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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 4th June, 2018 at 6.00 pm., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council Meeting of 1st and 18th May, 2018 (Pages 1 - 10)
5. Official Announcements
6. Appointment of Positions of Responsibility 2018/2019 (report to follow)
7. Installation of Lord Mayor for 2018/2019
8. Installation of Deputy Lord Mayor for 2018/2019
9. Appointment of Alderman
(Consequent upon the resignation of former Alderman McKee)
10. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 18th May
(Pages 11 - 58)
11. Minutes of People and Communities Committee of 8th May (Pages 59 - 88)
12. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 25th April and 9th May
(Pages 89 - 110)
13. Minutes of Licensing Committee of 2nd and 16th May (Pages 111 - 116)
14. Minutes of Planning Committee of 15th and 17th May (Pages 117 - 124)
15. Minutes of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 21st May (Pages 125 - 128)

16. Notices of Motion

a) Remembering Srebrenica

Proposed by Councillor Armitage,

Seconded by Councillor Dorrian,

“This Council:

- notes that 2018 is the twenty-third anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed in a matter of days;
- notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11th July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and inter-faith tolerance. All Northern Ireland political parties have supported the work of Remembering Srebrenica in this regard;
- applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all; and
- commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across the UK and Ireland to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica.”

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Arts Matter NI Campaign

Proposed by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

Seconded by Councillor Long,

“This Council asserts the value of the arts in our everyday lives, including our wellbeing, education, inclusion as well as our creative and evening economy and our tourism offering.

Accordingly, the Council extends its formal support to the Arts Matter NI campaign for equal funding and agrees that an all Party delegation meet the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities to demand more funds for the arts.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Attacks on Gaza

Proposed by Councillor O'Hara,

Seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna,

"This Council condemns the recent attacks by Israeli forces on protestors, including women and children, in Gaza.

The Council calls upon the United Nations to investigate and place those responsible for genocide before the International Criminal Court and asks that the International Community and the people of Belfast stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

With Dáil Éireann having recognised Palestine as a state, the Council calls on the Irish Government to expel the Israeli Ambassador to Ireland."

(To be debated by the Council)

d) City Deal

Proposed by Councillor Canavan,

Seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna,

"This Council welcomes the progress being made to secure a Belfast Region City Deal which will deliver inclusive growth, create more and better jobs, have a positive impact on our most deprived communities, and provide a balanced spread of benefits across the region.

The city deal will strengthen Belfast's role as the driver for the regional economy. In supporting the case for regional growth that will benefit us all, the Council urges the British Government to formally commit to a deal for the North West."

(To be debated by the Council)

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



Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 1st May, 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, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, 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 Councillor Milne.

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 special meeting and monthly meeting of the Council of 9th April, 2018 be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

Congratulations

At the request of Councillor O'Hara, the Lord Mayor agreed to forward a letter of congratulations to St. Joseph's Primary School, Slate Street, for being the first school in Northern Ireland to receive a 'National Nurturing School Award' for demonstrating exemplary practice in embedding a nurturing culture throughout the entire school.

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Requests to Address the Council

Nashville Delegation

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received within the required seven days' notice period from Councilmen J. Shulman and Hastings to be permitted to address the Council to proclaim Nashville's continued commitment to the Sister City Relationship with Belfast.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Councilmen Shulman and Hastings were welcomed to the meeting.

Councilman Shulman expressed his appreciation of the special Sister City Relationship between Belfast and Nashville. He reminded Members that Nashville had been a sister city of Belfast for over 20 years and the Belfast-Nashville relationship had grown over time to include friendship, music, art, heritage and education.

He informed the Council that Nashville was a loving community, a place that was growing and thriving, which reminded him of Belfast. He advised that this was his third visit to Belfast and he looked forward to learning from and listening to the people of Belfast. He highlighted that Belfast was an inspiration to the city of Nashville in its continued efforts to bring people together in peace.

He thanked the Council and its staff for arranging the successful visit and, to commemorate the visit, presented the Lord Mayor with a piece of artwork from Nashville to show their appreciation for the Sister City Relationship.

Councilmen Shulman and Hastings, together with the delegation from Nashville and Davidson County Council were thanked by the Lord Mayor for their attendance.

Autism Awareness

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received within the required seven days' notice period from Mr. Healy to address the Council in relation to autism awareness.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

The Lord Mayor welcomed Mr. Healy to the meeting. Mr. Healy advised that he wished to raise awareness of the problems faced by the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) community and explained that, being a member of that community, he had experienced problems with social interaction and communication. He suggested that every individual was unique in many ways and that applied equally to those who were on the spectrum and those regarded as neuro typical. He advised that his parents and primary school teacher had worked hard to achieve a diagnosis for him and he believed that early diagnosis and intervention was important. In relation to diagnosis, he suggested that there was a disconnect between the educational welfare system and the NHS which needed to

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Tuesday, 1st May, 2018**

be addressed urgently. He explained that upon receiving a statement of educational needs many helpful aids and support were put in place that benefited him greatly, which included the allocation of a classroom assistant and additional time to undertake examinations. He advised that he was due to graduate from the Belfast Metropolitan College with a foundation Degree in Software Engineering.

He explained that he gets angry and frustrated when he experiences marginalisation and offensive comments from other people. He suggested that the Council and other legislative bodies could play a role in creating awareness, education and legislating to make the offensive phrases against the ASD community unacceptable.

He advised that he would like to gain employment, however, his enquiries to date suggest that this might be difficult to achieve. He stated that people on the spectrum had extraordinary skills and qualities that could be beneficial to an employer and he suggested that the Council could play a role in educating employers, together with encouraging and incentivising recruitment of the ASD community.

Mr. Healy was thanked by the Lord Mayor.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th and 27th April be approved and adopted, subject to the decision of the Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27th April under the heading "Designation of Belfast district as a "holiday resort" being altered to provide that the reason for the deferral is to enable a Summit to be hosted by the Council that would include key stakeholders such as the Trade Unions, business organisations such as the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Retail NI and the tourism sector and representatives of those shops who wish to have extended Sunday opening.

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

Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site

Councillor Collins requested that the Chairperson agree to the minute under the heading "Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site" being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson declined the request.

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Amendment

Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site

Moved by Councillor Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th April, under the heading "Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site", be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

<u>For 5</u>	<u>Against 51</u>	<u>No Vote 1</u>
Councillors Attwood, Collins, Heading, Lyons and McCusker.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Alderman Browne, Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Councillor Corr Johnston.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th and 27th April were thereupon approved and adopted.

Amendment to Standing Order 37(a)

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

Resolved - That the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 64, agrees to pass a Resolution amending Standing Order 37(a) to read as

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follows: "In addition, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee shall have delegated authority for decisions in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme where the Chief Executive, or in her/his absence the Deputy Chief Executive, determine that a decision which would otherwise be taken under an officer's delegated authority requires political direction."

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 12th and 16th April, 2018 be approved and adopted.

Street Naming

At the request of Councillor Canavan, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to a future Committee in relation to a dual language street naming request that had been submitted by the Developer in respect of Rose Street, off Springfield Avenue, for Legal Services to clarify if the request could be facilitated.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 12th and 16th April were thereupon approved and adopted.

Resolution: Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Orders (Northern Ireland) 2017

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

Resolved - That the Council agrees to pass a resolution to make a Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Order (Northern Ireland) 2017, which will come into effect on 1st May, 2018, prohibiting the use by vehicles and pedestrians of those streets as set out within the minute of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 12th April, 2018.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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

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

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European Capital of Culture Legacy Programme

At the request of Councillor Dudgeon, the Council agreed that a workshop for all Members be organised in relation to rate setting, to discuss the trends on rates income, spend, enforcement, exceptions and the delays in reform, including funding for major programmes such as culture.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 11th April were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

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

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

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

Notices of Motion

Children's Funeral Charges

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

“This Council, recognising that under the terms of the Children’s Funeral Fund, Councils in England and Wales do not charge parents the costs of burials or cremations. Accordingly, the Council agrees to waive all charges and costs relating to those services for children up to the age of eighteen.”

The motion was seconded by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland.

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

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Leisure Provision

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

"This Council notes that on 7th April, 2018 hundreds of leisure workers and their supporters marched along the Falls and Shankill roads to highlight concerns about job losses. The Council also notes the trade union demonstration today, which called for the protection of our leisure services and raised the demand to bring leisure services back fully under Belfast City Council control. The Council recognises that since the outsourcing of leisure services some years ago serious concerns have emerged about the running of leisure in Belfast. The Council is opposed to any job losses, erosion of workers terms and conditions or price hikes as part of the leisure transformation programme. The Council tasks the Chief Executive and the officer team to explore the options in relation to the future provision of leisure services, including the feasibility of bringing the service back under council control at some time in the future."

The motion was seconded by Alderman Browne.

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

Misogyny and Social Media

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

"This council stands by women from all backgrounds and political persuasions to be able to express themselves on social media without the risk of misogynistic or sexist abuse.

As a council, we call on Twitter and other social mediums to address the failure of their companies to meet their responsibilities regarding the threats of violence and abuse directed at women. These failures mean that many feel they are no longer able to express themselves freely on social media platforms without fear of attacks."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicholl.

At the request of Councillor Mullan, the proposer agreed that the motion be amended to include the insertion of the following: "This Council agrees to write to Twitter and Facebook to request a meeting with representatives to highlight the Council's concerns."

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

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Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor Links

Proposed by the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

"This Council acknowledges the ever growing importance of relations between Belfast City and Dublin City as the main economic drivers within each jurisdiction. Furthermore, regardless of the outcome of negotiations around Brexit, it is imperative that relations continue to flourish between both cities, to the mutual benefit of all along this increasingly significant economic corridor.

Accordingly, this Council agrees to establish a joint plan around co-operation regarding working relationships within the economic corridor. Going forward, this Council commits to ensuring key areas of progress and collaboration focussing on:

- A complementary approach to inward investment and job growth;
- Achieving Inclusive growth; and
- Developing Infrastructure and connectivity."

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Friday, 18th May, 2018
at 12.00 noon, pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Johnston, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, O'Hara, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard), Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and R. Patterson and Councillors Armitage, Bunting, Collins, Dorrian, Groves, Hussey, Kyle, Long, McCusker, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell and Pankhurst.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the special meeting.

Amendment to Standing Order 37(a)

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

That the Council agrees to confirm its decision of 1st May to pass a Resolution amending Standing Order 37(a) to include the following wording:

“In addition, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee shall have delegated authority for decisions in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme where the Chief Executive, or in her/his absence the Deputy Chief Executive, determine that a decision which would otherwise be taken under an officer's delegated authority requires political direction.”

On a vote by show of hands, thirty-three Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 18th May, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Hutchinson, McDonough-Brown,
O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh

Also attended: Councillors Collins and Corr Johnston.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
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 Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 20th and 27th April 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 May

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

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

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

Changes to Current Catering arrangements

The City Solicitor reported that he had, the previous evening, received information from one of the trade unions in relation to the above mentioned report and requested that the Committee consider deferring the matter for a period of one month to enable him to address the matter.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Community Development Grants Programme

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current situation regarding the Community Development Grants Programme 2018/19 and which included a range of options relating to the funding allocations.

The Committee:

- agreed to the allocation of £33,333 from non-recurrent resources to fund the shortfall in the Department for Communities' contribution towards the Community Development Grants Programme for 2018/19;
- agreed the allocation of £23,444 from non-recurrent resources to the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service for 2018/19;
- agreed the preferred option in relation to the additional allocation of £67,892 for Advice, that is Option one, with the total amount being allocated to the five Advice Consortia based on the Council's agreed allocation model. All five consortia would receive an increase in their allocation for the provision for generalist advice services across the city;
- agreed to receive a presentation from Department for Communities Officials in relation to funding of Advice Provision; and
- agreed to receive a further paper on Advice Provision in relation to the Evason Report.

Review of BCC Operating Model for Procurement

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that the Council currently spent approximately £70million each year on the goods and services needed to deliver its own services. As part of the Council's efficiency programme, the operating model for Council procurement had been reviewed by the Westminster Procurement Services with the aim of identifying opportunities to become more commercial and to better support inclusive economic growth in the city. He submitted a report which set out the rationale for the review, highlighted the urgent nature of the review and set out the broad recommendations.

The Committee:

- agreed to the organisation structure as set out in the report; and
- noted the recommendations of the Westminster Procurement Services (WPS) review as summarised in Appendix 1 to the report.

Assets Management

Renewal of Car Park Licence Agreements at Cromac Street, Kent Street and Station Street

The Committee approved the renewal of licence agreements for Council operated off street car parks at Cromac Street, for a further 12-month agreement commencing on 1st April 2018 at an annual rent of £52,700; at Kent Street, a 3-year licence agreement from 1st July, 2016 at an annual fee of £20,340; and for Station Street a 3-year licence agreement from 1st July 2016 at an annual fee of £48,900.

Balmoral Business Park – Outstanding Rental Agreement

The Committee granted authority for the outstanding rental account in respect of a site within Balmoral Business Park, as detailed in the report, to be written off in accordance with Section M12 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

Grant of Easement, 17 Saintfield Road – Knockbreda Cemetery

The Committee approved the regularisation of title boundaries and easement with the owner of a private dwelling situated within the grounds of Knockbreda Cemetery.

Area-based Festivals

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 27th April, it had been advised that correspondence had been received indicating that discussions had been taking place between various community organisations and some Members regarding the possibility of developing a number of larger scale area-based diversionary and educational activities associated with July and August bonfires this year by way of proof of concept. It had been reported that, at that stage, the proposals were not sufficiently worked up to present to the Committee for agreement. The Committee had agreed that the groups be requested to submit a proposal, which provided a balanced cross-city programme, in time for today's meeting.

The Committee considered an update on the available details submitted in relation to the original proposals which had been discussed on 27th April and a list of additional financial requests which had been received in the last number of days. The Committee was advised that requests were still being submitted and hence it had not been possible to carry out due diligence of any kind. In addition, the submissions had a wide variation in detail. Whilst the original Committee discussion focused on diversionary and educational activities associated with July and August bonfires, the additional proposals covered a wide range of activities. The Committee was reminded further that there was no budget to allocate to the requests at this point and that no firm recommendation was being put in front of the Committee. If the Committee was minded to provide any funding then legal funding agreements would be required.

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It was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee:

- Agrees to fund the following summer diversionary events and programmes:
 - Féile (Féile - £100,000; Northern Ireland Alternatives Community Festivals Summary – East Belfast Community Festival - £50,000; New Lodge - £40,000; Market - £10,000; Belfast South Community Resources - £26,521);
- That the funding be allocated from General Reserves - £226,521; and
- £180,000 to be taken from the European City of Culture (ECoC) Budget to fund a new July festival:
 - £100,000 – Twaddell Woodvale Residents' Association – major event on 11th July in Woodvale Park
 - £80,000 – Ulster-Scotch Heirskip Council/Ulster-Scots Community Network – community education programme, community visualisation programme and 3 year strategic planning process for new festival;
- That the General Reserves be replenished in full and the ECoC reserve be replenished as much as possible from the year-end underspend which is due to be considered by the Committee in June;
- That the funding applications be subject to due diligence, appropriate legal agreements and to evaluations being undertaken;
- To ensure transparency in future years, to establish an open call diversionary programme with an agreed budget; and
- That Council officers engage with the groups that were not allocated support to discuss alternative funding opportunities.
- That, due to the urgency of the matter, the above decisions would not be subject to call-in.

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

**Designation of Belfast District (or the City Centre)
as a 'Holiday Resort'**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th April, it had agreed to defer consideration of a report on the designation of Belfast District (or the city centre) as a 'holiday resort' providing large shops with the option to extend Sunday trading hours between the months of March and October to enable further information to be received. Subsequently, at its special meeting on 27th April, it had again deferred the matter to enable a Summit to be hosted by the Council that would include key stakeholders including the Trade Unions, business organisations such as the Belfast Chamber of Trade

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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and Commerce, Retail NI and the tourism sector and representatives of those shops who wished to have extended Sunday opening.

The Committee considered further the reports of 20th and 27th April, together with the supplementary report which had been prepared following the holding of the Summit. A copy of the three reports in this regard are set out hereunder

**Report to the Strategic Policy and
Resources Committee on 20th April**

“1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- **update the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the updated findings from the public consultation as to whether Belfast City Council should designate the Belfast district (or the city centre) as a ‘holiday resort’ under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**
- **to seek a decision from Members on whether to proceed with a ‘holiday resort’ designation**

The effect of such a designation would be to 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.

1.2 Deputations

Members will wish to note that officers have received requests from both the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) and the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce to give short presentations to the Committee on this issue. It will be a matter for the Committee to decide at the start of the meeting whether or not to receive the deputations from the aforementioned organisations (or indeed any other organisation who may make a similar request prior to the meeting).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) advise whether to receive the deputations indicated at para 1.2**

- (ii) note the contents of the report including the findings from the original public consultation which concluded on 5 May 2017 and the supplementary public consultation which ended on 2 April 2018.
- (iii) make a decision as to whether to provide approval for the Council to make a 'holiday resort' designation under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- (iv) if it is decided to make a designation, to then decide as to whether to apply the designation to either:
 - a) the entire Belfast City Council district area, or
 - b) Belfast City Centre only (based on the BMAP definition of the city centre).

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

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.

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 number of councils in Northern Ireland have by resolution of the council designated cities and towns which receive tourists as holiday resorts including:

- Derry-Londonderry (Derry City and Strabane District Council)
- Newry (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council)
- Kilkeel (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council)
- Portrush (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council)
- Portstewart (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council)

- Ballycastle (Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council)

Belfast, as a growing tourist destination in both Northern Ireland and wider afield may similarly wish to avail of this exemption.

It is important to note that any decision to designate as a holiday resort will not result in any change in existing legislation or further 'deregulation' of Sunday trading law.

Requirement to consult

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.

Previous Consultation 2017

The Council consulted widely on this issue during 2017 finding that of the total 2471 people and organisations who responded some 1531 answered yes (62%) and 934 answered no (38%) as to whether the council should designate Belfast as a holiday resort. At its meeting on 19 May 2017, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decided not to designate Belfast as a 'holiday resort'.

Supplementary Consultation 2018

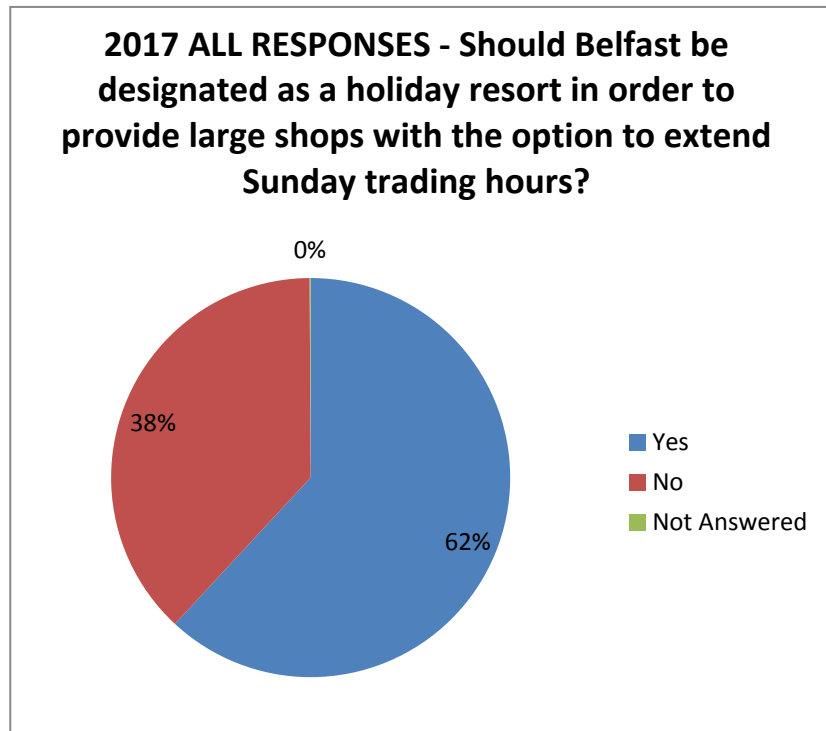
At its meeting on 16 February 2018, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the Council undertake an additional 6-week consultation between 19 February and 02 April 2018 on the key questions. The purpose of this supplementary consultation was to allow consultees to further contribute 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.

