

# Public Document Pack

## BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

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

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 1st October, 2018 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 12)
5. Official Announcements
6. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request from Mr. Malachy Turley, co-founder of Rosemount House Hostel, to address the Council in relation to the motion on a Homeless Hostel for Females being proposed by Councillor McCusker.

7. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 13 - 56)
8. Minutes of People and Communities Committee (Pages 57 - 82)
9. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 83 - 106)
10. Minutes of Licensing Committee (Pages 107 - 112)
11. Minutes of Planning Committee (Pages 113 - 126)
12. Minutes of Brexit Committee (Pages 127 - 132)
13. Notices of Motion

- a) Robert McCartney Murder

Proposed by Councillor Reynolds,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

*(Wording to be confirmed – awaiting Senior Counsel opinion)*

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

b) Greening of Derelict Spaces

Proposed by Councillor Kyle,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

“Creating green spaces in cities produces significant benefits, not least in the area of mental health. Recent research has shown a 40% reduction in feelings of depression and a 50% reduction in feelings of worthlessness among residents, as a result of greening derelict plots of land. The benefits were even greater in areas of deprivation.

Simple interventions, such as clearing rubbish, sowing grass, planting trees and marking the boundary with a low fence, can produce health benefits, remove eyesores and reduce antisocial behaviour.

This Council will carry out an audit to identify derelict sites in public ownership. It will establish a budget in the coming year and engage with other statutory bodies in order to create a programme of work whereby derelict plots of land are cleared, grassed and fenced, thus enhancing neighbourhoods and improving wellbeing.”

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

c) United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Proposed by Councillor Heading,

Seconded by Councillor McCusker,

“This Council notes the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following an examination of the UK’s compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in August 2017, this Council is concerned at the lack of actions and consistency from either the Northern Ireland Executive or the UK Government in respect of the Concluding Observations. The Council recognises the valuable contribution that those living with disabilities make to our society and will undertake to prepare a review on how the council meet local obligations within the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council will write to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, seeking an update on the steps which the Government is taking to meet the recommendations contained within the Concluding Observations.”

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

d) Homeless Hostel for Females

Proposed by Councillor McCusker,

Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

“This Council notes the growth of alcohol and drug addiction among the female population and the impact which this has on families and communities. The Council further notes the lack of a dedicated hostel and programme to assist in the recovery of women suffering addiction and calls on the relevant statutory funders to recognise the urgent need for a hostel, similar to the all-male Rosemount House facility, and to support those organisations involved in delivering this service.

The Council, therefore, agrees that an all-party delegation meet with representatives of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of Health to discuss the establishment of an all-female hostel.”

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

e) Letting Agents' Administration/Application Fees

Proposed by Councillor Collins,

Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council notes the June 2018 legal case of Loughran v Piney Rentals Limited and F5 Property Limited, which determined that the practice of letting agents charging letting fees, commonly referred to as administration fees or application fees, when renting properties on behalf of a landlord is unlawful under The Commission on Disposals of Land (Northern (Ireland) Order 1986.

The Council further notes that this practice has been widespread in the private rental sector in recent times, particularly where the demand for privately rented accommodation is high. Despite the recent legal case, it is apparent that some letting agents are continuing to charge these fees unlawfully.

Accordingly, the Council welcomes the decision of the court and agrees to work with other relevant agencies such as Trading Standards, the Association of Residential Letting Agents and Housing Rights to ensure that letting agents are aware that the practice of charging these fees should immediately be ceased and that appropriate action is taken against those who refuse to do so. The Council agrees also to explore ways to let citizens know their rights in relation to this issue, through the media and through the Council’s publications.”

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

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

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

Chief Executive

## **Council**

### MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd September, 2018  
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

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

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor O'Neill declared an interest in the City Growth and Regeneration minutes in that she was an employee of the Oh Yeah Music Centre.

### **Minutes of the Council**

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey),  
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the special meeting of the Council of 1st July and of the monthly meeting of the Council of 2nd July be taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Official Announcements**

#### **Fire at Bank Buildings**

The Lord Mayor expressed gratitude to the emergency services, paying particular tribute to the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, which had responded within

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minutes to the fire in the Primark store in the historic Bank Buildings on Tuesday, 28th August.

