking, ground floor coffee/restaurant, upper floors office accommodation and all associated site and access works on lands at 43-63 Chichester Street 29-31 Gloucester Street and Seymour Lane

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

The Case Officer outlined the aforementioned application and advised that it had extant approval on part of the site at 43 - 47 Chichester Street, under LA04/2015/0619/F - Apartment complex comprising 75 apartments with a 13 storey frontage to Gloucester Street and 11 storey frontage to Chichester Street.

During discussion, the case officer confirmed that it was a well-lit scheme and there had been an extensive neighbour notifications issued.

The Committee approved the application and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any planning agreements which might be realised at the site. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)

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

LA04/2017/1394/F - Supported accommodation for older people comprising 32 apartments in total on land East of Harberton Park to the south of 25 Harberton Park

The case officer outlined the application, which was located within the urban limits of Belfast and formed part of the King's Hall and Balmoral Showgrounds complex.

The Committee received representation from Ms. E. Walker, representing the applicant. In response to Members concerns, she suggested that the application was a separate site which was not connected to the King's Hall development via vehicle or pedestrian links. She advised that a public information event had taken place, as well as a leaflet drop, which formed part of the public consultation, and as part of this feedback, the connection from this site and the Kings Hall Development had been removed. She suggested that the design of the application addressed the functionality of assisted living but also replicated the heights and renders of similar buildings in the area.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor McAteer, and
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding parking, height of the building and proximity to the broader King's Hall development, 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 eight Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

LA04/2017/1505/F - 15 residential apartments at 1 - 3 Eia Street

The case officer outlined the application and advised that there was extant planning approval under planning application Z/2009/1771/F for the demolition of existing 2 storey commercial warehouse building and construction of 4 storey apartment building consisting of 16 apartments, previously granted in April, 2013.

The Committee received representation from Ms. T. McKeown and Ms. E. O'Kane, representing the Waterworks Residents' Group, in objection to the application. Ms. McKeown outlined the following points of objection:

- The development was contrary to the townscape character of the area and the wider historical area;
- The area was run down and was being bought to develop hostels, Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO), and flats;
- The area had high crime statistics and anti-social behaviour;
- The development would be a small confined space for 41 people to live;

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- Lack of amenity space as the nearby park was unsafe;
- Lack of car parking and on-going road safety issues;
- The development would violate the existing building line;
- There had been a lack of communication from the applicant with the local residents and many objections had been submitted; and
- Suggested that a site visit would be beneficial.

The Committee received representation from Mr. B. O'Donnell, representing the applicant. He advised that the development would deliver 15 social housing apartments needed in the area. He suggested that the development complied with the design criteria, and would reduce the massing associated with the existing approval. He suggested that the development would help to alleviate anti-social behaviour. He indicated that he had worked with the Planning Department and the Historic Environment Division in relation to a design agreement and the development would contribute to the streetscape and overall area.

During points of clarification, Mr. O'Donnell explained that the applicant had robust strategies in place to manage the maintenance of the development. He advised that he would ask the applicant to respond in relation to the meeting request which had been raised by objectors in their deputation.

During discussion, the case officer clarified the size of the apartments and amenity space requirements. In relation to the number of objections received, she advised that those who had made representations regarding the previous planning application for the site would have also received the neighbour notification in relation to this application.

After discussion, the Committee, given the issues which had been raised by the objector's, agreed 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.

LA04/2015/1345/F - Housing development on land at Portmore Hill adjacent to Thorburn Park and Thorburn Road and accessed via Antrim Road

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application.

The Committee received representation from Alderman Spence who outlined a range of support for the case officer's recommendation for approval. He suggested that the proposal would help alleviate illegal dumping and anti-social behaviour on the site. He advised that the completion of the housing scheme had the full support of the local community and pointed out that Nigel Dodds, MP, had also given his support for the proposal.