3.2 Responses to the 2017 Consultation

A total of 2471 people responded to the initial consultation in 2017. A summary of the responses to the three main questions are included below.

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

- 1531 answered yes (62%)
- 934 answered no (38%)



2. What area should the designation apply to? (Citizen space responses only)

Of the 2471 responses received, 1689 answered this question:

- 1398 indicated all of the Belfast City Council area (82.8%)
- 291 indicated Belfast City Centre only (17.2%)

3.

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 2471 responses received, 1816 answered this question:

- 1515 agreed with this statement (83.4%)
- 294 disagreed with the statement (16.2%)

- 7 did not know (0.4%)

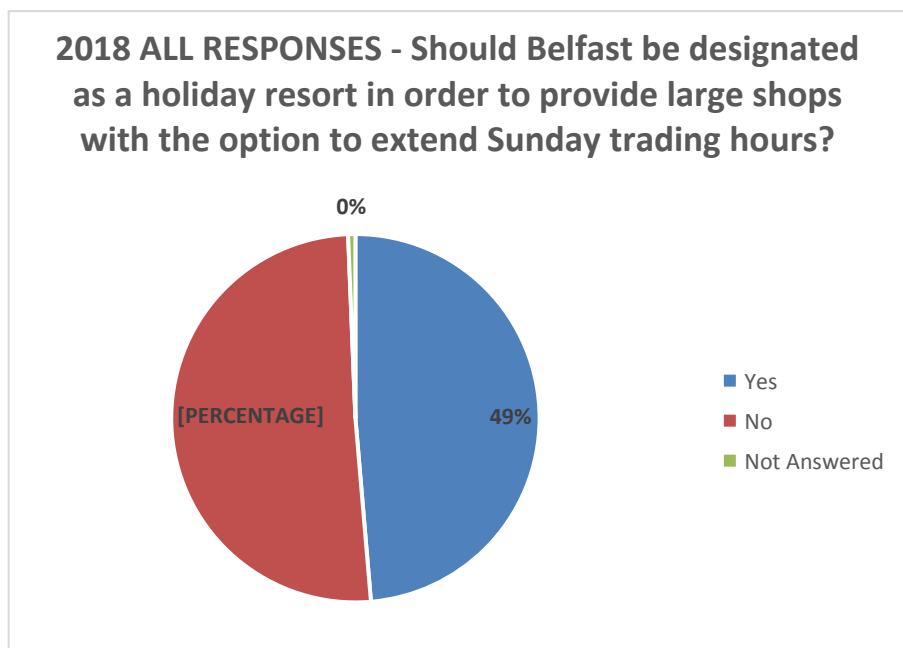
3.3 Responses to the 2018 Consultation

In total, 5196 people and organisations responded to the supplementary consultation.

Some 2092 responses were collected via Citizen Space (the council's online consultation tool), with the remaining 3104 responses being comprised mainly of hard copy surveys (1695), survey postcards (1369) written correspondence (22) and emails (18).

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

- 2528 answered yes (48.7%)
- 2635 answered no (50.7%)
- 33 did not answer



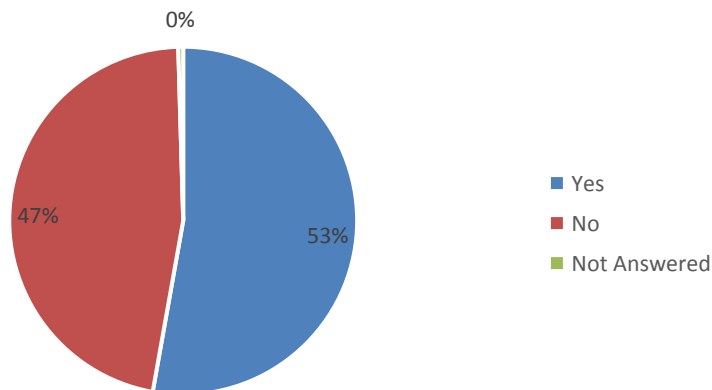
2. What area should the designation apply to?

Of the 5196 responses received, 2674 answered this question:

- 2344 indicated all of the Belfast City Council area (87.7%)

- 330 indicated Belfast City Centre only (12.3%)

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



3. 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 5196 responses received, 3768 answered this question:

- 2498 agreed with this statement (66.3%)
- 1213 disagreed with the statement (32.2%)
- 57 did not know (1.5%)

3.4 Analysis of overall findings (2017 and 2018 combined)

Taking the initial consultation and the supplementary consultation together, some 7667 people and organisations responded to the consultation in total.

With regards to the priority question in the consultation –

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

- 4049 answered yes (52.8%)
- 3583 answered no (46.7%)
- 35 did not answer

2. What area should the designation apply to?

Of the 7667 responses received, 4363 answered this question:

- 3742 indicated all of the Belfast City Council area (85.8%)
- 621 indicated Belfast City Centre only (14.2%)

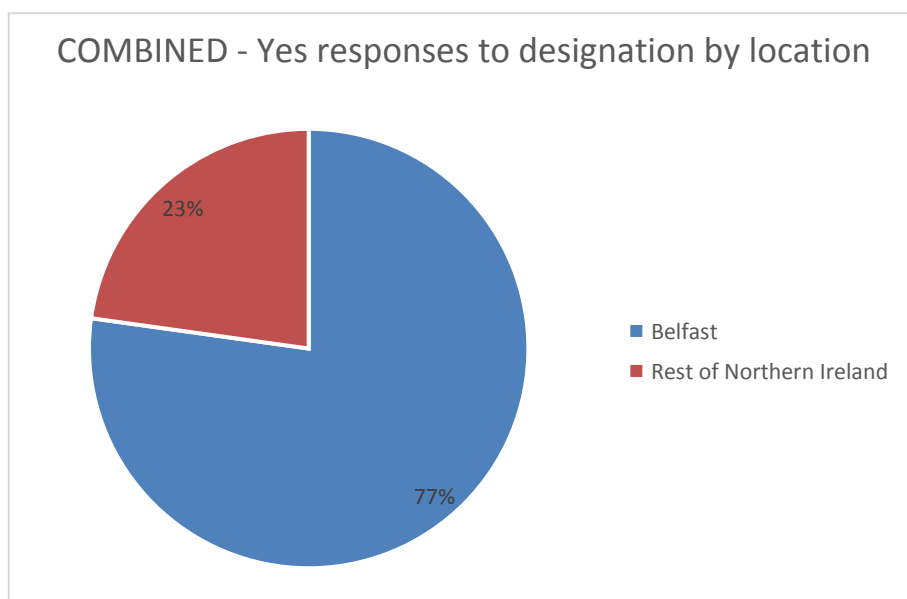
3. Do you think Belfast would be more attractive as a tourist and/or shopping and leisure destination if the restrictions on Sunday opening times for larger shops were removed?

Of the 7667 responses received, 5584 answered this question:

- 4013 agreed with this statement (71.9%)
- 1507 disagreed with the statement (27%)
- 64 did not know (1.1%)

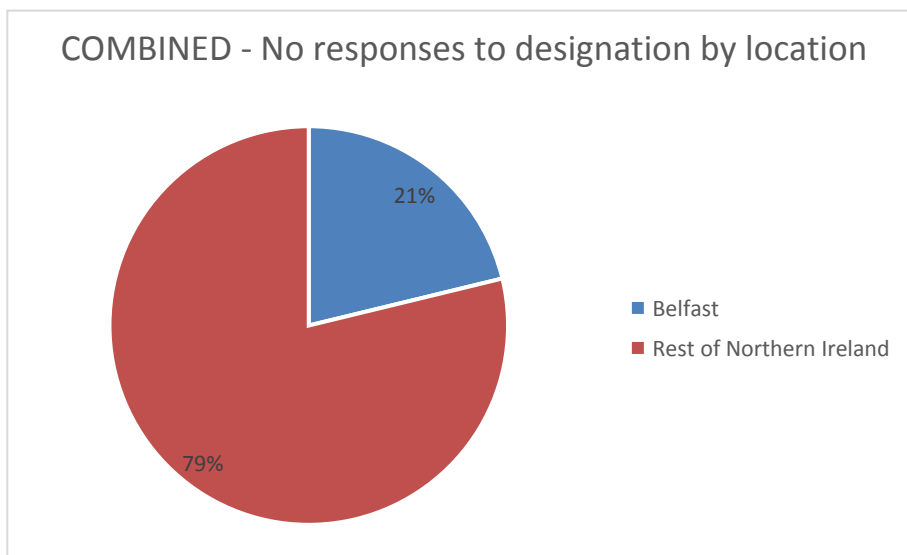
3.5 Postcode Analysis (2017 and 2018 Combined)

An analysis of the postcodes of the respondents (7667 responses received, 7196 answered this question) who provided this information reveals that of approx. 80% of the 'yes' responses were from postcodes within the Belfast District.



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Similarly, approx. 80% of the 'no' responses were from outside Belfast.



Respondents location	Yes	No	Not answered	Total	% Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	191	197		388	5.1%
Ards and North Down	108	235	4	347	4.5%
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	45	260		305	4.0%
Belfast	2476	594	11	3081	40.2%
Causeway Coast and Glens	12	141	1	154	2.0%
Derry City and Strabane	3	70		73	1.0%
Fermanagh and Omagh	8	245		253	3.3%
Lisburn and Castlereagh	238	281	6	525	6.8%
Mid and East Antrim	50	283		333	4.3%
Mid Ulster	14	368	4	386	5.0%
Newry, Mourne and Down	62	127		189	2.5%
UK	12	1		13	0.2%
International	3	1		4	0.1%
Council Area/ Location Unknown	840	331	445	1616	21.1%
Grand Total	4062	3134	471	7667	100.0%

3.6 Next Steps

Making the Designation

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 council made a resolution at the 1 May Council meeting then the designation could not take effect until 1 June 2018.

3.8 How would the Exemption be Applied

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.

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.

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.

3.9 A co-ordinated approach

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.

For example, if a major event is taking place in the city over a particular weekend during the summer months, 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. 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.

3.10 Employment provisions

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. 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.

Charter on extended working hours

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 assurance 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.

3.11 Review of Holiday Resort Designation

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.

To inform such a review the Council will carry out continuous monitoring and evaluation throughout the designation period with a view to bringing a report back to Members in April 2019 outlining the impact that the designation has had over the holiday period.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

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.

The Building Control Service currently perform 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.

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.

3.13 Equality Or Good Relations Implications

A draft Equality Screening exercise was undertaken. Information elicited from the first consultation was used to inform and update the Equality Screening document.

The Equality Screening document was shared with respondents to the online survey and hard copy questionnaire survey to help elicit their views. As part of the 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.

There were 144 responses made to this question via the online consultation and in hard copy questionnaire format. Some

respondents made more than one point. For comparison purposes to the previous consultation, the same thematic areas were applied. Respondents said:

1. 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. (44)
2. Extended Sunday opening during the summer will provide economic opportunities and conveys a positive cosmopolitan image to visitors/tourists. (17)
3. 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. (2)
4. Religious beliefs/current laws should not restrict those who wish to shop on a Sunday (1)
5. Family life will be affected if Sunday trading is implemented. There will be a negative impact on retail workers who are carers/have children. (51)
6. Extended Sunday trading conflicts with personal Christian religious views/faith beliefs (70)

Information elicited from the consultation will be used to inform and update the Equality Screening document in line with members' decision."

Report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 27th April

"1.0 Purpose of the Supplementary Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- provide the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with supplementary information (to the original report of 20 April 2018) to inform any decision by the Council as to whether Belfast City Council should designate the Belfast district (or the city centre) as a 'holiday resort' under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- to seek a decision from Members on whether to proceed with a 'holiday resort' designation

1.2 Deputations

Members will wish to note that officers have received a request from Retail NI to make a further oral submission to the

Committee on this issue. It will be a matter for the Committee to decide at the start of the meeting whether or not to receive the deputation from Retail NI (or indeed any other organisation who may make a similar request prior to the meeting), however others may have considered that they only had one opportunity to present to committee and they have therefore submitted further information in writing.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (i) advise whether to receive the deputation(s) indicated at para 1.2
- (ii) refer to the original SP&R report dated 20 April 2018 which includes the findings from the original public consultation which concluded on 5 May 2017 and the supplementary public consultation which ended on 2 April 2018
- (iii) note the additional briefing report on a range of issues raised at Committee on 20 April 2018
- (iv) note the draft Charter circulated to all interested parties

3.0 Main Report

3.1 At the meeting of 20 April 2018 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee considered the original report and agreed to defer a decision, pending the provision of additional information. Following the meeting, officers engaged with the parties that had made representations at the Committee meeting in order to request- further information on a number of issues raised including:

1. Feedback from other NI locations on the impact of Holiday Resort designation
2. Details on the number of people employed in retail in Belfast
3. Details on the numbers of large stores (i.e. 280m2 +) who currently have staff in work before the normal Sunday trading hours (i.e. staff working before 1pm)
4. Details on cruise ship visitors to the city, focusing on those visiting on Saturday and Sunday
5. Details on how many cruise visitors come into the city centre
6. Details on hotel occupancy at weekends in the city – focusing on the Summer period (April-September)

Further submissions have been received from Usdaw, Belfast Chamber of Commerce, Retail NI, Visit Belfast and the NI Hotels Federation on the issues raised and upon the draft charter circulated (see para 3.2). A summary of the additional requested information has been circulated.

3.2 Draft Charter

At Committee Members requested sight of a draft copy of a potential Sunday trading Charter as per para 3.10 of the 20 April report. The report stated that the Council would seek assurances from employer organisations that their members are fully aware of their obligations under the legislation to protect the rights of workers and that such assurance could take the form of an agreed charter that participating large shops could sign up to on a voluntary basis.

A draft Charter was circulated on Tuesday 24 April as requested by Members to all those who had made representation at the SP&R meeting on 20 April and comments have been received in relation to the draft.

An updated draft Charter has been circulated for Members' consideration. This draft charter represents a 'voluntary undertaking' on the part of participating shops and Members will note that the legal obligations reaffirmed within the Charter are enforceable through employment tribunals as outlined in Schedule 2 of the Sunday Trading Order 1997.

The Belfast Chamber of Commerce are supportive of the draft Charter and have indicated a willingness to work with its members on the promotion of the charter should a designation be made. Usdaw and Retail NI have objected on the basis that the Charter is not in itself legally enforceable.

4. Financial and Resource Implications

See original report dated 20 April 2018

5. Equality or Good Relations Implications

See original report dated 20 April 2018."

Report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 18th May

"1.0 Purpose of the Supplementary Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- provide the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with supplementary information (to the original reports of 20 April and 27 April 2018) to inform any decision by the Council as to whether Belfast City Council should designate the Belfast district (or the city centre) as a ‘holiday resort’ under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
- to seek a decision from Members on whether to proceed with a ‘holiday resort’ designation.

1.2 Deputations

Members will wish to note that officers have received a request from Michala Lafferty, Usdaw to make a further oral submission to the Committee on this issue. It will be a matter for the Committee to decide at the start of the meeting whether or not to receive the deputation from Usdaw (or indeed any other organisation who may make a similar request prior to the meeting).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) advise whether to receive the deputation(s) indicated at para 1.2
- (ii) refer to the original SP&R reports dated 20 April 2018 and 27 April 2018 which include the findings from the original public consultation which concluded on 5 May 2017 and the supplementary public consultation which ended on 2 April 2018, as well as the additional briefing report on a range of issues which was provided to Committee on 27 April 2018
- (iii) note the independent chairperson’s brief prepared by Richard O’Rawe following the summit held with a range of stakeholders on 10 May 2018 in Belfast.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 At its meeting on 20 April 2018 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to defer a decision in order to receive additional information.

At its meeting on the 27th April the Committee agreed to once again to defer a decision to enable a Summit to be hosted by the Council that would include key stakeholders such as the Trade Unions, business organisations such as the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Retail NI and the tourism

sector and representatives of those shops who wish to have extended Sunday opening.

- 3.2 Following ratification of the SP&R minutes at the full Council on 1 May, officers issued an invitation to the key stakeholders outlined above to attend a summit meeting on Thursday 10 May in the council offices at 9 Adelaide.

The council secured the services of an independent chairperson, Richard O'Rawe, to facilitate the summit meeting. A copy of the Chairperson's brief prepared after the summit meeting has been circulated.

- 3.3 The main summary points from the Chairperson's brief are as follows:

Areas of Agreement

All parties agreed that they want to support the creation of a more vibrant city centre to attract visitors and residents on a Sunday morning. They agreed that a programme of animation and promotional activity should be developed in order to enhance vibrancy and increase footfall in the city.

On Extended Sunday Trading

Most of the organisations in the room were in favour of additional hours for large retailers on a Sunday. In order to test the impact of the scheme and to review and address any issues arising, they noted that they would be open to considering a pilot scheme running to the end of September 2018. They viewed the benefits as being both social (Sunday morning recreation) and economic (increasing visitor spend and more viable trading environment).

Those in favour point to the extended trading hours as being optional and suggest that this will provide a choice that extends to shops, workers and customers.

The Trade Unions and Retail NI are opposed to the proposal on the grounds that they believe it will take trade from smaller independent retailers and it will be detrimental to workers and their families. Both the Unions and Retail NI would support a campaign to encourage small retailers to open additional hours on a Sunday and would be keen to package this up by ensuring that a programme of animation activity and promotion was put in place as well.

Those against extended hours are not convinced by the economic argument and believe that a 'Small Shop Sunday' programme would bring greater overall economic benefit.

There was a view in the room that the disagreement on the economic value arising from extended Sunday trading hours will be tested if the pilot is approved.

On the Charter

Most of those in attendance were in favour of having an explicit commitment to reinforce the protection of workers' rights. Those in favour of a charter noted that all of the commitments are already enshrined in law. They felt that the charter offered a vehicle for retailers to make a public statement of their commitment to ensure that workers' rights are protected in line with the existing legislation, and also to ensure that there is a regular forum for raising any issues related to the implementation.

The Trade Unions feel that the charter is meaningless as it has no legislative effect. They also would have wanted to ensure that the draft text was agreed with them.

3.4 Economic evidence

In previous reports, a series of research pieces to support the demand for the proposed extension were undertaken. These include:

- 21 cruise ships will arrive in Belfast on a Sunday (across the key Summer months). 20 of these ships will be in port by 09.30am. These 21 ships will bring more than 36,000 passengers and staff
- Visit Belfast research (April 2018) into the GB market (which accounts for 41% of overnight stays) found that 60% of potential visitors expected to be able to shop on a Sunday morning and 93% expected shops to open earlier than 1pm. Retail is an important element of a vibrant city: 42% of GB visitor spend is on shopping
- Hotel occupancy rates on a Saturday evening over the Summer period in 2017 averaged at 91.7% - with the highest levels of occupancy on Saturdays in August (97.2%). Based on these figures, there could be up to 10,000 people in the city on a Sunday
- Tourism NI confirmed that Belfast plays an important role as the gateway to NI, with 30% of all tourism spend in Belfast. With over 1,000 new hotel rooms to open in 2018 and a similar number to become available in 2019

- there will be an increased demand to provide a range of options, in line with visitor expectations
- Retailers argue that the sector is under pressure and that they have to adapt and try all possible avenues open to them in order to attract new business. A report from Springboard (14 May 2018) demonstrated a 7.3% drop in footfall in retail across Northern Ireland in April 2018 – with a number of High Street stores closing or under significant pressure.
- USDAW do not believe that there is evidence of economic benefit from extended trading hours. Those supporting the proposal consider that the pilot phase will allow for data to be collected which will provide specific detail on the impact of the extended opening hours.