She expressed her thanks to the staff in the Primark store for having evacuated the building so quickly with no reported injuries.

A number of Members expressed their support for the staff of Primark and the surrounding businesses which had been affected as a result of the fire.

The Lord Mayor explained that the Council had convened a number of inter-agency meetings with relevant statutory bodies in relation to the safety of the building and ongoing actions.

It was also pointed out that a number of engagements had been held with the surrounding businesses.

In relation to a Member's suggestion that the two trees which were located outside the Bank Buildings, and had survived the fire, be replanted within the grounds of Belfast City Hall as a symbol of hope, the Lord Mayor advised that this could be considered through the recovery plan which would be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Councillor Armitage**

Councillor Long, on behalf of his party, thanked the Members for their support and assistance over the past few weeks in relation to Councillor Armitage's wellbeing, and advised the Council that Councillor Armitage wanted to pass on his thanks to his Council colleagues.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended her best wishes to Councillor Armitage.

**Change of Membership on Committee**

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Alliance Party of the following change to Committee Membership:

- The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) to replace Councillor Armitage on the Planning Committee.

The Council approved the change.

**Request to Address the Council**

The Chief Executive reported that Mr. Mairtin Mac Gabhann, together with his son, Daithi, and Daithi's mother, Seph, had sought approval to address the Council in advance of the motion on Organ Donation which Councillor Corr was due to propose later in the meeting.

The Council agreed to receive the representatives and they were welcomed to the meeting.

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Mr. Mac Gabhann explained that his 20 month old son, Daithi, was on the Routine Transplant List and was awaiting a new heart. He advised the Council that Daithi was born with a rare life threatening Congenital Heart Defect called Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome.

He explained to the Members that, after numerous surgeries and lengthy hospital stays in both Belfast and London, all other medical options had now been exhausted for Daithi, and a donated heart was his only option.

Mr Mac Gabhann advised the Council that it was Organ Donation Week and that he wanted to raise as much awareness as possible of the NHS Organ Donor Register. He explained that he felt more could be done to encourage people to sign up as an organ donor in Northern Ireland.

He requested that the Council consider supporting the campaign to raise awareness of organ donation and, while he recognised that it was a personal choice, to consider actively promoting organ donation. He pointed out that, in England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland, organ donation was promoted on the side of bin lorries, bins and emergency service vehicles. He hoped that the Council would take a similar approach, perhaps with an article in City Matters.

He added that the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Authority (DVLA) asked people to consider becoming organ donors when applying or renewing their driving licence and suggested that the Council could employ a similar approach for the registration of a birth.

The Chief Executive undertook to investigate the issues in relation to an article in City Matters, the process for registering a birth and the promotion of organ donation.

The Lord Mayor thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

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

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Campbell,  
Seconded by Councillor Alderman Browne,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5th, 7th and 9th July, and 1st, 17th and 31st August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Amendment**

**Motion of No Confidence in the Chairperson**

Moved by Councillor Long  
Seconded by Councillor McAllister and

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Resolved - That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 17th August, under the heading "Motion of No Confidence in the Chairperson", be rejected.

**Amendment**

**Area-Based Festivals**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 17th August, under the heading "Area-Based Festivals", be amended to provide that the Council agrees to authorise the release of funding agreements to the Belfast South Community Resources and the Ulster Scots Community Network, with 90% of the funding to be paid up front and the remaining 10% to be paid following satisfactory completion of monitoring and evaluation returns

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

<b><u>For 20</u></b>	<b><u>Against 27</u></b>	<b><u>No Vote 4</u></b>
Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Kyle, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McConville, McReynolds, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	Alderman Convery and Councillors Boyle, Milne and Mullan.

**Amendment**

**Giants Park – North Foreshore –  
Commercial Leisure Led Mixed Use Development**

Moved by Alderman Convery,  
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,



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That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 17th August, under the heading “Giants Park – North Foreshore – Commercial Leisure Led Mixed Use Development”, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

**Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5th, 7th and 9th July, and 1st, 17th and 31st August were thereupon approved and adopted.

**People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,  
Seconded by Councillor Newton,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 7th August be approved and adopted.