The Committee received representation from Mr. A. Johnson and Mr. D. Ferguson, representing the applicant. They highlighted that the proposal was a mixed scheme of low density and suggested that objections from consultees had been dealt with in the design. They pointed out that as the applicant had acquired the access road, the applicant now had control of the complete gated scheme. In terms of the traffic

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issues raised, they advised that the development of 17 apartments should not affect the road system or the views of nearby residents.

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

LA04/2016/1360/F - Filling station, shop and 2 retail units on lands opposite junction of Stewartstown Road and Suffolk Road

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

The case officer outlined the application for the petrol filling station with associated shop, 2 retail units, forecourt canopy and associated petroleum installation.

During discussion, the case officer explained the impact of the barrier between the development and neighbouring properties as outlined in the proposal.

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

LA04/2017/1778/F - Minor works including drainage, lighting, a maintenance path and mounted golf targets 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.

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

Chairperson

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Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 19th February, 2018

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); and
Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Dorrian,
Graham, Johnston, Mullan and Nicholl.

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 Alderman Haire, Councillor Hargey and Councillor O'Donnell.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.

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.

Performance Report – Q3

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance during October, November and December 2017, of the year to date performance and analysis of actual performance against the budget for the financial year 2017/2018.

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She outlined to the Members that it was the third quarter of the second year of operation for the new company, with the new Belfast Waterfront venue having been operational since the end of April, 2016.

She explained to the Members that the third quarter had been very busy, as expected, with a number of high profile events such as the BBC Good Food Show, the 2017 Northern Ireland Open in Snooker and JD Parties Christmas events.

The Members were advised that, for the year to date, BWUH Ltd. had delivered 37 conferences, generating 63,711 delegate days, which had delivered an economic impact of £35.5million for Belfast.

The Business Support Director advised the Shareholders' Committee that 49% of the company's net income for the third quarter had come from room hire, with a further 25% having come from ticket sales and additional sales costs.

The Members were advised that the Company's sales income for the year was 6% above target.

In relation to overall financial performance for the company, he advised the Committee that the income was forecasted to be ahead of plan and that he expected that the year-end budget target would be met.

The Managing Director provided the Committee with information on a number of proactive sales meetings which had taken place over the quarter, including a number of 'familiarisation trips' for key agencies working in the conference and events trade.

The Committee was advised of the new marketing materials, which included the new Belfast branding, and was given an update on the advancement of plans to create two separate streams through the BWUH Ltd's website, with a clear demarcation between the entertainment side of the business and the conference side.

She highlighted to the Members that work was ongoing in relation to the realignment of the Belfast Waterfront as an International Convention Centre.

The Committee noted that, while BWUH Ltd. was still working towards recruiting an appropriately trained electrician in order to provide an apprenticeship opportunity, the company currently had two placement students working within the business.

In response to a Member's question regarding the catering within the business, the Managing Director provided the Committee with an update on a number of issues which had previously been raised.

A number of Members congratulated the BWUH Ltd. team on the success of the recent Gradam Ceoil concert which had been held in the Belfast Waterfront and broadcast live on TG4.

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Monday, 19th February, 2018

The Managing Director addressed a Member's question regarding the Lanyon Place carpark behind the Belfast Waterfront, which was privately owned, in relation to its operating hours and its relationship with BWUH Ltd. management.

She provided the Members with an update on the organisational change within BWUH Ltd. and advised the Committee that she hoped to announce a new Director of Events Operations within the next few weeks.

She advised the Committee that Mrs. Laura Jackson, Audit Partner in BDO Northern Ireland, had been nominated to be appointed as a Non-Executive Director to the BWUH Ltd. Board. She advised the Members that Ms. Jackson had significant audit experience and had been an active Member of the company's Audit and Risk Committee since May 2017.

The Committee noted that a further meeting would be required, at a future date, in order to ratify a second Non-Executive Director appointment.

The Chairperson thanked the Managing Director and the Business Support Director for the update which had been provided and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee:

1. approved the appointment of Mrs. L. Jackson as a Non-Executive Director to the BWUH Ltd. Board; and
2. noted the Performance Report Update for Quarter 3 of 2017/2018.

Chairperson

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