3.5 Financial And Resource Implications

See original report dated 20 April 2018

3.6 Equality Or Good Relations Implications

See original report dated 20 April 2018.”

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees not to designate the Belfast district (or the city centre) as a “holiday resort” under Article 6 of the Shops (Sunday Trading and &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and that a report on animating the city on Sundays be submitted to the Committee in due course.

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

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion – Leisure Provision

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

"This Council notes that on 7th April, 2018 hundreds of leisure workers and their supporters marched along the Falls and Shankill roads to highlight concerns about job losses. The Council also notes the trade union demonstration today, which called for the protection of our leisure services and raised the demand to bring leisure services back fully under Belfast

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City Council control. The Council recognises that since the outsourcing of leisure services some years ago serious concerns have emerged about the running of leisure in Belfast. The Council is opposed to any job losses, erosion of workers terms and conditions or price hikes as part of the leisure transformation programme. The Council tasks the Chief Executive and the officer team to explore the options in relation to the future provision of leisure services, including the feasibility of bringing the service back under council control at some time in the future."

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Collins, in whose name the motion stood, addressed the Committee.

The Committee agreed that a further report be submitted to a future meeting which looked at the proposal in the motion in relation to the future provision of leisure services and the feasibility options open to the Council.

Motion - Special Schools

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 9th April, had passed the following motion on Special Schools, which had been proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland, and seconded by Alderman Rodgers:

"This Council expresses its grave concerns at the plans by the Education Authority in Northern Ireland to close a number of special schools and also to amalgamate others in the city of Belfast.

The Council believes that if the plans go ahead they will have a devastating effect on staff and on pupils and their families, many of whom have serious physical and mental health problems.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to request the Chief Executive and members of the Board of the Education Authority to meet with an all-party delegation from the Council to discuss this as a matter of urgency.

This Council calls on the Education Authority to call a halt to this consultation process until they engage fully with the schools, parents, pupils and all the stakeholders involved."

It was reported that a response had now been received from Mr Gavin Boyd, Chief Executive of the Education Authority. Mr. Boyd stated that the Education Authority had not commenced a formal consultation process around the future of special schools. He had pointed out that, during more than twenty-three engagement sessions, the Authority had made it clear to parents, school representatives, Boards of Governors and Elected Representatives that it wished to invest in the special schools' estate, to redress the significant accommodation issues which had been identified in schools in the Belfast area and to create the resources and facilities required to meet the complex needs of children and young people.

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Mr. Boyd pointed out also that the Education Authority had been engaging with Elected Representatives to address misconceptions which had been reflected in the media and that it would continue to engage with them as the work outlined in the aforementioned sessions was progressed. He concluded by confirming that he would be happy to meet with Members if they considered that to be beneficial.

The Committee agreed that an all-party deputation meet with the Chief Executive of the Education Authority, in conjunction with the meeting previously agreed by the People and Communities Committee regarding the funding of Youth Services.

Governance/Members' Issues

Establishment of a Brexit Committee

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee’s approval on a number of actions required to establish the new Brexit Committee as previously agreed by the SP&R Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2018 and ratified by the Council on 9 April 2018.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the Party allocation of Members to the Committee using the Quota Greatest Remainder methodology as set out at para 3.1**
- (ii) note the order of choice for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson Positions of Responsibility using the D’Hondt methodology as set out at para 3.2**
- (iii) agree the reallocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance as outlined at para 3.3**
- (iv) agree amendments to the Standing Orders to accommodate the new Committee as set out at para 3.4**
- (v) agree the remit for the new Brexit Committee (including the terms of reference and operating protocol) as set out at para 3.5**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Allocation of Members to Committee via Quota Greatest Remainder methodology

The Committee had previously agreed that the Brexit Committee would have 20 Members whose positions would be

allocated by applying the Quota Greatest Remainder methodology. This approach would result in the following party representation on the Committee:

Sinn Féin	7
DUP	5
Alliance	3
SDLP	2
UUP	2
PUP	1

3.2 Appointment of additional Positions of Responsibility via the D'Hondt methodology

The Committee has previously agreed that Positions of Responsibility would be appointed using the D'Hondt methodology. This approach results in the following parties having first and second choice for the two positions of responsibility:

Choice 1	Sinn Féin
Choice 2	DUP

As there remains less than one year of the current council term, it is proposed that the Nominating Officers of Sinn Féin and the DUP nominate a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to fulfil these roles for the remainder of the council term.

3.3 Reallocation of the Special Responsibility Allowance

The establishment of an additional standing committee will require a reallocation of the £108,000 Special Responsibility Allowance for the remainder of this term.

Appendix 1 provides a proposed reallocation based on the inclusion of an additional Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson for the Brexit Committee.

3.4 Amendment to Standing Orders

The Councils Standing Orders are required to be amended with the insertion of a new Standing Order 37(g) which sets out the duties of the new Brexit Committee.

Members will note that amendments to Standing Orders requires two full Council meetings before they can come into effect. If the amended Standing Orders are presented to the June Council meeting and ratified then they would need to be confirmed at the July Council meeting, the earliest timeframe

for the inaugural meeting of the newly established Brexit Committee would be August 2018.

3.5 Remit of the Brexit Committee

The original notice of motion stated that ‘the Council 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’.

A draft Terms of Reference for the Committee is attached Appendix 2.

In terms of an overall function, the draft Terms of Reference propose that the Committee will be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of the UK’s leaving the European Union and for making recommendations to Council on such issues (or to the relevant Standing Committee where appropriate).

Operating Protocol

The Committee will meet monthly (or as and when required).

Agenda items normally going to other Standing Committees which identify Brexit implications will be referred to the Brexit Committee for consideration and decision.

In respect of any other matter which may require some consideration in the context of Brexit, the Brexit Committee will act in an advisory capacity, with reports referred to it either directly by the reporting officer or by another Standing Committee.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

As the rate has already been set, there is currently no established budget set aside for the Brexit Committee. According to normal operating protocol, any standing committee making recommendations with cost implications outside of established budgets are required to seek approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the necessary funds are available.

In terms of officer support, there will be increased costs on an ongoing basis in relation to the support for an additional

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Standing Committee but it is considered that such costs can be met from within established budgets.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

Appendix 1

**Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance – With Additional
Brexit Committee**

Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons

Position	Allowance	Number of posts	Total
Chairpersons	£6,150	6	£36,900
Deputy Chairpersons	£3,000	6	£18,000
Chair BW&UH Cttee	£3,000	1	£3,000
Dep Chair BW&UH Cttee	£1,500	1	£1,500
Total			£59,400

Political Party Officers

Party Officer Basic Allocation

£3,000

Remainder allocated to Political Party Leaders

£168.42 per Member of the Party

Position	Number of Members	Allocation per party Member	Allocation per Party Strength	Basic Allocation	Total
SF Party Leader	19	£168.42	£3,199.98	£3,000	£6,199.98
SF Deputy Leader				£3,000	£3,000
SF Secretary				£3,000	£3,000
DUP Party Leader	13	£168.42	£2,189.46	£3,000	£5,189.46
DUP Deputy Leader				£3,000	£3,000
DUP Secretary				£3,000	£3,000
Alliance Party Leader	8	£168.42	£1,347.36	£3,000	£4,347.36

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Position	Number of Members	Allocation per party Member	Allocation per Party Strength	Basic Allocation	Total
Alliance Deputy Leader				£3,000	£3,000
UUP Party Leader	7	£168.42	£1,178.94	£3,000	£4,178.94
UUP Deputy Leader				£3,000	£3,000
SDLP Party Leader	7	£168.42	£1,178.94	£3,000	£4,178.94
SDLP Deputy Leader				£3,000	£3,000
PUP Party Leader	3	£168.42	£505.26	£3,000	£3,505.26
	57			£39,000	£48,599.94

Total
£107,999.94

Appendix 2

Brexit Committee

The Brexit Committee is responsible for researching, monitoring and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of the UK's leaving the European Union and for making recommendations to Council on such issues (or to the relevant Standing Committee where appropriate).

Its specific functions include:

- Articulating the Belfast specific issues to be considered as part of the negotiation and transition arrangements
- The continuous monitoring of progress and announcements around Brexit
- Influencing and contributing to regional considerations of the implications of Brexit on both the work of the Council and on the district
- Identifying any actions the Council may take to mitigate any adverse impacts arising and capitalising on any opportunities as a result of Brexit

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- Reviewing changes to legislation arising out of Brexit and analysing the likely impact which they may have upon the delivery of council services
- Fostering and maintaining positive relations and cultural links with the EU
- Maintaining and promoting social cohesion within the district post Brexit
- Monitoring the impact on migrant workers, skills gaps and issues arising with regard to various sectors in the labour market
- Financial and budget assumptions and implications for the district arising out of Brexit
- Identifying the implications for EU grant funding and alternative funding opportunities
- Seeking to influence decisions with regard to continuing access to and distribution of EU funds (including Peace, Culture and Interreg programmes)
- Ensuring the ability of Belfast to achieve the objectives as set out within the Belfast Agenda
- Ensuring the ability of Belfast to continue to attract and retain investment and grow the rate base
- Ensuring the ability of Belfast to increase trade with existing and potential trade partners (access to supply chains / import and export issues)
- Hearing evidence from other parties

Operating Protocol

- Meeting monthly
- Decisions ratified by full Council
- Decisions subject to call in as per all Standing Committees (subject to exceptions within the 2014 Act)
- Agenda items normally going to other Standing Committees which identify Brexit implications will be referred to the Brexit Committee for consideration and decision.
- In respect of any other matter which may require some consideration in the context of Brexit, the Brexit Committee will act in an advisory capacity, with reports referred to it either directly by the reporting officer or by another Standing Committee.

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

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations in relation to the establishment of a Brexit Committee as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

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

**Regional Review of Chief Executive's
Pay and Conditions**

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) to ascertain whether the Council was corporately willing to support a regional review of Chief Executives' pay, conditions of service and performance mechanisms. It was pointed out that the review was for all eleven Councils.

Accordingly, the Committee was being asked to consider, firstly, if it wished to appoint a Member to the review body. Secondly, if it was minded to appoint, given that there would only be a few meetings of the group, the first of which was scheduled provisionally for 4th June, to consider appointing the new Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee agreed that the incoming Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be appointed to the body which was undertaking a regional review of the Chief Executive's pay and conditions.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

City Region Growth Deal

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on the ongoing development of a Belfast City Region Deal Proposition including engagement and negotiation with Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS), Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Treasury on emerging projects and next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note;

- **Ongoing work to develop the next proposition document for the Belfast City Region Deal**
- **The next steps in the development of the deal including detailed project requirements and robust costings and financing options**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in

accordance with the requirements of the Department for Communities and Local Government, is now in full operation.

The programme is being developed to fulfil the agreed objective for the BRCD of *'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'*.

3.2 Programme Update

At the last meeting members were provided with an update on the work completed to define the key strands of the Belfast city Region deal in relation to Innovation, Digital, Infrastructure, Tourism and Employability and Skills

3.3 Innovation

This included a number of outline innovation proposals from the two Universities relating

- A Digital Innovation Centre
- A Financial (and Legal) Technology Centre
- Academic Medical Research Institute
- Creative Industries Centre of Excellence
- A Global Innovation Institute

3.4 Employability and Skills

- An Employability and Skills framework with three principal strands:
- Targeting economic inactivity
- Addressing skill supply issues
- Meeting the skills needs of our growth sectors
- Specific priority areas and programmes are being developed to support the key strands in areas such as;
- Careers Enhancement,
- Apprenticeship Hub,
- Graduate Development,
- Employability for All,
- Economic Activation,
- Business Productivity.

3.6 Digital

A digital proposition led by Future Cities Catapult which has now identified significant digital innovation projects including;

A 5G Smart District
A Regional Connectivity Fund
A Digital Innovation Platform
Makers Network

3.7 Tourism

Work has commenced on the development of an OBC for the Belfast Story gallery and film Centre which is due to be completed by the end of June 2018. Work is also continuing on Tourism product in other areas such as the Gobbins II and Carrickfergus Castle.

3.8 Other Infrastructure

Key infrastructure projects linked to the priorities identified in a number of council strategies including the Belfast Agenda, the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and the Local Development Plan. These include, Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2- Linking the north & south of the city, Lagan Bridges and Links, Transport Hub phase 2 (Weavers Cross), York Street Interchange and Living with Water. It should be noted that all of the 'suggested' projects will now undergo a costing and prioritisation process and there will inevitably be a number which will not be delivered under city deal

3.9 Consultation and Engagement with Partners

Over the past four weeks significant engagement has taken place across the six councils, the two universities, the FE colleges, the Belfast Met and the relevant Civil Service departments to share the various strategic frameworks that provide the narrative and baseline for the city region. This includes the economic footprint of the area, key growth sectors, barriers to growth and possible areas of intervention. Discussion was held in relation to alignment with the priorities already identified through strategies including the UK Industrial Strategy. Programme for Government as well priorities already identified across the partner organisations. This work will continue and help inform the prioritisation process for projects.

3.10 Work has also begun on the affordability element of projects and a process has begun to ensure any projects going forward to the deal have robust costings from both a capital and revenue perspective. Financing considerations are also being developed at both a project and programme level including assessing affordability, borrowing requirements and alternative sources of funding.

3.11 The six chief executives and senior officials from NICS will now meet with MHCLG and HMT to update on the work completed, test emerging projects for possible inclusion in the deal, discuss financing and economic modelling and agree next steps in the negotiations to ensure the city region is on track to secure a deal by the autumn statement

3.12 Next Steps

While significant work has been completed to date the development of the deal is entering a new phase. Officers are now assessing the resource and expertise required to develop robust project propositions that will secure the best possible deal. Information required by MHCLG at project level includes

- Purpose of the project
- Impacts- outcomes/outputs
- Economic Modelling
- Operation and Sustainability
- Delivery Model
- Timescales
- Finances
- Interdependencies

3.13 This will involve more intensive working with the NICS departments, the Universities, Belfast Harbour, the FE colleges, Belfast Met, other training providers and the private sector. New work streams and governance structures are therefore being developed which will also have to take account of the financing arrangements and proposals to support the delivery on the deal once this is secured.

3.14 As agree at the last meeting a Joint members Forum will be held with members from all six councils to discuss progress. This will be hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey in June.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

Finance for the development of the Belfast City Region Deal has been included in the revenue estimates.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Customer Focus update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on the 24th November 2017 agreed the recommendations contained in the outline business case for an enhanced and innovative approach to customer focus across the council.

1.2 A further report was presented to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on the 16th February 2018 at which time an overview of a blueprint for Customer Focus was presented to and accepted by the Committee. It was acknowledged that this would represent a major programme of work, which would require careful planning and significant resources to deliver. For this reason, the Council subsequently agreed to adopt a three-phase approach starting with mobilisation, then discovery and ending with a design and implementation phase.

1.3 Phase one has already been completed which culminated in the production of the Blueprint for Customer Focus (Appendix 1) and an Outline Business Case.

1.4 Digital Services has also recently procured external assistance to help deliver a new ICT Strategy and this work will be aligned with the Customer Focus Discovery phase. A combined approach has the potential to optimise, transform and improve the services we deliver and ensure information and technology are properly positioned to enable the delivery of the Council’s key priorities.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- 1. The approach outlined in this report and that Deloitte has now been appointed to undertake the ‘Discovery Phase’ of the Customer Focus Corporate project. This phase of work is expected to be completed by mid-July 2018.**
- 2. Deloitte has also been appointed to assist with the delivery of a new ICT Strategy which will be aligned with the Discovery phase.**

3. Member engagement will begin with an initial Discovery workshop before further member engagement is arranged.
4. Preliminary meetings with external customer groups across the city is also being planned to gain insight into customer needs.
5. Deloitte will be holding a series of workshops across Departments. It is likely that the C&NS and Place & Economy departments will be targeted initially due to the higher levels of direct customer interaction that they experience.
6. The content of the draft 'Customer Charter' in appendix 2, to ascertain if it is 'fit for purpose' and can be used to provide a corporate framework to support the development of service specific customer standards.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Following recent procurement exercises, Deloitte has been appointed to support the council to undertake both the 'Discovery Phase' of the Customer Focus programme and the delivery of a new ICT Strategy. Initial project commencement meetings have already taken place over the past week and this phase of the project is expected to take 12 weeks culminating in a further update report being brought back to SP&R in August 2018.

3.2 Deloitte has identified that the proposed deliverables from the Customer Focus 'Discovery' phase include the following areas:

Deliverables	
Customer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customer Personas• Prioritised User Journeys
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain Points / Issues / Challenges• Prioritised Product Backlog• Minimal Viable Product• Solution Architecture

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Deliverables	
CRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain Points / Issues / Challenges • Prioritised Product Backlog • Proposed Solution Architecture
Contact Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Centre review and approach
Organisation Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation Impact • Benefits Management Plan • High Level Financial Analysis • High Level Risk Analysis
Implementation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicative Implementation Plan

- 3.3 To undertake the discovery phase Deloitte will need to directly engage with members, external customers and departments via a series of customer focus workshops. The majority of the internal workshops are to be held initially with the City & Neighbourhood Services and the Place and Economy Departments as they have been identified as having the highest levels of direct customer engagement.**
- 3.4 Representatives of the Customer Focus project team who co-ordinated the delivery of the Customer Focus Outline Business case make the necessary arrangements to coordinate these workshops over the coming weeks.**
- 3.5 The Customer Focus Project Team has already undertaken extensive research and benchmarking to support the delivery of the Customer Focus Project. A key finding from the research has indicated that alongside a corporate customer strategy, a corporate customer charter can act as a key driver to support the alignment of corporate and service specific customer standards; such as those recently developed for planning.**
- 3.6 In response to this, the Customer Focus team based on examples of best practice from across the UK has also**

developed a draft Belfast City Council Customer Charter for consideration. To ensure that the draft charter is aligned to the ongoing discovery phase, it will be fully considered and challenged through the work that Deloitte are currently undertaking. This is appended to this report as Appendix 2.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed in November 2017 that a budget of £500k be set aside to cover the costs associated with the implementation of the customer focus project.

3.8 It was also agreed by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in February 2018 that a Programme Director would be appointed to oversee the project and to develop a comprehensive improvement programme in line with the recommendations contained in the OBC.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy

The Committee noted the progress for the first stage of the Local Development Plan and the outline timetable for the production of the full plan.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Area Working Update

Minutes of the Area Working Groups

The committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area working Groups as follows:

- South Area Working Group of 23rd April;
- West Area Working Group of 26th April;
- North Area working Group of 30th April; and
- East Area working Group of 3rd May.

South Area Working Group

The Committee agreed to the recommendation of the South Area Working Group that a web page be introduced on the Council’s website to display the minutes of each of

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the Area Working Groups which would correlate with the publication of the audio recordings.