**Amendment**

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

Moved by Councillor Corr Johnston,  
Seconded by Councillor Newton,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 7th August, under the heading “Temporary Structure at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park”, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to confirm its decision of 2nd July, to accede to the request to provide a temporary structure, subject to the terms and conditions as detailed within the report to the Committee of 5th June.

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

<b><u>For 20</u></b>	<b><u>Against 31</u></b>
Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Kyle, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McConville, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.

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**Adoption of Minutes**

The minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 7th August were thereupon approved and adopted.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 8th August be approved and adopted.

**Licensing Committee**

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 15th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Garrett,  
Seconded by Councillor Mullan and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 14th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Alderman Haire,  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 13th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Brexit Committee**

Moved by Councillor Walsh,  
Seconded by Alderman Kingston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 9th August be approved and adopted.

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**Notices of Motion**

**Graffiti**

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

"This Council recognises the damage caused by and unsightliness of the growing amount of graffiti within our City centre and our neighbourhoods, on our shutters, our walls, our doors, our utility boxes etc.

As the Council has the power under Article 18 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 to remove or obliterate any graffiti which, in the opinion of Council, is detrimental to the amenity of any land in the district, pro-active policies and procedures for addressing the problem need to now be put in place, perhaps on the lines of those adopted in 2016 by Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to allocate the necessary funding and resources, or the reprioritisation of existing resources, to tackle the environmental scourge of graffiti in the City."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Dudgeon.

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

**Implementation of Perinatal Care Pathway Service**

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

"This Council believes that in pregnancy both lives matter, the mother and the unborn child. This commitment to the rights of both must be reflected in the support provided to mothers, the unborn child and their families throughout the pregnancy.

The Council calls for the immediate implementation of a Perinatal Care Pathway Service in Northern Ireland and eventually the provision of a Perinatal Hospice Care Facility to ensure the best medical, emotional and social support for those who are faced with the diagnosis of a severe life limiting condition."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Boyle.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,  
Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

That the Motion standing in the name of Alderman Convery and seconded by Councillor Boyle be amended and replaced with the following:

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"This Council believes in circumstances where a pregnancy is given a fatal foetal diagnosis or severe life limiting condition that support should be provided to women who choose to continue with the pregnancy and their families.

The Council calls for the immediate implementation of a Perinatal Care Pathway Service in Northern Ireland and, eventually, the provision of a Perinatal Hospice Care Facility to ensure the best medical, emotional and social support for those who are faced with the diagnosis of a fatal foetal abnormality or severe life limiting condition.

The Council further reaffirms our support to the decriminalisation of abortion as per our meeting in April"

On a vote by show of hands, twenty-eight Members voted for the amendment and nineteen against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the motion as amended was put to the Council as the substantive motion.

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

<b><u>For 28</u></b>	<b><u>Against 17</u></b>	<b><u>No Vote 4</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McConville, McReynolds, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	Aldermen Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Boyle, Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, Mullan, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	Aldermen Copeland and McGimpsey; and Councillors Dudgeon and Kyle.

**Sustainable Development Strategy**

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

"This Council recognises its important role in shaping a Belfast that is environmentally sustainable (as described in the Belfast Agenda). It recognises also the importance of thinking strategically and with a long-term

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aim of making Belfast meet the highest environmental standards, especially in the areas of energy, waste, transport, construction and resilience.

The Council agrees to establish both a Member-led Sustainable Development Think Tank and an officer steering group that meet regularly to support the development of the Council's Sustainable Development Strategy and discuss implementing best practice from across Europe and globally."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicholl.

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

**Green Spaces**

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

"This Council agrees to establish a strategy to tackle the issue of grass cutting along verges and roads in the City. This will include auditing the number of sites that need maintenance, determining the best way to maintain them, increasing revenue to meet the costs and setting up a forum with other relevant agencies, including the Department for Infrastructure, to ensure that the areas are maintained in a way which promotes road safety, civic pride and protects the environment."

The motion was seconded by Councillor McReynolds.

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

**Brexit – The People's Vote**

In response to a request from Councillor McAllister, the Lord Mayor declined to use her discretion under Standing Order 13(f) to allow the Council to debate the following motion as she did not consider that the issue was urgent.

**Amendment**

**Suspension of Standing Orders**

Moved by Councillor McAllister  
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl

That the Council agrees to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to permit the motion on Brexit – The People's Vote to be debated by the Council rather than being referred to the Brexit Committee.