East Area Working Group

The Committee:

- noted that, in line with its previous decision, it would now be progressing option six as the future management option for the Templemore Baths, that is, to outsource the entire Templemore Baths to a single operator GLL;
- agreed to work with the Templemore Users Trust, with the aim of preserving their access to the existing pool once the project was completed (potentially through a rental agreement) and to ensure that they played an active role in telling the story of the Bath's vital role in the history of Belfast.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

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;
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to award the most economically advantageous tender;
- allowed month by month extensions where contracts were under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2;
- agreed to accede to Standing order 55(a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the Council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts laid out in Appendix 1, Table 3;

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Corporate Health & Safety Management System	Ronan Cregan	3 years +1
Security Support Renewal Services	Ronan Cregan	1+1+1
Grant Management	Ronan Cregan	4 years
Room Booking	Ronan Cregan	4 years

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Survey Tool	Ronan Cregan	4 years

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension
Provision of Pitch Drainage Services (T1278)	Nigel Grimshaw	Month by month until new contract is in place
Supply of Timber products (T1525)	Gerry Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place
Top Soil & sand Soil Mix (T1490)	Nigel Grimshaw	Extend for 3 months and then month by month until new contract is in place
Fertilizers, pesticides & grass seed (T1496)	Nigel Grimshaw	Extend for 3 months and then month by month until new contract is in place

Table 3 Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System / product	Supplier	Estimate
Housing benefits Software & Support (NIME Managed Service Contracts)	Northgate	£230,000
Mapping Agreement LPS	LPS - Ordnance Survey	£75,000
Premier Support (Gold)	Microsoft	£52,000
Oracle Site Licence	Oracle	£38,000
Development of a Bespoke Inclusive growth Framework for Belfast	Metro Dynamics	£35,000

Revaluing Properties for Business Rates – “Reval2020”

The Committee noted the contents of the Reval2020 fact Sheet which included information that would be requested from business rate payers during 2018.

Allowances for Civic Dignitaries for 2018-19

The Committee agreed not to increase the allowances payable to the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff for the 2018/19 year.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 18th May.

Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition

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 give consideration to hosting Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition in the Garden of Remembrance, City Hall to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. It is proposed that the exhibition take place from Thursday 23 August to Sunday 16 September 2018.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Consider the proposal to host the Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition in the Garden of Remembrance City Hall from Thursday 23 August to Friday 16 September. A commemorative installation to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, an event of international importance which will resonate around the world**
- **Agree a revenue budget of approximately £32,350 to host the Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition (breakdown provided in main report)**
- **Note that if agreed, further details on the launch event will be brought to Members in due course for consideration**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Shrouds of the Somme

- 3.1 Shrouds of the Somme is an extraordinarily powerful piece of commemorative art which marks the centenary of the end of the First World War in 2018. The enormous scale of the Shrouds of the Somme brings a genuine sense of the true cost of the conflict, whilst remembering those who gave their all as individual men.**
- 3.2 The objectives of the Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition are detailed as:-**
- To prompt remembrance and give meaning to the scale of loss
 - Engage the next generation
 - Build a lasting legacy for those lost
 - Raise funds for charities
- 3.3 Artist Rob Heard is hand stitching and binding calico shrouds for 72,396 figures representing servicemen of the British Empire killed at the Somme who have no known grave, many of whose bodies were never recovered and whose names are engraved on the Thiepval Memorial. Each figure is of a human form, individually shaped, shrouded and made to a name. The main event will take place on Armistice Day at Queen Elizabeth Park where the figures will be laid out shoulder to shoulder in hundreds of rows filling an area of over 4,000 sqm.**
- 3.4 Officers have been engaging with the Shrouds of the Somme team with a view to bring the exhibition to Belfast. The exhibition has travelled to other parts of the United Kingdom but has not been to Northern Ireland. The Shrouds of the Somme team would be very keen to work with Belfast City Council to display the exhibition in Belfast.**
- 3.5 Outcome from previous installations – Exeter and Bristol 2016**
- 145,000 visitors over 18 days
 - £52,000 raised for charities
 - Headline item on BBC National news
 - 14 million film views (not just reach) on social media

Belfast Proposal

- 3.6 Lay out of 3,762 shrouds to represent those from Ulster and Irish Regiments or from Belfast killed at the Somme with no known grave whose names are on the Thiepval Memorial.

Royal Irish Rifles	1,199
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	841
Royal Dublin Fusiliers	428
Royal Irish Fusiliers	343
Royal Irish Regiment	276
Royal Munster Fusiliers	230
Irish Guards	212
Leinster Regiment	112
London Irish/Rifles	60
Other Irish Regiments	5
From Belfast, other Regiments	53

- 3.7 It is proposed that a launch event for Shrouds of the Somme exhibition take place on the morning of Thursday 23 August with an invited audience. The event will take place in the Garden of Remembrance, weather dependent. Further detail on the format of the event will be presented to Members in advance. Initial thoughts centre around a sombre respectful event to include music, some poetry and speakers.
- 3.8 Following discussion with the Royal Ulster Rifles Museum there is tentative agreement for the loan of a Victoria Cross, Death Penny and Medals of Belfast Servicemen. These will be on display at the launch event and be located in a suitable location with the Belfast City Hall exhibition for the duration of Shrouds of the Somme exhibition to extrapolate the linkages between the Shrouds of the Somme exhibition in the grounds and Council's permanent exhibition.
- 3.9 It is proposed that the Shrouds of the Somme Exhibition will be open to the public from the afternoon of Thursday 23 August until Sunday 16 September. There will be 'set up' and 'take down' times incurred of a day or two each side of these dates.
- 3.10 The first official commemorative event to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War takes place on

5 November 2018 in the form of a cross laying ceremony. Given the particular significance of this year's anniversary it is important that the Garden of Remembrance looks its best, given the very recent completion of the accessibility works. It is likely that the grassed area in the Garden of Remembrance will need to be re-turfed following display of the Shrouds. At this time of year it is expected that it will take a period of 6 weeks for the grass to fulfil its potential.

- 3.11 Members are aware that there is a desire to see City Hall and the grounds utilised to their full potential for residents and visitors to the City. The Shrouds of the Somme exhibition has the potential to increase visitor numbers to City Hall. There is an opportunity to exploit linkages with the Belfast City Hall exhibition with a direct link to a City Commemorates Zone and the Belfast Volunteers & World War One Panel

'Bless the good fortune which brings us together, rich men and poor men, short men and tall. Some from the seaside and some for the heather. Townsman and countrymen, Irishmen all. Ulsterman, Munstermen, Connachtmen, Leinstermen, Faithful to Erin, we answer her call'.

Verse composed jointly by a Belfast member of the Ulster Volunteer Force and an Irish Volunteer from the Glens of Antrim and published in the Irish News 6 August 1914

- 3.12 Day-to-day management of the event will be facilitated by the staff of the Belfast City Hall exhibition. Staff will be briefed on the event and provided with information leaflets for distribution to visitors setting out the context and highlighting the role that Belfast volunteers played in World War One. The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum has agreed to work with Officers to select a number of individuals whose family history and background together with some biographic information can be included in a free information booklet and displayed on a weather proof interpretative panel to be located in the Garden of Remembrance.
- 3.13 Other Events Around the Main Installation

Schools Programme – The Shrouds of the Somme exhibition has huge potential from an education perspective. The Shrouds of the Somme team are working on the development of a free online schools resources materials in partnership with UCL and CWGC. If members were in agreement a letter could be sent to all secondary schools in

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Belfast to advise them of the dates for the exhibition should they wish to visit. To complement their visit, school groups can be offered a guided tour of City Hall and the permanent exhibition therein.

Ask the Nation Campaign – As a lasting legacy of the project – Shrouds of the Somme are ‘asking the nation’ to send photographs and stories of these men. Telling who they were, where they were from, what they did – to make them real, give them a sense of dignity to truly understand the scale of the loss of those who gave their all. Memories, stories and photographs collation through the CWGC digital archive <http://blog.cwgc.org/thiepval-stories>.

3.14 There is an opportunity for Public Relations Led Council Campaign with media release and social media used as the main platforms by Council.

3.15 Estimated Costs:-

Shrouds of the Somme Commission (includes installation, haulage, project management, expenses)	£10,000
Security for installation (one security operative working 24/7 supplied by an external security company)	£10,000
Re-turfing of grass in preparation for cross laying ceremony on 5 November 2018	£3,000
Customised interpretative panel to be located in Garden of Remembrance giving some background on the exhibition together with some background on a number of individuals	£5,000
Information leaflet/booklet – narrative around exhibition together with a number of individual’s history included	Design and printed in-house
Banners for City Hall Railings	£500

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Visit Belfast Island Digital Display Screen to include external screen and internal video wall	£1,600
Launch event to include hire of a sound system	£2,000
Research by Royal Ulster Rifles Museum	£250
Estimated Total	£32,350

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The costs will be met from existing 2018/19 departmental budgets.

Resources – Resources will be provided by Property & Projects and appropriate departments in arranging the event

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

General Data Protection Regulation

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the preparations by the Council for the new Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which would come into force on 25th May, 2018 and noted also the details in relation to training for Members.

Refurbishment of Committee Rooms

The Committee considered a report which provided details in relation to plans to refurbish the Lavery and Conor Committee Rooms during 2018/19. It was reported that some relatively minor redecoration of both areas took place back in 2009, however, no major refurbishment had taken place in either room for at least 20 years. The major elements of the refurbishment included replacement of the carpets and curtains; redecoration of the walls and ceilings; upgrading of the existing lighting; upgrading of audio visual plasma screens in the Lavery room only; the provision of bespoke wooden catering service units; and repairs to and re-varnishing of the committee tables and chairs.

The redecoration and some infrastructure works would be carried out in July during the summer recess. It was anticipated that some of the other refurbishment elements, for example, new carpets and curtains would have to be phased in later in the year. The refurbishment would not impact on the Committee meetings schedule, although

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there might be some minor disruption in relation to temporary finishes or a specific meeting might have to be moved to one of the function rooms in the City Hall.

The overall cost of the refurbishment was estimated to be in the region of £35k for both rooms. The majority of the costs had been allowed for in the Property Maintenance planned maintenance budget and the balance would be paid from the Facilities Management revenue budget.

The Committee approved the refurbishment and associated timetable and costs.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality up to 8th May as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
Open University	16 th May 2018	Good Friday Agreement Film Screening – Launch of video resource with interviews from main architects of agreement. Numbers attending - 40	B & C	No (Charity)	Yes – Wine up to £500	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i> No Charge Wine Reception
Belfast Met Boxing Academy	1 st June 2018	Boxing Weigh-In – Pre-event for main boxing match happening in Clayton Hotel. Visiting team from Sheffield University. Speeches and tour to follow. Numbers attending 50-100	A & C	Yes - £115	No	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i> Approve, Room Charge, No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Ulster University	9 th June 2018	UUJ GLOBAL DINNER – Dinner with welcome reception and entertainment to end 6 day series of events. Numbers attending 70-85	A & B	No	Yes - Wine up to £500.00	Approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	28 th June 2018	Miniversity – Careers Fair with corporate business displays and educational demonstrations for primary school children. Numbers attending 250	C	No, (Community)	No	Approve, No Charge, No hospitality
Belfast Pride	27 th July 2018	Belfast Pride Awards – LGBT Community awards ceremony. Drinks reception followed by presentations. Numbers attending 300-350	A, C & D	No, (Charity)	Yes – Wine up to £500.00	Approve, No Charge, Wine hospitality
Queen's University, Belfast	16 th August 2018	Faculty of Engineering Summer School Dinner – Farewell dinner to a number of visiting students from China who attended 4 week summer school. Numbers attending - 250.	A, B & C	Yes, £300	Up to £500.00	Approve, Room Charge, Wine Reception

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

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 10th May, 2018

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

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 19th April 2018.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

**Electronic Voting and Digital Display
at Council Meetings**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Corr Johnston requested that the Committee consider the following proposal:

“The Council agrees to explore the feasibility of and the costs associated with electronic voting and digital display at full council meetings. Through the mechanism of electronic voting Members would be enabled to cast their votes immediately and the results of which returned in a fraction of the time it takes to carry out a traditional recorded vote. Results would be displayed digitally through a large screen at the top of the chamber. A screen that could also be used to display proposals and amendments.”

The Committee agreed to explore the feasibility of and the costs associated with electronic voting and digital display at full Council meetings.

**Training in Social Media / Digital Resilience
for Officers and Members**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O’Neill requested the Committee to agree that a report on training in social media/digital resilience for officers and Members be submitted to a future meeting.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 8th May, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman McCoubrey; and
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Corr, Lyons, Magennis, Milne,
Murphy, McReynolds, Nic Biorna, Newton, 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 Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Baker, Corr-Johnston, Heading and McCusker.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th April and the special meeting of 16th April 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 May.

Declarations of Interest

- Councillor Newton declared an interest in agenda item 5 (a), viz, Street Naming; and
- The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) declared an interest in agenda item 5 (e), viz., Marie Curie Northern Ireland, in that she volunteered for the Charity.

Item Withdrawn from Agenda

Pride of Place Awards

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

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Motion – Greenway

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 9th April, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Dorrian and seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“That this council will support the further development of the Greenway strategy in Belfast, including assessing the benefits of a Sydenham Greenway, linking East Belfast and Holywood. Council will engage with potential partners to assess how such a strategy would be implemented, with focus on improving connectivity and benefiting health and well-being in our community.”

The Committee agreed that the following wording be added to the motion following the word Holywood ‘*and the development of the Greenway in West Belfast and the Shankill linking Belfast and Lisburn*’.

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

Motion - Children's Funeral Charges

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

“This Council, recognising that under the terms of the Children’s Funeral Fund, Councils in England and Wales do not charge parents the costs of burials or cremations. Accordingly, the Council agrees to waive all charges and costs relating to those services for children up to the age of eighteen.”

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

Restricted Item

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

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

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**Temporary Structure at
Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park**

The Committee agreed that the report be deferred to enable a more detailed report to be submitted to the June meeting of the People and Communities Committee.

Committee/Strategic Issues

People and Communities Committee Plan 2018 - 2019

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that it had held a workshop in March 2018 to focus on its priority areas of work for the year ahead and that it had subsequently agreed the draft Committee 'Plan on a Page' at its meeting held on 12th April.

He outlined that the draft Committee Plan had been drawn up to help maximise the Committee's role in delivering on the ambitions within the Belfast Agenda and in turn influence the priorities of the year two updated Corporate Plan and Annual Improvement Plan (which was currently out for consultation).

He explained that the engagement with Members had helped to build officers' understanding of the key issues to lead to more informed decision-making on the implementation of the actions contained within the plan and advised that a six monthly progress update would be submitted to the Committee.

The Committee approved the draft People and Communities Committee Plan for 2018-19.

**Youth Services - Cross Party
meeting with Education Authority**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that, in April 2017, an All-Party Deputation had met with the Chief Executive of the Education Authority and senior officials from the Youth Service in response to a Motion regarding the Council's concerns in respect of proposed cuts to the Youth Service in Belfast and the related impact on local youth organisations.

The Director advised that, at this meeting, the Members had highlighted issues regarding any reduction to youth service provision, particularly the impact on marginalised and disadvantaged areas of the City. They had also discussed the ongoing challenges in respect of issues such as suicide, mental health and educational attainment and the need for improved communication between the Youth Services and the Council.

The Members noted that, since this meeting, Council officers had met with officials from the Youth Service on a number of occasions and it was felt that this was helping improve collaborative service provision. Given this focus, it was suggested that the Committee might wish to seek a further meeting with the Education Authority in order to continue discussions regarding youth provision in the City.

The Committee agreed to seek an All-Party Deputation with representatives from the Education Authority.

Increased Awareness and Understanding of Health Conditions

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 bring to the Committee’s attention Notices of Motion regarding increasing awareness and understanding of health conditions – specifically anaphylaxis and epilepsy, which were raised by Council at its meetings on 1st February and 5th March, respectively; and
- Propose action to align awareness raising activities for both conditions to the Staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report; and
- Agree to the proposed action outlined.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The Notice of Motion regarding better support for people with anaphylaxis, moved by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor Long, centred on raising awareness of this condition and reviewing support and facilities available for people living with anaphylaxis, within Council amenities.

3.2 Anaphylaxis is a severe, life-threatening, generalised or systemic hypersensitivity reaction, which is characterised by rapidly developing, life-threatening problems involving; the airway and/or breathing and/or circulation (NICE Guidance: CG134). The most common causes of an anaphylactic reaction include: certain foods (including nuts or shell fish), insect stings and drugs and contrast agents (particularly those administered by injection).

- 3.3 The Food Information Regulations (NI) 2014, introduced legal requirements to ensure consumers are made aware of the allergenic ingredients in foods. The council is the relevant enforcement authority for these regulations. The Food Safety Unit provides guidance and support to all our local food businesses, including those within Council amenities, to build compliance with these requirements. That support includes:**
- **Providing businesses with an allergen compliance toolkit including guidance materials on how to manage allergens as well as information on what to do in the event of an a consumer having an allergic reaction. An allergen checklist and ingredient matrix are provided to help businesses keep track of potential food allergen risks;**
 - **The delivery of training and seminars for businesses on allergen management and the provision of allergen information to customers;**
 - **The Food Safety team monitor the compliance of the allergen requirements during routine inspections, they also investigate consumer complaints including those relating to allergic reactions to food. When necessary officers may use enforcement powers to secure compliance.**
 - **Where Food Safety Officers detect food that is unsafe, including food labelled with incorrect allergen information, they work collaboratively with the business and the Food Standards Agency to ensure the food is removed from the supply chain and to alert consumers.**
- 3.4 The Food Safety section of Council’s website also provides businesses and individuals with information on food labelling, including links to the FSA website, where individuals can register to receive allergen email or text alerts; information on current and previous allergen alerts; allergen information for businesses, including ‘Think Allergy’ posters and allergen signage and tips on planning an allergen free meal.**
- 3.5 Incidents of allergic reactions as a result of insect stings and risk factors associated with risk of stings are managed by Departments through accident reports and risk assessments. Corporate Health and Safety Unit provide support to Departments, to proactively identify hazards / risks and controls, for example during the recent introduction of new bee hives within Belfast Zoo. These measures aim to ensure adequate steps are taken to minimise the risk of exposure to insect stings and also that appropriate reporting / training / safeguards are in place. Anaphylaxis is also covered in First Aid**

at Work (Beginner and refresher) as well as Emergency First Aid courses.

- 3.6 The Notice of Motion regarding the circulation of information to Council staff and facilities, moved by Councillor Dorrian and seconded by Councillor Milne, centred on promoting better understanding of epilepsy and providing advice on how to react if assistance is required in an epileptic situation.
- 3.7 Within Northern Ireland, approximately 20,000 people have epilepsy. Epilepsy and how to deal with an epileptic seizure is taught as part of the 'Emergency First Aid at Work' training, which is a one day course, facilitated by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit. This training is available for staff across Council facilities and is linked to the First Aid Needs Assessment for the facility.
- 3.8 Through our Staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is led by the Corporate HR & OD Unit, Council has been proactively supporting staff to better understand a range of health related conditions, including coronary heart disease, some forms of cancer, diabetes and mental health. The aim of this has been to enable and encourage staff to make healthier lifestyle choices and better manage their own health. Key to this is increasing staff awareness and knowledge of health and wellbeing related conditions, including anaphylaxis and epilepsy.
- 3.9 It is proposed that linked to the Staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy, awareness raising activity on both anaphylaxis and epilepsy will be undertaken with staff, through a series of internal communication campaigns, including outreach activities across Council facilities. Associated awareness days linked to both conditions will also be included within the annual programme of health and wellbeing activities.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.10 The Council's contribution to this work is being undertaken within existing budgets and there are no additional financial implications.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.11 None."

The Committee agreed to the proposed actions to raise awareness of both anaphylaxis and epilepsy.

Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 18th April, the following key issues had been considered:

- update on a permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery; and
- update in respect of a request to film a historical drama at the Crematorium.

The Committee noted that the request to film had subsequently been withdrawn as the Company had sourced an alternative film location.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 18th April 2018.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Operational Issues

Street Naming

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

The Committee approved the application to rename an existing street in the City from Haddo Street to the new name Haddo Woods, Off Hospital Road, BT8.

At this stage in proceedings Councillor Newton returned to the table.

Dual Language

The Committee approved the application to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at Portland Place.

Girdwood Progress Report

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress to date at Girdwood Community Hub. This will include:

- i. General outline of the work of the Girdwood Hub Forum and its subsequent working groups.**

- ii. Overview of the animation programme, including the community, leisure and education programme, and
- iii. An update on the current position of the proposal to community manage the youth space.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the content of the progress report and
- ii. endorse the emerging business case to support the proprietary use of local community organisations to deliver a robust youth engagement and activity programme.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Girdwood Community Hub, which combines community facilities, a dedicated Youth Space, leisure facilities and educational outreach and training facilities, was developed with support from a capital grant award from SEUPB to support the Peace III priority of '*contributing to a shared society by creating public shared space*'. The Council managed the delivery of the hub project and the Department for Communities (DfC) are currently leading on the wider development of the Girdwood Park site. Girdwood Community Hub has the principles of shared space built into its core and, to enable the facility to benefit inter and intra community relations, the Council set up a dedicated Community Hub Forum whose role is to promote and help manage the hub as a welcoming, open, shared and safe space. The Girdwood Community Forum is chaired by the Council's Community Development Manager and has representation from 2 elected Members.

3.2 The key objective of the Hub is to be a shared space for all, offering an activity programme to support peace and reconciliation and facilitate sustained dialogue between local communities. The state of the art facility opened its doors to the public in January 2016 and is currently managed by the Council's leisure operator GLL with support from a Council Girdwood Community Engagement Officer. Current usage figures are:

- Hub Footfall 335,941
- Gym Visits 47,346
- Active Gym Members 491
- Male Users 54.1%

- Female Users 45.9%
- 3.3 Girdwood plays host to a wide range of events, conferences, performances and concerts and thus far has lived up to the community aspiration that it will become an International Centre for Peace and Reconciliation welcoming visitors from all over the globe. For example, the Hub recently welcomed members of the committee of Regional Development of the European Parliament. A representative group of 8 MEPs visited Northern Ireland on a fact finding mission to obtain information that will influence a report on 'the impact of cohesion policy in Northern Ireland'. The MEPs met with community reps, delivery partners and Council officers involved in service delivery at Girdwood Community Hub.
- 3.4 Community partners are agreed that Girdwood must impact positively on the lives of the local people by providing opportunities for improved health and wellbeing, higher attainment in education linked to employability and lifelong learning opportunities for children and young people. Programmes currently running to support this are:
- Pulmonary Rehab
 - Cardiac Rehab
 - Healthwise Programme
 - MacMillian Cancer Rehab
 - Princes Trust NEETS Programme
 - Essential Skills ICT
 - Level 2 – Early Childcare Learning
 - Level 1 – Phonics – assisting parents with reading for their children.
 - Girdwood Youth Forum
 - Afterschools Club
- 3.5 Girdwood has recently been named the disability hub for Belfast and supports the Active Living: No Limits 2021 action plan to improve health and wellbeing of people living with disabilities in Northern Ireland through participation in sport and active recreation.
- 3.6 In November 2017, the Council made its final formal monitoring submission to SEUPB. In the absence of this formal reporting the Council, along with its Hub Forum partners, have been reviewing how we can ensure continued robust reporting linked to our target outcomes. It was agreed that Girdwood Community Hub would adopt the Outcomes Based Accountability model (OBA) and agree 5 key outcomes that will allow us to measure: How much we do, How well we do it, and If anyone is better off? The agreed outcomes also support the

work emerging from both the Belfast Agenda and the Programme for Government. The Council is in the process of procuring technical support to draft a performance management framework for Girdwood and to support the collaborative recording, collation and reporting of information in year 1 of the implementation of an outcomes plan.

- 3.7 In order to progress activity in priority areas, the Girdwood Community Forum have established a number of working groups with membership drawn from members and with regular progress reports back to the full Forum.
- 3.8 Community Services support the *Youth Space and Community Management* group in the development of an activity programme for children and young people which is primarily housed within the dedicated Youth Space. The programme offer is diverse and makes use of the different and innovative aspects of the facility. Delivery is collaborative in nature involving local community youth providers, primarily funded by the Council and the Executive Office. The programme is agreed quarterly and includes sessions in arts, IT, sports, personal development and good relations and encourages access to other services within the Hub. The programme also includes outreach and detached work which aims to support local young people at risk, reduce ASB on site and encourage involvement in the Youth Space and Hub. The youth programme has developed and evolved and now offers activities 6 days a week
- 3.9 The Council's Good Relations Unit supports the work emerging from the *Shared Space and Programming* group. This group focuses on promoting the Hub as a shared space and centre for peace and reconciliation. The work of this group shapes an annual Shared Space action plan for the Hub and the wider site. The plan includes a series of shared space events, a sustained programme of shared space activities and a training and skills package for local community reps and volunteers to become better equipped to deliver the shared space action plan for Girdwood. The hub recently hosted its 2nd Spring into Girdwood event. Approximately 900 people were in attendance from the neighbouring areas who enjoyed activities such as bouncy castles, go karts, face painting, birds of prey display and much more. Future work will include the development of a Shared Space Charter for the hub and a short video demonstrating the success thus far.
- 3.10 Council's Community Safety section supports the work of the *Site Management* group. This group focuses on community safety and site management issues particularly linked to the sensitive nature of the site. It is at this forum where the issue of

anti-social behaviour and associated vandalism is addressed and plans are developed to design and implement effective interventions and programming to engage those who are harder to reach. Innovative programme design has contributed to a steady increase in participation and a positive decline in nuisance and antisocial behaviour since the hub first opened its doors. If we compare statistics from March 2017 with March 2018, the number of recorded incidents has reduced from 18 incidents to 2. A review of the current position including process, programming and interventions is currently underway and will inform the work of this group moving into the 2018/2019 season.

- 3.11 There is a stated ambition for the local community to develop their capability to support community management of the Hub in the future. In previous reports, Council agreed that a useful first step to grow confidence by all parties would be to develop and consider a Service Level Agreement for community management of the dedicated Youth Space. The Community Hub Forum sought expressions of interest from within their community membership and endorsed the outline proposal tabled by local community network North Talks Too (NTT). The Council provided external technical assistance to NTT to support the development of a detailed business case for future formal consideration by the Girdwood Community Forum. The proposal is still under consideration by community stakeholders pending resubmission to the Forum.
- 3.12 In the course of the process, two issues presented with regards to the Youth Space.
- i. Opening hours
Due to the location of the Hub and the recognised challenges in relationships between neighbouring communities, it is particularly important that the youth programme on offer is accessible when local tensions occur. This need is more likely to arise late evening and weekends, however, the opening hours of the facility in line with all GLL managed dry centres are 9am-9pm week days and 10am-4pm weekends. Current programme extends beyond these hours and requires the youth space to be accessible when the remainder of the building is closed.
 - ii. Health & Safety & Safeguarding
In addition community partners delivering the programme have raised concerns about toilet facilities being shared between Youth Space and main Hub building. This is specifically in terms of Health & Safety

and Safeguarding requirements. Groups have, via their risk assessment process, concluded that CYP using the Youth Space must be escorted to the toilets and this is adding considerably to the supervisory resources that groups must provide. It was determined the risk would be fully mitigated by provision of separate toilets within the Youth Space.

- 3.13 As a result, the Council undertook through their capital investment programme to make the necessary changes to the dedicated youth space to allow it to operate as a stand-alone facility and therefore ready for any potential community management agreement.
- 3.14 Since the renovations have been completed, a draft community management proposal has been presented to the Girdwood Community Forum for consideration and endorsement. At a special meeting in February, it was noted that Forum members are broadly supportive of the proposal and recognised the efforts and time invested by NTT in developing the proposal thus far. However the proposal was not endorsed and currently there are some community challenges in relation to the proposed governance of the emerging Girdwood Community Trust, who is the project sponsor. The North Area Working Group have received update reports and Council officers are continuing to support all parties involved to reach a resolution and move forward with a Forum endorsed submission to Council for formal assessment.
- 3.15 In the absence of a community management agreement for the youth space, Community Services will continue to support the youth programme as per the existing interim arrangements set out above. Given the extended time-frame, the procurement of services is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain on a quarterly basis. Given the importance of subsidiarity in the delivery of youth services at Girdwood, Council have supported a collaborative activity programme which is designed and delivered in partnership with local youth providers. Pending any award of an SLA for Youth Space management, and in line with Council procedure, officers are developing a business case to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services for approval under the scheme of delegation to procure services from the four neighbouring community/youth organisations - Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark, Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum and New Lodge. The Girdwood Hub Forum agree that the four neighbouring organisations are best placed to deliver a youth based engagement and activity programme in Girdwood Hub that will positively impact on the current aims and objectives around good relations, shared space and

interventions. Critically, these locally based youth organisations have the capacity and grassroots relationships to expedite a rapid response to youths causing annoyance and trends of heightened ASB in parallel to the delivery of an activity based programme that seeks to change the attitudes of the young people using the Hub.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.16 Programme resources are within service revenue estimates.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.17 None.”

The Committee endorsed the emerging business case to support the proprietary use of local community organisations to deliver a robust youth engagement and activity programme.

Traveller Liaison Progress

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to;

- Provide Members with an overview of the main findings and specific recommendations for local authorities proposed by the NIHRC in the ‘Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers’ Accommodation in Northern Ireland’ Report, March 2018.
- Outline a process through which Council can meet the proposed recommendations

1.2 The NIHRC initiated an investigation on Traveller’s accommodation following a scoping exercise concluded in June 2016. The Out of Sight, Out of Mind report was launched in March 2018 at City Hall. The report sets out a series of recommendations for Public Bodies and Local Authorities. There are four specific recommendations for Local Authorities to implement within the next twelve months.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee are asked :

- (i) To note the key recommendation and the implications for Council.

- (ii) To consider and agree the proposed steps to meet the recommendations put forward by the NIHRC.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key finding of the report:

- (i) The Commission found there were inadequacies in some laws, public authorities' policies and public authorities' practises, in the context of Traveller accommodation in NI. It confirmed that such inadequacies can dissuade and suppress a Traveller's culture, including the ability to exercise a nomadic lifestyle.

- (ii) The Commission found thirteen systemic Issues in:

- Domestic Legal Framework.
- Domestic Practise.
- Racial Discrimination.
- Race legislation.
- Resource availability
- Resource and Policy Accountability.
- Provision of Traveller-specific accommodation.
- Monitoring needs for Travellers accommodation
- Inadequacy of Traveller sites
- Participation
- Information on Travellers' accommodation
- Data collection
- Complaints mechanisms

Recommendations for Local Authorities

- 3.2 The report made four specific recommendations that should be implemented within twelve months.**

- (i) The NI Housing Executive, in conjunction with all relevant providers, should take steps to ensure that all required services are adequately available in practice within all Travellers' accommodation and that the provision of these services is sufficiently regulated. In particular, the NI Housing Executive should work with: the local Councils to ensure Travellers have regular refuse collection; with the electricity supplier to ensure Travellers have prompt and consistent access to electricity; and with the Royal Mail to ensure Travellers have adequate access to adequate postal services.
- (ii) Local councils should take reasonable steps to prevent undue delays in the planning application process

relating to Travellers' accommodation. They should also ensure that all planning decision-making processes are fair, impartial and transparent.

- (iii) Local Councils should take proactive reasonable steps to ensure Travellers' sites are licensed when required. Local Councils should regularly monitor the licensing of Travellers' sites and be aware when sites require a license, whether they are licensed and when the licence will expire. Local councils should ensure all licences meet the minimum standard of provision and safety as required by the model license, developed by the Department of Infrastructure.
- (iv) All local councils should be active members of the NI Local Government Partnership on Travellers Issues and should give consideration to developing or strengthening Traveller Forums to consider issues relating to Travellers, including accommodation.

3.3 BCC has collaborated extensively with NIHRC and contributed significantly during the research and feedback phases of the report process.

Next Steps- Responding to the Recommendations

3.4 Officers will continue to facilitate meaningful engagement with the Traveller Community and its representatives guaranteeing that Travellers are informed of the implications of the report, that their voices are heard and that they are actively involved in all processes which implement the NIHRC's recommendations.

3.5 In response to the specific recommendations:

- (i) Council currently works closely with relevant providers ensuring that service provision reaches the Traveller Community. We facilitate the Improving Outcomes of Travellers in Belfast Interagency Group consisting of statutory and voluntary sector organisations. It is proposed that a specific sub-group focussing on Traveller accommodation and related services will be formed and report to the Interagency Group.

Protocols have been established to deal with emergency situations regarding waste management and infestations. These protocols will be reviewed and communicated extensively.

Council's existing service provision for Travellers, that is, case work, advocacy, support, sign posting and play development, will be maintained and we will work closely with the community to identify and explore further services to meet articulated needs.

- (ii) & (iii) **None of the existing Traveller sites in Belfast have a current License. It is proposed that the Traveller Liaison Officer (TLO) will facilitate the development of a working group consisting of all relevant officers with internal expertise (and external if required e.g.NIHE). The group will include officers from Legal services, Planning, Environmental Health, Community Services, Health and Safety and Community Safety. This group will take proactive steps to scope the need for licences for all relevant sites (3) and develop an action plan to secure same.**

To ensure consistency with other Council areas, the TLO will liaise with other Local Authorities by sharing information on regular basis.

- (iii) **Council is an active member of the LSPTI. Two BCC elected members have been nominated and two officers are selected on to the Executive Committee (Traveller Liaison Officer and Principal Environmental Health Officer).**

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.6 Officer time- representation on external bodies, attendance at internal meetings and any follow up work relevant to the actions of the internal officers group.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.7 There are no Equality Implications to this report."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Marie Curie Northern Ireland

The Committee was reminded that representatives from Marie Curie NI had presented its case for a whole society approach to end of life care at a special meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 16th May.

The Assistant Director outlined that Marie Curie had presented the need for a whole society approach to end of life care as it recognised the limitations to clinical care and service provision. It had also advocated the need to consider the need to provide non-

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clinical support in a community setting, treating care as a civic responsibility to be shared by everyone. This approach required social efforts from across society to improve health in the face of terminal illness, caregiving and bereavement. Central to this approach was the recognition that care was not solely the responsibility of Health and Social Care services.

At the meeting, representatives of Marie Curie had sought the Council to endorse the benefits of a whole society approach to end of life care and asked it to consider supporting Marie Curie's ambition of hosting a partnership event in the City Hall, which would seek to raise awareness of the issues around terminal illness and a whole society approach to end of life care.

The Committee:

- agreed that officers would engage further with Marie Curie NI to consider the necessary action required to support Marie Curie NI hosting a partnership event in the City Hall;
- noted that this would include progressing the appropriate steps to secure the use of the City Hall and to raise awareness of the event and the whole society approach to end of life care across all relevant forums; and
- noted that an update report would be submitted in due course.

Woodvale Park Cultural Celebrations - July 2018

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Twaddell and Woodvale Residents' Association seeking permission to hold a three-day programme of cultural celebration in Woodvale Park. The officer reported that, for a number of years, the group had been an active participant on the bonfire programme and that in 2007 it had been involved in the design of the Bonfire Beacon as an alternative to the traditional 11th July bonfire. It had successfully ran this event from 2008, attracting over 1000 people and for the past number of years the group had successfully used a bonfire frame instead of a beacon. The officer explained that the group was again intending to design and deliver a cultural event in Woodvale Park from 9th July to 11th July. She explained that the event would be designed around interventions and would seek to engage local youths and the community in activities such as soccer tournaments, which would be provided by Live for Sport. The final day would see Woodvale Park play host to a family fun day celebration. The officer detailed that the Twaddell and Woodvale Residents' Association was seeking permission to construct a framed bonfire within the park and to stage associated community activities as part of its ongoing efforts to transform bonfires within the wider locality.

It was reported that the event organiser was also identifying ways in which the event could be built upon and expanded and that details of this would be included in a citywide report that would be submitted to a meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee granted authority to Twaddell and Woodvale Residents' Association to hold a three-day programme of cultural celebration in Woodvale Park in July 2018, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

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- the event organiser ensures that all health and safety requirements are met to the Council's satisfaction, including an event management plan, risk assessments and public liability insurance; and
- the event organiser meets all statutory requirements, including entertainments licensing.

Proposed Enforcement Mechanism – Microbeads

The Assistant Director detailed that the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) was involved in a UK-wide project to ban the manufacture and sale of cosmetic products containing microbeads. DAERA proposed to introduce bans using powers in Article 32 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997.

The Committee was advised that the Council had received a letter from the Permanent Secretary of DAERA seeking the Council to permit staff to be authorised by the Department for the purposes of enforcing the ban in the Belfast area. It was anticipated that the legislation would come into force in July 2018.

The Assistant Director confirmed that this request could be accommodated within existing work streams.

The Committee agreed to regulatory officers in the Environmental Health Service being authorised by DAERA, for the purposes of assisting with the enforcement of the proposed legislation to ban the manufacture and sale of rinse-off cosmetic products containing plastic microbeads.

Planting of a 'living Christmas tree' at Belvoir Drive

The Assistant Director advised that Belvoir Residents' Group had sought permission to plant a 'living Christmas tree' at Belvoir Drive, Belvoir Estate.

The Committee was advised that the group wished to purchase a 10-12 foot Norway Spruce, subject to satisfactory terms in line with the Council's Arboriculture Officer and to be agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.

The Committee granted permission to the Belvoir Residents' Group to plant 'a living Christmas tree' at Belvoir Drive, subject to terms to be agreed by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.

**Attendance at the Material Recycling World:
National Recycling Awards**

The Committee granted authority for the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, the incoming Chairperson and the incoming Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) to attend the annual National Recycling Awards (NRA) in the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London on 28th June.

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Request regarding Homeless Jesus sculpture

The Committee was advised that a request had been received regarding the possibility of siting a bronzed sculpture entitled 'Homeless Jesus' on a bench outside the City Hall to raise awareness of homelessness within the City. The request had also asked that consideration be given in respect of a procession to the City Hall

The Committee granted approval for officers to consult with the Shared City Partnership to explore the request and noted that a further report would be submitted to the relevant Committee in due course.

Flora Street

The Committee was reminded that Flora Street Play Park was one of the structures that had been included within the third phase of the consultative naming process to name six new structures that had been constructed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway.

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from the Eastside Partnership seeking permission to rename Flora Street Walkway Play Park to Friendship Play Park.

The Members were reminded that, in August 2017, the Committee had been informed that a decision had been made to omit the play park at Flora Street from the final vote stage of the cumulative naming process to name six new structures which were being constructed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway after one of the preferred name options had been identified as being ineligible in respect of aspects of the Council's naming policy. Eastside Partnership had since advised the Council that they had liaised with a local Community Youth Worker in Avoniel Play Centre (with 30 over thirty years' service) and she had suggested that the play park be renamed 'Friendship Play Park' to reflect how the play park and other facilities in the area, such as the play centre, primary school and leisure centre all encouraged friendship and play amongst children and young people in the community.

The Committee agreed to proceed to carry out the necessary consultation on the proposed name change of Flora Street Walkway Play Park to Friendship Play Park as it met the criteria of the Council's (re)naming policy.

**Department of Health Consultation –
Amendments to Fire Service and Rescue Order 2006**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Department of Health opened consultations on 9 April 2018 on proposals to make amendments to the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. The consultation period**

ends on 3 June 2018. This paper provides background information and includes a draft response, for Members' approval.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is;

- Invited to consider and endorse the draft consultation response.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 At the meeting of 13 October 2015, the Committee approved a response to a consultation from the Department for Social Development Committee on the (then) proposed Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Bill. The response included the following City Council concerns regarding Fire Safety Measures proposed in the Bill:

The Council requested that the Bill and any future regulation/guidance allow for the Councils and NIFRS to agree local arrangements and protocols around the regulation and enforcement of Fire Safety in HMO's'.

3.2 The Department of Health is now proposing to make amendments to the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

3.3 The operation of the HMO licensing scheme will be the responsibility of councils. Councils will carry out all the checks/inspections (including fire safety) required to license or otherwise an HMO.

3.4 In order to facilitate the provisions and policy intent of the HMO Act, the Department of Health proposes to amend the 2006 Order to allow the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to delegate fire safety inspection for 'relevant premises' rather than just 'work places' which the current Article 33.(5) specifies.

3.5 Under the current registration scheme the regulation of Fire Safety matters is the responsibility of the NIHE HMO team. These amendments would mean that the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer could authorise suitably trained and competent Council staff to undertake fire safety inspections in HMOs. This will allow for the existing arrangements to be continued into the new Licensing Regime.

- 3.6 A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be agreed between local councils and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS). The memorandum will include a detailed training and competency framework in relation to Fire Safety Inspections, Auditing, Enforcement and the handling of evidence in accordance with Police & Criminal Evidence NI Order 1989 (PACE) for designated HMO officers.
- 3.7 A draft response to the consultation paper is attached as Appendix 1 (below). The draft response supports the amendments as being necessary and sufficient to achieve the requirements outlined.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.8 It is anticipated that all costs associated with the new HMO licencing scheme will be met by fee income.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.9 No equality or Good Relations implications have been identified.”

Appendix 1

Draft response

Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a detailed response to this consultation.

The proposals to make amendments to the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 is of particular importance to the Council for the following reasons:

Background

Article 50 of the Order of 2006 gives the meaning of a relevant premise, Article 50(1)(a) excludes domestic premises from the definition of a relevant premise and Article 50.(6) for the purposes of Article 50.(1) provides a definition of a domestic premise. This has the effect of removing responsibility for fire safety inspection and enforcement in common areas that exist in flats and apartment blocks (stairs, passageways, gardens and yards etc.) of domestic premises from NIFRS.

The City Council understands that the Department see this as a significant risk, and notes that the Department proposes to make NIFRS responsible for fire safety enforcement in the common areas of domestic premises such as flats and apartment blocks.

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The Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act received Royal Assent in May 2016.

The operation of the HMO licensing scheme will be the responsibility of local District Councils. District Councils will carry out all the checks/inspections (including fire safety) required to license or otherwise a HMO.

The Department of Communities are working towards the implementation of the HMO Act with a commencement date of the 1 April 2019.

To facilitate the provisions and policy intent of the HMO Act the Department of Health proposes to amend the 2006 Order to allow the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to delegate fire safety inspection for “relevant premises” rather than just “work places” which Article 33.(5) specifies.

Additionally Article 33.(3) and 52.(1) only empowers “fire and rescue officers” to undertake fire safety / enforcement inspections, by amending both Articles to “people” this will allow the delegation of authority to suitably trained and competent District Council staff to undertake fire safety inspections in HMOs.

Amendments

To amend Article 50.(6) to exclude common parts from the definition of domestic premises

To amend Article 33.(5) from “workplaces” to “relevant premises”

To amend Articles 33.(3) and 52.(1) from “fire and rescue officers” to “persons”

What it means

The City Council welcomes the proposal that the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer can authorise suitably trained and competent District Council staff to undertake fire safety inspections in HMOs. This will allow for the existing arrangements to be continued into the new Licensing Regime.

The City Council welcomes the proposal that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be agreed between local councils and NIFRS. The memorandum will include a detailed training and competency framework in relation to Fire Safety Inspections, Auditing, Enforcement and the handling of evidence in accordance with PACE for designated HMO officers.

Views sought on the proposals

The consultation document consults on the proposal to make amendments to the Fire and Rescue Service (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, which the City Council welcomes, and responds to the following questions:

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Tuesday, 8th May, 2018**

- Q1. Do you agree that the proposed amendments are necessary to achieve the requirements outlined previously? - **The Council is satisfied that the amendments are necessary.**
- Q2. Are the proposed amendments sufficient to achieve the requirements outlined previously? **Subject to a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) being agreed between the NIFRS AND local Councils. Belfast City Council is satisfied that the amendments are sufficient to achieve the requirements outline in the consultation document. It should be noted that any MOU will be subject to any future fee income being set at a level that will ensure full cost recovery.**

The Committee endorsed the draft response to the Department for Health consultation, relating to Amendments to the Fire Service and Rescue Order 2006.

Belfast International Arts Festival

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **This report outlines a series of proposed outdoor events, delivered by large arts organisations, in partnership with the Council. Each event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve the funding subject to an agreed programme of events**
- **Approve the closure of facilities as required for the set-up, delivery and take-down of the events, resolving all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;**
- **Agree that the Town Solicitor prepares appropriate legal agreements for the programme;**
- **Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing responsibilities; and**
- **Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issue

3.1 Following discussions with officers a programme of events has been proposed for October 2018 with Belfast International Arts Festival.

3.2 The Council has received a proposal from Belfast International Arts Festival to deliver a programme of free, family-focussed events in the following locations: City Hall grounds and Falls Park. This programme rotates around the city and was in CS Lewis Square in 2017.

3.3 This includes two performances at each location of:

Handle with Care created by the Spanish company, Diana Gadish's interactive and warm hearted street show that explores visibility and invisibility in everyday life. They are currently in dialogue with several other potential artists and ensembles to join the double bill including Story Machine's new version of Kumkum Malhotra (Look How We Disappear) by award winning Indian author Preti Taneja and Cie Dyp tik's D Construction, an outdoor hip hop spectacle from France.

3.4

- The final locations are determined by health and safety requirements of the performers – there may be some minor changes to final locations;
- The events 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 A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services

Financial & Resource Implications

3.5 Funding for the programme has been budgeted for in the 2018/9 estimates at £20k.

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.

3.6 Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Appointment of Public Analyst

The Committee approved the appointment of the following suitably qualified person as Public Analyst to the Council under Article 27(1) of the Food Safety Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1991: Michelle Lesley Evans BSc, MChemA, MRSC.

Waste Framework – Waste Collection Arrangements

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide an update on the waste collections work stream within the Waste Framework and, following on from a preliminary consultation exercise, outline the next steps to determine public opinion and support the development of the Circular Economy in Belfast.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (a) note the contents of the report
- (b) receive a presentation from USEL outlining the current mattress recovery operations
- (c) approve holding a facilitated workshop for Members in June to develop a consultation document which will be published on Citizen Space in summer as part of the consultation exercise, along with supplementary activities.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Last June, the Committee approved the Waste Framework document. This showed that on current performance, the Council would not meet the 50% recycling target by 2020 and

that a paradigm shift was needed to affect major change. It provides an overview of several options which could be taken to improve how waste could be managed within the city over the next decade in order to deliver the challenging targets (NILAS compliance/landfill diversion and 50% household recycling by 2020). It has been developed to align with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and emerging Resourceful Belfast (Circular Economy) document, which outlines the contribution which waste and resources management can make in supporting jobs and the local economy.

3.2 The Waste Framework focuses on four areas: (i) Collection Arrangements, (ii) Infrastructure, (iii) Behaviour Change and (iv) Technology. Following consideration of the report, Members made a number of points on engaging with schools and maintaining facilities and specifically highlighted that:

- (a) they would welcome an opportunity to input into the drafting of the final consultation document and
- (b) the importance of the '*Circular Economy*' around creating and maintaining jobs should be emphasised

3.3 This report is designed to provide an update on the results of the preliminary consultation exercise, completed in 2017/18 and to seek approval to undertake a more comprehensive exercise in the summer on the collection arrangements work stream following engagement with Members.

3.4 *Pre-Engagement Consultation* – Resident buy-in is essential if the proposed scheme is to deliver on the goals of; quality materials, improved value for money, increased recycling and supporting jobs. Waste Management engaged the Consultation Institute and Social Market Research (SMR) to ensure that the preliminary public engagement and research exercise was deemed suitably objective and robust. Outcomes will be presented at the workshop. Some positive examples include:

- More efficient than the current range of separate bins and boxes
- Less opportunity for stacked boxes to get blown/kicked about than the current recycling boxes
- Better separation of waste leading to improved quality of recycled materials
- Weekly collection of food and recyclables (including glass) from residents' doorstep
- Uniform system across almost all of the city (a limited number of apartments may still require a bespoke solution) leading to simpler communications/less confusion.

- Less contamination leading to improved quality of materials which could be used by local re-processors, thereby maintaining and developing local jobs.
 - Higher quality materials could mean greater levels of income than achieved from blue bins.
- 3.5 Next Steps – For the next stage of the consultation process Waste Management proposes holding a facilitated workshop with Members in June to develop a consultation document which, following completion, would be launched in the summer over a twelve week period using the Council’s Citizen Space portal. This consultation exercise would be supplemented with a roadshow to permit interested residents to learn more about waste and resources management in Belfast and how changes to waste collection would contribute to the Belfast Agenda through the maintenance and creation of jobs connected with recycling and the wider Circular Economy opportunities.
- 3.6 Waste Management would conduct this consultation stage in parallel with taking proposals to amend waste collection through the Capital Programme to ensure that whichever option is chosen, it could proceed in a timely manner.
- 3.7 Further as the Waste Framework highlights that, based on business as usual, the Council will not meet the 50% recycling target by 2020, Members are advised that discussions and communications are ongoing with DAERA on potential fund applications in relation to the roll-out of waste and resource arrangements.
- 3.8 Looking ahead, and as recognised within the Waste Framework, the Council needs to affect a significant shift in behaviour of its residents to focus on gathering quality materials, rather than simply delivering ever-increasing weight based goals. Adopting such an approach will mitigate against market volatility, optimise income from sale of recyclables and support local jobs.
- 3.9 Several neighbouring councils are similarly either considering, or have started, implementing the kerbside approach (Option B). In Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, approximately 12,000 households have transferred onto the new scheme while Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) have stated that this collection scheme (with the exception of 3 weekly residual) aligns with their direction of travel. LCCC conducted a Members’ study tour to some Welsh councils who implemented similar schemes last year.

- 3.10 It is notable that within the UK administrations, Wales has been the top recycler for several years and exceeded 52% in 2016/17 (adjusted to reflect common terminology and datasets).
- 3.11 *Social Enterprise and link to economy* - As emphasised above, the aim of introducing new collection arrangements is to ensure that the Council can make better use of the materials which residents set out for recycling or disposal. To that end, Waste Management has been leading a cross-Departmental working group along with Economic Initiatives, Procurement Unit and others called Resourceful Belfast to consider what materials should be targeted. Currently, a number of waste streams are being researched which include (i) food waste (ii) electrical/electronic waste (iii) textiles and (iv) furniture (Priority Waste provides a new opportunity for the recovery and reuse of bulky waste as it is generally cleaner and easier to recover).
- 3.12 One of the most recent successes has been the work done with Ulster Supported Learning (USEL). Arising from a pilot with USEL in 2015, the Council contracted for a novel recovery operation in 2016, which last year resulted in 14,000 mattresses being diverted from landfill and taken apart for recycling or reuse. These have contributed to the creation of 22 jobs and has led to further materials being considered, including carpets and possibly soft furnishings. Last month, Waste Management was selected as '*Partner of the Year*' 2018 by USEL. In order for Members to get a better insight into what is involved in mattress recovery (and the Circular Economy), a senior executive from USEL is available to give a brief presentation.
- 3.13 Members may also care to note that several of these social enterprises have expressed an interest in developing facilities at the North Foreshore/Dargan area, discussions are underway on these prospects.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.14 *Finance* - A transition to a new, uniform, collections arrangement will require capital investment in terms of containers and vehicles. DAERA is currently preparing the business case regarding these collection arrangements in conjunction with their budgetary allocation process. Given the absence of devolved government at Stormont, the time line on this Government support is unknown.
- 3.15 At the SP&R Committee meeting of 20 April 2018, it was agreed that the new kerbside collection arrangements should be added to the Capital Programme as an Uncommitted Project. The Outline Business Case (OBC) is being worked up and will be

brought back to next stage of the governance arrangements of the capital programme.

3.16 Resources – Given the breadth of work involved in the transition and implementation of such an operational change, it is likely that additional resources will be needed to ensure that business-as-usual is delivered with minimal disruption while the programme of work outlined in the Waste Framework is enacted over the next five years or so. As part of Resourceful Belfast (Circular Economy), the Council entered into a collaborative agreement with WRAP and this may provide access for some of these resources. Further reports will be brought to Committee on this as it progresses.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee:

- agreed to hold a facilitated workshop for the Members during June to assist with the development of a consultation document which would be published on Citizen Space in the summer as part of the consultation exercise; and
- agreed that a presentation would be received at the workshop by representatives from Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL) regarding its current mattress recovery operations.

Last Meeting

Councillor Sandford referred to the fact that this had been his last meeting in the role of Chairperson, as his replacement was due to be appointed in June, and thanked the Members and officers for their support over the previous year.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 25th April, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and Councillor Johnston.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

MJM Group

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 7th February, it was reported that Mr. Brian McConville, Ms. Deborah Loughran and Mr. Barry McStravick, MJM Group, were in attendance to provide an overview of the company's property investments within the city and on its plans to develop a new high value industry fitting out cruise ships in the Belfast Harbour.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed the deputation to the meeting.

Ms. Loughran proceeded to outline the background to the organisation. She explained that Mr. McConville had started his primary business, MJM, 35 years ago. The MJM group had now grown into a £60m turnover business specialising in the interior fitout of cruise ships boasting the largest cruise liners in the world as its customers. In 2018 the company has ambitious plans for further growth having just recently completed its first drydock project in China and in bringing the first cruise ship refit of its scale to Belfast. Five years previously Mr. McConville had brought in two members of the next generation of his family into the business. She pointed out that the McConville family also owned Antrim-based specialist fitout business, Mivan, the former Shakleton Barracks in Ballykelly and an extensive property portfolio.

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Ms. Loughran stated that the McConville family promoted the “Northern Ireland PLC” economic agenda at the highest levels. They had business interests right across Northern Ireland including:

- MJM Group in Newry employing more than 240 people;
- Mivan in Antrim employing 160 people;
- The 620 acre former Shakleton Barrack site in Ballykelly , Limavady, which was currently shortlisted for the Heathrow Hub bid; and
- Damolly Retail Park in Newry; Drumkeen Retail Park and Galwally House in Belfast; housing developments; farms and development property in Antrim, Rathfriland; Helen’s Bay and Newry.

She explained that the McConville family strongly respected the vital importance of Belfast as a capital city and as a place of energy, optimism and ambition and, as such, wished to contribute to the Belfast Agenda. Through working with the stakeholders to make history and mark heritage, it was committed to delivering quality projects which supported the wider objectives of the city.

The current primary interests of the company was as follows:

- The reinvigoration of the shipping and ship repair industry in Belfast;
- The restoration and redevelopment of Clarence Chambers; and
- The renewal of Pearl Assurance House House.

Ms. Loughran explained that MJM was making history by bringing the Azamara, Pursuit, a cruise ship, to Belfast for a complete refit. She pointed out that it was a game changer in the industry and that the eyes of the marine world were on Belfast. There would be hundreds of people working on board delivering the repair and refit work and up to 600 crew on board before the ship sailed from Belfast to Southampton. The Company’s ambition was to make Belfast a home port, whereby cruise ships would be permanently based in Belfast.

With regard to the projects in the city centre, she stated that the company wanted to support and build on Belfast’s rich legacy of heritage architecture by bringing back to life buildings which had lacked investment for many years. They proposed to deliver grade A and B office accommodation in both Clarence Chambers and in Pearl Assurance House, as well as restaurants, cafes and leisure offerings to support the core of Belfast centre as a destination in itself.

Ms. Loughran stated that Clarence Chambers had been build in 1830 by John Workman, a ship owner, initially as residences, but then converted into office accommodation. This site was listed as Grade B1. It was currently 427m sq. arranged over five floors, four of which were set out as offices, with the basement as a bar/restaurant. It was a prime city location next to the City Hall and city centre retail core. The proposal in place was to restore the existing building and add more than a 1500m sq. extension over nine floors, comprising of a restaurant, bar and prime Grade A office space. With regard to Pearl Assurance House, it had been built between 1899-1902 and was of historical importance and was currently listed as Grade B1. It has been built in red sandstone, had a tall pinnacle corner tower and three-tiered oriel window. The building

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had a series of fine shopfronts around its base, with beautiful decorative stone filigree-work around the windows. The site footprint was approximately 400m², currently arranged over six floors in total, including the basement and mezzanines. It was arranged as offices over all the floors, with the exception of retail at ground/first floor mezzanine levels. All the tenants were currently on short lease terms while the company worked through ideas to bring the building back to life.

Ms. Loughran concluded by stating that MJM was a progressive, forward thinking organisation, with a commitment to continually promoting Northern Ireland's potential and delivering on its objectives. It was fully committed to supporting Belfast City Council in its quest to delivering the Belfast Agenda and with its ambitious plans for the Lagan Corridor and the Core of the City it hoped to be part of that delivery

The deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members in relation to the proposals which had been outlined and the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked them for the presentation and they retired from the meeting.

NI Water

The Committee was advised that, in accordance with the decision of 7th February, Dr. Stephen Blockwell, NI Water, was in attendance to provide an update on the investment which it was making within the city.

Dr. Blockwell commenced by outlining the work undertaken by NI Water in relation to Wastewater services. He proceeded to outline the Capital Investments which had been made by NI Water over the previous four years and how much Belfast City Council benefited from that. He then reviewed the current Investments in relation to projects in construction or recently completed and those projects which were about to commence, subject to available funding. He then provided details in relation to the Wastewater Projects for 2018/19 which included:

- Upper Newtownards Road flood Alleviation £3m
- Belfast Streets Ahead Sewer Rehabilitation £3m
- Queens Bridge Siphons Repairs £5m
- McClintock Street new development sewers £0.8m
- Ormeau Avenue/Dublin Road £5.8m and
- Greystown Avenue and Upper Malone Road Flood Alleviation £2.9m

Dr. Blockwell then reviewed some of the customer improvements which NI Water had undertaken. This included customer feedback, customer communications, through a new website, a text messaging and call-back service. He then outlined the current public initiatives including: social media campaign to encourage people to drink more tap water; water theft – unauthorised connection; problems in relation to fats, oils and grease; a bag it and bin it campaign and winter awareness campaign in relation to pipe protection.

He concluded by stating that NI Water was a funding partner of the Northern Ireland Year of Infrastructure 2018 (Infra 2018). It was involved in creating better awareness amongst the Northern Ireland public of how infrastructure transformed our lives; and held major themed events throughout the year.

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Dr. Blockwell then answered a number of questions from the Members and retired from the meeting.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 9th May, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Regeneration
and Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th April 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 May.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Matters Referred Back from Council

Motion - Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st May, had considered the following motion which had been proposed by the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and seconded by Councillor Long:

"This Council acknowledges the ever growing importance of relations between Belfast City and Dublin City as the main economic drivers within each jurisdiction. Furthermore, regardless of the outcome of negotiations around Brexit, it is imperative that relations continue to flourish between both cities, to the mutual benefit of all along this increasingly significant economic corridor.

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Accordingly, this Council agrees to establish a joint plan around co-operation regarding working relationships within the economic corridor. Going forward, this Council commits to ensuring key areas of progress and collaboration focussing on:

- A complementary approach to inward investment and job growth;
- Achieving Inclusive growth; and
- Developing Infrastructure and connectivity.”

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

A Member stated that he remained to be convinced about the importance of the 100 mile corridor between Belfast and Dublin, given that a large portion of it was rural.

A further Member advised the Committee that the motion sought to build on the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding, which aimed to maximise the potential of the economic corridor between both cities. Another Member added that it was important to build on the relationship with Dublin, particularly in light of Brexit.

After discussion, the Committee endorsed the motion and agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting, providing an update on work which had been undertaken.

Presentations

Project Hope and Transport Hub Alternatives Group

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Billy Dickson and Mr. Declan Hill to the meeting, who were representing the Transport Hub Alternatives Group.

Mr. Hill stated that he was an architect and, while he agreed that the proposed Transport Hub would be a brilliant investment in the city, he and Mr Dickson had some concerns regarding the new station. He explained that the proposed design would require passengers to cross two main roads in order to access it from the city centre. He presented the Committee with a number of drawings, whereby the Boyne Bridge was maintained for vehicular use, with the pedestrian entrance to the new station beneath it.

Mr. Dickson outlined to the Committee that the Transport Hub Alternatives Group wanted to see the Boyne Bridge retained in the development of the new Transport Hub as it would also connect the Hub with neighbouring Sandy Row. The Members were advised that they had submitted their concerns and engaged with the Department for Infrastructure on the proposed design.

A Member stated that he had concerns that the Department’s proposed design could block further economic development in Sandy Row and that it should consider ways in which it would link inner city communities to the new Hub.

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In response to a further Member's question, the Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development informed the Committee that Translink had agreed to put the proposed design of the Transport Hub onto VUCITY at an early stage so that people could understand the impact and design of the Hub.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Hill and Mr. Dickson for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Tom Ekin, Chair, Mr. Rajesh Rana and Ms. Glenda Davies from Project Hope to the meeting.

Mr. Ekin advised the Committee that Project Hope was a group of stakeholders who had come together in response to the plans for the new Transport Hub/Weavers Cross. He explained that it was made up of representatives from businesses, arts venues, investors, trade associations and community groups. He explained that all Members of Project Hope welcomed the new Hub and wanted it to be as successful as possible.

Ms. Davies added that she wanted to see community benefits from the scheme, and highlighted to the Members that meaningful engagement with stakeholders in the area, beyond the statutory requirements, was important to ensure it was a long-term success. She added that Project Hope wanted to see a successful mixed-use development on the site.

Mr. Rana explained that he was keen to see benefits and investment in the south west of the City, particularly in the short and medium term, given the high numbers of vacant sites in that area. He advised the Members that Project Hope had commissioned a study of car parking availability in the City. He explained that, while he understood the importance of encouraging the use of more sustainable transport methods, 50% of current car parking spaces in the area could be lost over the next few years. He explained that Project Hope believed that the current levels of public parking in the area needed to be maintained and increased to meet the needs of the proposed development and that it was particularly opposed to the removal of the multi-storey carpark.

During discussion with the Members, Ms. Davies highlighted that she wanted to see residential parking schemes introduced to improve and enhance the Sandy Row and Donegall Road communities.

A Member stated that Project Hope should investigate ways in which Section 76 Developers' Contributions could best be used in the area for the advantage of the community.

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development informed the Committee that the Council was establishing a Stakeholder Reference Group in order to encourage engagement between the Department for Communities, the Department for Infrastructure, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), the Council and other relevant stakeholder groups.

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After further discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives from Project Hope for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Request to Present to Committee

Request to Present - Transport NI

The Committee was advised that Transport NI was required to present to the Council bi-annually on the works which it had carried out in the Belfast area. A request to present to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee was submitted every six months and Transport NI had recently requested to present its Spring Report to the Committee.

In order to streamline the process, the Committee was requested to consider granting authority for Transport NI to present twice annually to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, to which all Members would be invited to attend, on an ongoing basis.

The Committee:

1. acceded to a request from Transport NI to present to a future meeting, to which all Members would be invited to attend; and
2. agreed that Transport NI be granted authority to present twice each year to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, to which all Members would be invited to attend, on an ongoing basis.

**Request to Present - Destination Hub,
Outline Business Case**

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development reminded the Committee that the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS) recommended that serious consideration be given to developing an international visitor destination in the city centre to complement Titanic Belfast. She explained that the Council, in partnership with Tourism NI, had commissioned Deloitte, together with CHL Consulting, to undertake the work in relation to the development of such a destination in the city centre.

The Director explained to the Committee that the consultants were now ready to make a presentation at the next meeting.

The Committee:

1. agreed to receive a presentation from the consultants undertaking the outline business case on a new visitor destination at the next committee meeting; and
2. noted that a future report would be submitted to the Committee upon completion of this work.

Growing Business and the Economy

Belfast City Council Investment Company
(OECD Report 2008)

The Committee considered the abovementioned report.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to defer consideration of the report;
2. to invite Invest NI to attend a future meeting to discuss its overseas activity and investments in Belfast; and
3. that regular updates on the pilot service would be submitted for the Committee's consideration.

Company of World Traders' Dublin Trade Visit

The Director of Development advised the Committee that the World Traders' Company was a representative body of traders in the fields of financial services and trading, including brokers, bankers, accountants and consultants, as well as traders in goods and services.

He explained to the Members that the organisation was hosting a trade visit to Dublin in June 2018, and that it had invited representation from Belfast City Council. The Committee was advised that other attendees at the event would include senior-level representation from major financial services and professional services companies. He highlighted to the Members that they were both significant employment sectors in Belfast, supporting thousands of high-value jobs in the city.

The Director explained that the event would comprise an opening reception event on the evening of 14th June and a one-day trade conference on 15th June. He pointed out that the Gala event on the evening of 14th June would include dignitaries from Dublin business, professional and government contacts and that it would be an opportunity to profile Belfast and the social and economic importance of the east coast corridor between Belfast and Dublin.

The Committee was advised that the Trade Conference on 15th June would be an opportunity for Belfast to participate building upon the Memorandum of Understanding between both cities. The Director outlined a range of initiatives and programmes which were aligned to support collaboration between Belfast and Dublin, on trade, investment and infrastructure issues. He advised the Members that the costs associated with attendance and participation at the dinner and conference for two attendees could be met from the 2018/2019 financial budgets, and would not exceed £500.

The Committee agreed the attendance and participation of the incoming Chairperson of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, or their nominee, and the Chief Executive at the Worshipful Company of World Traders' Dublin Trade Visit event taking place on 14th and 15th June, 2018.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

City Development Engagement:
provision of technical advice

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development advised the Committee that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Noted.

City Centre Living - Residential Analysis

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development reminded the Committee that a residential population was important for the creation of a successful and vibrant city centre. She highlighted to the Members that the population in Belfast's city centre was underdeveloped, with between 9,000 and 10,000 residents, and that the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan had set a target of growing the City's population by 66,000 residents by the year 2035, with a proportion of that growth to be accommodated within the city centre.

She advised the Committee that there was an increasing student population in the city centre, with the relocation of Ulster University having been a major catalyst, and that other cities had illustrated that a student population brought greater vibrancy and footfall to a city centre. However, she pointed out that the growth of student accommodation must be matched with other housing tenures if the city centre was to be balanced and inclusive.

She provided the Members with an update on the work streams which had been progressed since the Committee Workshop which had taken place on 23rd October 2017, namely 'Understanding the City Centre Residential Market' and 'Living over the Shops (LOTS)'.

The Director explained that she was seeking approval to co-commission, in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC), a residential housing market analysis for the city centre in order to provide a comprehensive market overview of the residential sector, to include the rental, private for sale and private rented sectors. She outlined to the Members that the research would provide a robust evidence base and options for how the Council could shape and input into city centre housing.

The Members were also advised that a piece of work was also being undertaken to set out the existing funding options and criteria around social and affordable housing in Northern Ireland.

In relation to the Living over the Shops (LOTS) initiative, the Director advised the Committee that a 2016 report on the LOTS programme, which was prepared by Public and Corporate Economic Consultants (PACEC), did not state its support for a programme of grants in order to deliver a significant number of units in Belfast city centre. She explained that, while LOTS played a part in encouraging people to live in the city

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centre, the time and resources available might be better applied in bringing forward public sector land for development.

She advised the Members that officers had continued to explore how to address vacant units in the city centre and had met with officers from Dublin City Council (DCC) who had operated the Living City Initiative (LCI), a programme which was similar to LOTS, which had been rolled out across the Republic of Ireland. In order to assist the Members in exploring the issues around developing this type of accommodation, the Director suggested that a workshop be held, with officers from DCC invited to outline their experiences.

The Committee noted that other relevant stakeholders would be invited to attend the workshop, including the DfC, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Planning Service and Building Control.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Workshop, and given the requirements which might be placed upon retailers, the Committee agreed to also invite representatives from the Chamber of Trade and from the retail sector.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to the procurement of residential market analysis;
2. to hold a workshop on the Living City Initiative that operated in Dublin and across ROI;
3. that representatives from the Chamber of Trade and from the retail sector be invited to attend the workshop; and
4. that a map illustrating the BMAP boundary be provided with future reports.

Strategic Site Assessment

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update and seek approval from Members on the proposed way forward for detailed work to assess the development and regeneration potential of Council's surface car parks and adjacent public sector land holdings within the city centre and note the relationship with other work streams.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Agree that specialist advice is procured to ensure a detailed and comprehensive approach is taken to identifying development and regeneration**

opportunities arising from rationalisation of Council car parks and adjacent public sector land.

- Note the relationship between the Strategic Site Assessment and other work streams underway across the council and also with partners.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) identified the need for an integrated parking strategy and action plan to address a number of issues, including the large number of fragmented and typically low capacity surface level car parks within the city centre. BCCRIS concluded that the city centre has a large number of underdeveloped sites and surface level car parks in its core centre. These present opportunities for comprehensive development and potential for land assembly.

3.2 Car Parking Strategy (CPS)

Following the recommendations of BCCRIS a Car Park Strategy (CPS) & Action Plan was prepared by Aecom and ratified by Council in November 2017. The CPS recommended a shift away from surface level car parking as they offer limited capacity and are not a good use of city centre land. The majority of surface level carpark sites, irrespective of individual ownership, represent potential development opportunities. The CPS identified a number of benefits from carefully planning their rationalisation. Rationalisation should result in reduced traffic volumes from fewer circulating vehicles; reduce air pollution, improve road safety, and present opportunities for development. The CPS also highlights the need to keep current parking stock under review and demand levels regularly monitored.

3.3 Engagement with DfI is ongoing regarding all CPS actions, wider parking and transport issues and the Committee will be updated on progress in due course.

Alignment with other work streams

3.4 Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) Masterplan (2016)

The Department for Communities' Greater Clarendon (Sailortown) masterplan published 6 December 2016 (<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/greater-clarendon-sailortown-masterplan>) recommends that opportunities to redevelop surplus public sector car parking sites be explored. The masterplan highlights the potential to

assemble land to maximise opportunities that may not be realised if proposals are considered in isolation. There are a number of public sector surface car parks within the masterplan area.

3.5 Eastbank Development Strategy (2017)

The Council's Eastbank Development Strategy recommended a land assembly study and business case appraisal as a short-term next step to ensure a comprehensive approach to regeneration of the area, particularly the shatter-zone land that comprises public sector surface car parks. While this study is not concluded, with an SEA outstanding the early recommendation will be considered within the overall analysis. The SEA is due to conclude at the end of May and a report will be brought back to committee in August.

3.6 Inner North West Masterplan (2018)

The consultation period for the Inner North West (INW) masterplan closed on 8 May 2018. An analysis of comments received will be reviewed and a final recommendation brought back to committee in Autumn 2018. As outlined previously to committee, the masterplan seeks to provide a framework to help shape emerging opportunities and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development on both public and private sector owned land. The draft masterplan identifies the need to look at land comprehensively within the masterplan area and consider which sites might be brought forward for development. Council owned land and other public sector land will be considered as part of this assessment.

3.7 South Belfast Area

The council and other public sector bodies has a number of sites at Bruce street, Ormeau Avenue, Ormeau Road and Cromac Street. This land will be assessed as well as other council land assets.

3.8 City Centre Living

Officers continue to engage with DfC and NIHE on City Centre Living. The Strategic Site Assessment (SSA) will consider land that is suitable for mixed use development and identify opportunities to maximise regeneration benefits. A proposal to undertake a residential market analysis is also being put to members and it is intended that the residential market analysis will inform the SSA on residential viability. .

3.9 Local Development Plan

The SSA will be cognisant of emerging policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy that supports population growth, sustainable development and the city's ambitions in relation to the inclusive growth agenda.

3.10 Strategic Site Assessment (SSA)

A Strategic Site Assessment (SSA) is proposed to be undertaken to review Council's city centre surface level car parks. The SSA will consider locations best suited to support the objectives of the Belfast Agenda, e.g. mixed use development, housing, public and green space, car parking etc. The review is intended to identify opportunities for comprehensive development and potential land assembly and include adjacent public sector land. Engagement with statutory partners is ongoing.

3.11 The SSA will identify sites suitable for comprehensive development including scale, mass and market viability.

3.12 The SSA will take account of the Council's wider objectives, in line with the Belfast Agenda.

3.13 The SSA would be developed by specialist consultants with experience in development, real estate assessment and financial viability.

3.14 The draft findings of the SSA will be brought back to Members for further consideration and to agree next steps.

3.15 Equality and Good Relations implications

The final SSA will be equality screened.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

There will be a procurement exercise for a consultant to carry out the strategic site assessment, estimated to be up to the value of £60K."

A Member stated that the Council's surface car parks generated a net income of over £1million per annum and asked that the Committee would agree to take cognisance of that in any considerations.

In response to a further Member's suggestion, the Committee agreed that the proposed specialist advice would consider both Departmental and Council needs, particularly Programme for Government and housing targets.

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The Committee therefore:

1. agreed that specialist advice be procured to ensure a detailed and comprehensive approach was taken to identify development and regeneration opportunities, as well as Departmental and Council needs (such as Programme for Government targets/housing targets), arising from the rationalisation of the Council car parks and adjacent public sector land;
2. noted the relationship between the Strategic Site Assessment and other work streams which were underway across the Council and also with partners; and
3. agreed to take due cognisance of the fact that the Council's surface car parks generated a net income of over £1million per annum.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Investment in City Festivals: Belfast International Arts Festival and Culture Night, Pipe Bands 2019

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- **Update Members on regional, national and international profiling opportunities for Belfast via two of the city's landmark festivals**
- **Request support to enhance the festivals' ability to reach additional international audience and contribute positively to city positioning.**
- **Update on the Pipe Band Championship bid**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the global profiling opportunities presented by Belfast International Arts Festival and Culture Night Belfast, in line with the emerging city narrative**
- **Agree the release of £25,000 towards the delivery of Belfast International Arts Festival and £20,000 towards the delivery of Culture Night Belfast, in order to support additional audience development and international profiling for both events in 2018, as in previous years.**

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 Memorandum of Understanding (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 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 is 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 – 'Energy Unleashed' – 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 and the commitment to exploring opportunities to maximise the cultural investment 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, there is an opportunity for the Council to support a number of profiling

opportunities in which the cultural offer is in the lead but where it is supported by the wider City proposition.

3.5 Belfast International Arts Festival

Belfast International Arts Festival (BIAF) – by its nature – is international both in terms of the acts and performances that take place during the festival and also, increasingly, in its audience reach. Over the last few years, BIAF has engaged in a targeted marketing campaign in the Republic of Ireland, GB and USA markets and this is now beginning to bear fruit in terms of an increasingly international audience profile. The draft Festivals and Events Strategy that was presented to this Committee in March 2018 considered that the Belfast International Arts Festival had the potential to become a Signature Event for the city.

3.6 In early Autumn 2017, the Belfast International Festival organised launch events for the festival in both Dublin and New York. These events helped generate significant profile for the event – and for the city of Belfast. The Lord Mayor helped to launch the event in New York and this event was also supported by both the NI Bureau and Tourism Ireland. The event was attended by a number of specialist and bespoke tour operators who were presented with information on the festival and the city as a cultural tourism destination.

3.7 The 2017 Belfast International Arts Festival ran for more than three weeks and comprised 191 events, taking place all across the city. It attracted a total audience of 180,000 visitors – over half of whom were from outside the Belfast City Council area. More than 11,000 of those visiting Belfast to take part in the festival were out of state visitors. This generated an economic impact for the city in excess of £4million. In addition to the direct economic impact of the visitors to the city, the international profiling of the event included coverage by NBC News in USA and this generated media value equivalent to more than £620,000.

3.8 Planning work is well advanced for the 2018 event which will take place from 16 October to 3 November 2018. While the programme has not yet been published, it is understood that there are to be a number of international showcase events that will feature at the festival. One event that has been announced is a shared artistic project led by US artist Suzanne Lacy entitled ‘Across and In-between’. This project investigates how the border frames identity and intervenes in the routine of everyday life. For this commission, the artist has been working with residents from both sides of the border to create

a series of localised gatherings and individual reflections on visible and invisible borders. This project is part of 14-18 NOW: a five-year programme of arts experiences connecting people with the First World War. The Poppies: Weeping Windows which was presented at the Ulster Museum during last year's BIAF was also part of this programme.

- 3.9** In order to build on the international profiling work that has taken place in recent years, BIAF intends to repeat the Dublin and New York launch events for the festival and has already secured Tourism Ireland and NI Bureau support for this activity. BIAF is seeking £25,000 match-funding from Belfast City Council towards this international promotion and profiling activity. This presents the Council with an opportunity to consider how we can work alongside the festival to promote the city messaging, and to support the commitments made by this Committee to develop the 'City of Music' proposition, which will be showcased from Autumn 2018. In parallel, there will be opportunities to consider the wider city positioning message in these cities: both Dublin and New York have been identified as key partner cities for Belfast, particularly in terms of our international development work.

3.10 **Culture Night Belfast**

Members will be aware of Culture Night Belfast: a one-night cultural showcase event that takes place in the city every September. The 2018 event will mark the 10th anniversary of Culture Night in Belfast and the organisers are working on ambitious plans to develop the event – including considering how it can attract additional audiences (including those from out of state). Similar to the Belfast International Arts Festival, Culture Night was identified as a potential 'signature' event as part of the draft Festivals and Events strategy that is currently being developed.

- 3.11** Culture Night 2017 attracted over 100,000 visitors to the city, including 18,000 visitors from outside Northern Ireland. For the first time, the event moved beyond its core boundary in Cathedral Quarter and there was a programme of activity running from City Hall down to Ulster University. The organisers were successful in generating more than one third of their income from sponsorship and this allowed them to extend the programme of activity and to have a number of 'anchor points' at key locations including the City Hall and Bank Square – as well as the Cathedral Quarter.

- 3.12** In terms of economic impact, Culture Night generated around £875,000 for the local economy in terms of additional spend, particularly within the leisure and hospitality sector – as well as the retail sector to some extent. The event also generated around £870,000 of media coverage – with a significant profile on social media in particular.
- 3.13** More than 96% of those attending Culture Night 2017 suggested that they would come to Culture Night again and this provides a very strong platform from which to build into the 2018 tenth year event. Culture Night is run by the Cathedral Quarter Trust and organisers are currently developing the 2018 programme. They have been engaging with the City Council to ensure that the event can support some of the animation and cultural development activity that we are investing in for this year and to take account of some of the learning from last year. They are proposing an increased focus on a number of key cultural events as ‘anchors’ across a wider programme of activity – starting from City Hall again this year.
- 3.14** In order to develop the quality of the cultural offer and to support some of the logistical requirements associated with widening out the coverage of the event, organisers are seeking £20,000 match-funding from Belfast City Council towards the overall costs of the event (likely to be in the region of £300,000). This investment presents the Council with an opportunity to look at how large-scale events such as this can be used to encourage participation in the arts (77% of those attending the 2017 event said that it brought them to venues that they had not previously visited). There are also lessons to be learned about how we can lever private sector finance into events. Both of these are important principles in the emerging work on festival and events.
- 3.15** Members will be aware that the Council has recently committed resources to Visit Belfast for the 2018/19 financial year. One of the key areas of activity will be to consider how the tourism campaigns can reflect the cultural message. This is likely to include an Autumn campaign which will profile the cultural offering in Belfast (including these events).
- 3.16** Belfast was not successful in the recent bid for the Pipe Band Championships for 2019/2020/2021. A report will be brought back to committee on how we can build on signature events such as this in the future (including bidding for the World Championships) as part of an overall events and festivals update

3.17 Financial & Resource Implications

The proposed Council contribution to Belfast International Arts Festival for international profiling work is £25,000, and to Cathedral Quarter Trust to deliver enhanced Culture Night Belfast audience development is £20,000. These funding allocations have been set aside within the Development Department's budget for the financial year 2018/19.

3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no specific equality or good relations implications."

In response to a Member's question regarding the stated monetary value of the media coverage of both the Belfast International Arts Festival and Culture Night, the Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that it was an industry standard way of measuring the impact of an event.

He advised the Committee that Belfast had not been successful in the recent bid for the Pipe Band Championships for 2019/2020/2021 and that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on how the Council could build on signature events in the future, as part of an overall events and festivals update.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Proposed Workshop to consider City Centre Retail

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development reminded the Committee that the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS) provided a vision for retail in Belfast city centre as "a regionally competitive retail offer and a shopping experience which was unmatched anywhere else in the world".

The Members were advised that, in conjunction with the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, the Council had commissioned FSP Retail and Business experts to undertake retail analysis of the city. The Director explained that alongside the work which had been undertaken to date, a need had been identified for a retail analysis to assess a variety of short and long-term challenges to the retail and leisure sector in the city, thereby helping the Council and its partners across the city to respond to the fast changing environment.

The Committee was requested to consider holding a workshop with the consultants in order to:

- discover the initial findings from the retail analysis of Belfast and identify core issues for inclusion in the final report; and
- allow a fuller exploration and discussion of the report to enable the experts to secure Members' feedback prior to proposing potential actions and next steps.

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The Committee noted the commissioning of further retail analysis and agreed to hold a workshop with the consultants, with all Members invited to attend, at the end of June.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 2nd May, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair); Alderman Spence; and Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Canavan, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Heading, Hussey, McConville, McReynolds and Milne.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager; Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor; Miss N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and Councillor Collins.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

Restricted Item

The information contained in the following item 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 meeting during discussion of this item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Applications for the Grant of Seven-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences – South 13, Boucher Road

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th January, it had agreed to defer consideration of the above-mentioned applications for South 13, to enable officers to consider additional information which had come to light earlier that day. The Committee, at its meeting on 21st March, had been advised that that information had related to an event which had taken place within the venue on 30th September, 2017, which had resulted in an internal investigation being initiated against a Council officer.

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Accordingly, the Committee had agreed to defer the matter until such time as the investigation had been concluded.

The Building Control Manager referred to the Committee report which had been tabled at this meeting and confirmed that it had been restricted, on the basis that it contained information which was being reviewed as part of the ongoing disciplinary investigation. He then proceeded to review the report in the context of the applications for the grant of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences for South 13. He reported that the applicant company was seeking to provide indoor entertainment in the form of live bands, DJs and theatre from Monday to Sunday between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00 a.m. the following morning in the main arena on the ground floor and outdoor entertainment from Monday to Sunday between 11.30 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. in the front car park. The company was proposing to hold a two-day festival during the month of June, for which it had allegedly sold tickets and had contractually committed funding.

He explained that no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections. In such circumstances, it was normal practice for an Entertainments Licence to be issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, given that that the directors of T13 Belfast Limited, the applicant company, had, in May, 2013 and June, 2016, been convicted of a number of offences under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the applications were required to be placed before the Committee for consideration.

The Building Control Manager provided details of those offences, which had been detected within another premises, namely, the T13 Complex, Queen's Road, together with the level of fines and costs which had been imposed. Officers had since met with the directors of the company to ensure that appropriate measures had been put in place to prevent a recurrence and, having monitored subsequent events, had been satisfied that the venue was being managed effectively. On that basis, the Committee had, in subsequent years, agreed to renew T13's Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences.

In terms of South 13, he confirmed that inspections which had been carried out as part of the current licensing application process and during events which had taken place on 27th and 28th December, 2017, had found that all measures and procedures had been put in place to protect the public, performers and staff. A number of effective terms and conditions relating to the management of noise had been placed upon those events and officers of the Environmental Protection Unit would assess a revised acoustic report for the future use of the premises. He added that, should the Committee agree to grant the applications, standard conditions would be placed upon the Outdoor Entertainments Licence around occupancy levels, early consultation with residents and businesses, extended hours and addressing complaints and suggested that authority be delegated to Council officers to attach additional conditions to each licence, as required.

The City Solicitor referred to the two events which the company was planning to hold in June and highlighted the potential implications for the Council should they be unable to proceed as a result of the Committee refusing to grant the licences in advance of the aforementioned internal investigation having been concluded. He indicated that the grant of the licences would not prevent the Committee from considering issues which may be relevant when they were presented for renewal.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed to grant, for a period of six months, an Indoor and an Outdoor Entertainments Licence in respect of South 13, Boucher Road and delegated authority to officers to attach appropriate special conditions to those licences. The Committee agreed also that a condition be attached to each licence requiring the company to provide the Council with notification at least twenty-eight days in advance of any events which it was planning to hold under either licence.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 16th May, 2018

MONTHLY MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair); the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Alderman L. Patterson; and Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Canavan, Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, McConville and Milne.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and Councillors Collins, Heading and McReynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th April 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 May, 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.

Review of Stationary Street Trading Licences – Fountain Lane and Fountain Street

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that Mr. Joseph Kerr had, for several years, held a Stationary Street Trading Licence for each of the above-mentioned sites.

He reported that, during that time, he had failed consistently to pay his annual licence fee and reminded the Committee that it had, in the past, agreed that it was minded

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to revoke both licences. The Committee had subsequently agreed only to rescind its decision upon being advised that the outstanding fees had been paid in full. He drew the Members' attention to the fact that Mr. Kerr had again failed to pay his licence fees and that, despite efforts by officers to contact him, he owed currently £1,577.54 in total. In addition, inspections had revealed that he was trading only sporadically and that he seldom utilised both sites.

The Building Control Manager pointed out that the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 stipulated that the Council could, in certain circumstances, revoke a licence at any time after it had been granted. Such circumstances would include, as in this case, the non-payment, without reasonable explanation, of fees and charges and a failure to avail to a reasonable extent of a licence. He explained that, should the Committee be minded to revoke Mr. Kerr's Licence, the aforementioned Act required that he be provided with advance notification to that effect and be invited to either make written representation to the Committee or to attend a future meeting in person.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to revoke the Stationary Street Trading Licences held by Mr. Joseph Kerr in respect of the designated sites at Fountain Lane and Fountain Street and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding that decision.

The Committee agreed also that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on those street traders who had failed to pay their licence fees and on those who were not utilising their licences on a regular basis.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 15th May, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Dorrian,
Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston,
Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown and Mullan.
- In attendance: Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman McGimpsey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 17th April 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 May, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

In relation to objectors' comments raised at the meeting of 17th April under planning application LA04/2017/2525/F, the Committee noted that the City Solicitor would issue legal direction to the Committee regarding deputations raising non-material considerations in their presentations.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 17th April, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 2nd May in respect of planning application LA04/2016/2359/F - Demolition of existing buildings for a 7-storey office building with a retail unit on the ground floor at 46-52 Upper Queen Street and 11a Wellington Street.

In relation to a forthcoming major application for a mixed use development at lands at former Sirocco Works, Short Strand and adjacent to Bridge End and the River Lagan, the Committee agreed that a site visit be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location. The Committee also agreed that Members representing the Titanic District Electoral Area be invited to attend.

Draft Council Response to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on the Draft Marine Plan for NI

The Committee considered the draft Marine Plan for Northern Ireland published for consultation on 18th April by DAERA. It was reported that the draft Plan sought to support the sustainable use and management of the marine resource which included safeguarding its importance for nature and seascape, whilst balancing its economic use, including for fishing, transportation, leisure and energy. The draft Plan was intended to enable public authorities, including the Council, to make decisions that might affect the marine area in a balanced and sustainable manner, integrating economic, environmental and social considerations. This included any authorisation or enforcement decisions that might affect the marine area and consideration of the implications that the Marine Plan might have for planning decisions and Council projects.

It was reported that the draft Marine Plan was made up of a number of high level policies aimed at facilitating the sustainable development of the marine area. It consolidated existing legislation, policy measures and practices in the Northern Ireland marine area.

The Committee noted the consultation on the draft Marine Plan and approved the submission of the draft response to DAERA, as outlined in Appendix 1 ([copy available here](#)).

Abandonment and Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the Abandonment of Public Rights of Way at Finvoy Street and the Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way at Gainsborough, Mountcollyer.

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 Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 10th April and 4th May, 2018.

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Miscellaneous Items

Listed Buildings

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) seeking the Council's views in respect of proposals which had been formulated for the listing of a number of properties in Belfast.

The Committee was reminded that Article 80 (3) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 required the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

It was reported that the second survey of all of Northern Ireland's building stock was currently underway, to update and improve on the first list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest which began in 1974 and was due to be completed in 2016.

During discussion, some Members raised opposition to the listing of Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road. One member also highlighted that, in the past, when the Committee had rejected the listing of buildings, the NIEA had still listed them.

The recommendation to approve the listing of Dundonald House was put to the Committee when five Members voted in favour and five against. There being an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed with the Agency's proposals to list the following properties:

- 10 Mount Pleasant;
- Street sign at Strangford Avenue on corner with Shrewsbury Park;
- Street sign at Harberton Park on corner with Upper Malone Road;
- Street sign on Donegal Park Avenue on corner with Antrim Road;
- Street sign on Parkmount Road, on corner with Antrim Road,
- Street sign on Glastonbury Avenue, on corner with Antrim;
- Street sign 2 on Glastonbury Avenue, on corner with Antrim Road;
- Street sign on Fortwilliam Park, on corner with Somerton Road;
- Street sign beside 354 Ormeau Road;
- Street sign on corner of Rosetta Avenue and Ormeau Road;
- Street sign Belmont Church Road on Corner with Belmont Road;
- Street sign on Massey Avenue, on corner with Belmont Road;
- Street sign on Earlswood Road, on corner with Belmont Road;
- Street sign Broomhill Park;
- Street sign Broomhill Park Central; and
- Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th May, 2018**

Vesting Order

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Communities in relation to the confirmation of a Vesting Order of land at 83, 85 and 87 Castle Street and 7 and 7A Marquis Street.

Planning Applications

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

**Reconsidered Item - LA04/2016/2359/F - Demolition of existing buildings for
7 storey office building with retail unit on ground floor at 46-52 Upper Queen
Street and 11a Wellington Street**

(Councillor Lyons took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since he had not been in attendance at the meeting on 17th April when it had originally been considered and he left the room.)

(Councillor McDonough-Brown in the Chair.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th April, given the issues which had been raised regarding the contribution of the building to the character of the area, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The case officer provided an overview of the report.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

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

**LA04/2017/2629/RM - 2 Storey Community Building to provide indoor play
area, training and education facilities including outdoor play area at 75
Alliance Avenue**

The case officer outlined the Reserved Matters application for the community building.

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 site.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 15th May, 2018**

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

Additional Item – Local Development Plan Draft Strategy Committee

With permission of the Chairperson, the Development Planning and Policy Manager advised that some Members had requested additional time to consider fully the Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Strategy item on the agenda for the Special Meeting on Thursday, 17th May.

The Committee agreed that the scheduled Special Meeting on Thursday, 17th May would proceed and an additional special meeting of the Planning Committee be scheduled for Wednesday, 6th June to consider further the LDP Draft Strategy.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Thursday, 17th May, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Garrett, Hussey,
Hutchinson, Johnston, Magee, McAteer
and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. D. O'Kane, Principal Planning Officer; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McGimpsey and Councillor Dorrian.

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

Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Strategy

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th April, it had agreed to defer consideration of the report so that Members could review the LDP Draft Strategy further and requested that a special meeting be scheduled in May to discuss the matter.

The Committee was also reminded that, at its meeting on 15th May, it had also agreed that another additional special meeting of the Planning Committee be scheduled for Wednesday, 6th June to finalise the discussion of the LDP Draft Strategy.

The Principal Planning Officer provided an overview of the Local Development Plan Draft Strategy, which included the structure, growth strategy, settlement areas, accommodating new home and affordable housing, together with other emerging policies. He explained draft policies in relation to protecting the existing housing stock and short term lets, tall buildings, community cohesion, employment land supply, hot food takeaways, environmental quality, resilience and the green and blue infrastructure network.

**Special Planning Committee,
Thursday, 17th May, 2018**

During discussion, Members raised the following points for consideration by the Planning Department:

- Further explanation of the amendments under the Affordable Housing statement (Policy HOU5);
- Concern in relation to the feasibility of the contribution scheme (Policy HOU5);
- The definition of 'Affordable Housing';
- The need to consider equality, social and community cohesion;
- The figures of housing need;
- Differences in housing need across Belfast and viability;
- Regeneration of areas and development that could support social mobility;
- Effect of housing policy on developers and communities;
- Controls surrounding short-term lets;
- Space provision standards and open space policy;
- Community engagement;
- Encouraging employment outside the city centre;
- Inclusion of controls of hot food takeaways;
- Developing Greenways;
- Encouraging renewable energy;
- Development of the River Lagan;
- Equality Impact Assessment timescale and requirements;
- Inclusion of other innovation areas;
- Rewording of the Vibrant Economy section (8.1);
- Timescale for the review of settlement boundaries (12.5); and
- Rewording of the shaping a liveable place section (page 32).

After discussion, the Committee agreed that Members' comments or amendments in relation to the Local Development Plan Draft Strategy document be submitted to the Planning Department for consideration and any further revisions to the document would be published for review at the Special Meeting scheduled for 6th June.

Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan

The Committee considered the report on the progress of the draft Belfast Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP), the concept of which was included in the Council's LDP Preferred Options.

It was reported that the draft GBIP was a high-level plan that recognised the many functions and benefits of green and blue infrastructure, including health and wellbeing, biodiversity and environmental resilience. It set a strategic vision, framework and key principles for the delivery and enhancement of a network of green and blue assets and represented an over-arching strategy that would guide more detailed strategies and action plans over time.

The Committee noted the preparation of the draft GBIP (copy available [here](#)).

Chairperson

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Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 21st May, 2018

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Alderman Haire; and
Councillors Campbell, Graham,
Johnston and Mullan.

In attendance: Ms. C. Toolan, Managing Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd;
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director, Belfast Waterfront
and Ulster Hall Ltd;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and Councillors Dorrian, Hargey and O'Neill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 9th April.

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.

Annual Performance Report for 2017/2018

The Managing Director provided the Members with an update on Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.'s (BWUH Ltd.) performance for Quarter 4, January – March 2018, and for the year, 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018.

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders Committee
Monday, 21st May, 2018

She advised the Committee that this was the second year of operation for the company, as the new Waterfront venue had only been operational from the end of April 2016.

The Committee was advised that the business had hosted several high-profile conferences and events during the final quarter, including the IEEE Micro Electro Mechanical Systems (Mems) Conference, Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Pfizer, Rapid 7 Conference, Sleeping Beauty Pantomime and the Gradam Ceoil TG4 Traditional Music Awards.

The Business Support Director advised the Committee that it had been a good year for BWUH Ltd. and provided the Committee with a summary of the company's sales and overheads figures. He advised the Committee that the sales income was ahead of budget and of the previous year. He explained that this was mainly due to higher room hire and box office commission. The Committee noted the surplus, budget and the management fee reduction for the year.

He advised the Members that the number of activities held in the venues had increased, which had resulted in increased activity costs and employee costs. He explained that the event related costs were expected to be higher given that sales were higher but that the company would address the shortfall in technical skills and equipment as part of its cost management process.

In relation to the conference and delegate targets which had been set, the Managing Director outlined to the Members that, by year-end, BWUH Ltd. had delivered beyond each target, having delivered 40 conferences, generated 81,479 delegate days, and having delivered an economic return of £34million to Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole.

She advised the Committee that, in line with the Company's more commercial approach towards conferencing and entertainment sales, a new Marketing Campaign Manager and a Head of Digital had recently been recruited, starting in Quarter 1 of 2018/2019.

The Members were advised that casual labour had been managed more efficiently throughout Quarter 4 but that it remained a key focus for the senior team and would be a significant priority for the Director of Event Operations.

She explained the repositioning of the Belfast Waterfront as the ICC Belfast for international promotional material, and outlined that the Waterfront and Ulster Hall branding would continue to be used for domestic material.

In response to a Member's question, the Managing Director explained that the company was working with both the Building Control Service and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to determine the number of staff which were required to be on site in the event of a fire.

The Managing Director outlined to the Committee that smaller events were more expensive to operate and, whilst they drove revenue, the company was required to

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders Committee
Monday, 21st May, 2018**

examine event contributions to ensure all events were making an acceptable contribution. She advised the Committee that she wished to attract a higher number of National Association conferences to the Waterfront in future years.

(Councillor Johnston, Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair)

In response to a Member's question about the catering contract, she explained that work was ongoing to ensure that standards and the execution were in line with the expectations of an international venue. She advised the Committee that she would provide a more detailed update on catering at the next meeting.

In relation to employment opportunities within BWUH Ltd., she outlined to the Committee that they currently employed one placement student from Belfast Met and also had 10 Youth Action attendees completing work experience on various days. The Managing Director added that the creation of apprenticeships was a work in progress.

During discussion, a Member stated that he had received complaints about the high level of bird droppings around the Belfast Waterfront. The Managing Director advised the Committee that she was aware of the problem and that it was an ongoing challenge for the venue, due to its close proximity to the water. She explained that the windows were cleaned regularly but that they were looking at ways in which to prevent the problem.

In response to a Member's question regarding the industrial relations issues in relation to pay awards and job evaluation which had previously been discussed by the Committee, the Managing Director provided an update on the significant progress which had been made.

A further Member stated that she would be keen to see more publicity around the major events and conferences which were happening in the City. The Managing Director advised the Members that the Waterfront had recently hosted the recent Royal College of Nursing Congress for five days and that it had been hugely successful. She added that she would provide information on the media coverage which the conference had received to the next meeting.

The Committee noted the contents of the Year End report for 2017/2018.

Chairperson

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