On a recorded vote, twelve Members voted for the proposal and thirty-five against. As the number of Members voting in favour of the proposal was less than 80% of those present and voting, as set out within Standing Order 25, the proposal was lost.

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<b><u>For 12</u></b>	<b><u>Against 35</u></b>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Councillors Attwood, Boyle, Collins, Heading, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McReynolds, Mullan, Nicholl and O'Neill.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Clarke, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hussey, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McConville, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

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

“This Council acknowledges the result of the EU Referendum of June 2016, but asserts that no one in Belfast voted for a bad deal, or no deal, that could wreck our economy and jeopardise our peace process.

The Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State and to the Prime Minister expressing its support for the growing demand for a People’s Vote on the final Brexit deal.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McAllister.

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

**Ireland Women’s Hockey Team**

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

“This Council applauds the incredible achievement of the Irish Women’s Hockey team in winning a silver medal in the Hockey World Cup. The Council agrees to host a special civic reception to honour the team.”

The motion was seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown).

The Lord Mayor stated that she would be hosting a reception in honour of the Team’s success and arrangements were currently being made.

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

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**Unadopted Alleyways**

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

“This Council will engage with relevant agencies to develop protocols in respect to addressing issues around unadopted alleyways across the City, recognising health and safety and public hygiene concerns. All efforts should be also made to identify legal owners and compel them to meet their obligations.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Newton.

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

**Organ Donation**

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

“This Council notes that Organ Donation Week this year will run from 3rd till 9th September and supports the efforts of all of those organisations seeking to increase the number of people joining the Organ Donation Register.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna.

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

**Empty Chair Campaign**

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

**Belfast Rapid Transit**

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

“This Council notes the introduction of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) to the City. This £90 million investment is intended to lead to an improvement of connectivity in Belfast and in public transport for citizens. The Council notes, however, that the introduction of BRT has led to a number of serious issues that need urgent redressing if the system is not to have an adverse effect on our City.

These include:

- impaired access to homes for the elderly and those with serious disabilities;

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- parents unable to safely leave children to school in some locations;
- access to local shops has been severely restricted, with car parking spaces removed without any recourse as to where this parking would go thereafter;
- double yellow lines are to be extended into residential areas, restricting access to homes and again exacerbating the parking problem;
- a severe increase in congestion, and the need to come up with solutions to this; and
- despite these issues being raised, the Department for Infrastructure has failed to introduce any mitigating measures.

In the absence of a Stormont Executive and, acknowledging the important role played by local government in community planning, this Council can play an important role in representing the views of this City to the Department on the relevant issues surrounding BRT. The Council believes that urgent measures are needed to solve these issues. This should be done in an open and transparent manner, involving residents and other stakeholders. Where necessary, aspects of BRT should be delayed to ensure a competent and satisfactory delivery.

To assist such an approach, the Council will host open meetings in East and West Belfast in order to listen to the concerns of residents on this issue. The Council will also arrange a deputation to the Department for Infrastructure, which will be open to Councillors from all political parties, to discuss how the above problems can be resolved or mitigated.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

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

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson



## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st September, 2018

### MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);  
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown);  
Aldermen Browne, Convery and Haire;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig,  
Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McAllister,  
O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillor Mc Reynolds.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Spence and Councillor McAteer.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 5th, 7th and 9th July (x2) 1st, 17th (x2) and 31st August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Long declared an interest in relation to item 7d – Area Working Update insofar as he was a member of the Bloomfield Church. Councillor Reynolds declared an interest in respect of item 7b – Physical Programme Update and left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.

#### **Presentations**

#### **POBAL**

The Committee was reminded that, in pursuance of its decision of 17th August, Ms J. Muller and Ms M. Delargey were in attendance to provide a presentation in relation to Pobal's research it had carried out entitled "Further and Higher Education, Training and

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Employment Experience of Past Pupils of Irish Medium Education in Belfast – 1970s to present.

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

Ms Muller advised the Committee that the research had been funded by Belfast City Council under its capacity building programme. It had been undertaken due to the lack of baseline information on this issue and because of the growth of Irish Medium Education over the years. She indicated that POBAL wished to develop best practice in strategic planning and complete community capacity building in the city and recognised the important role of the council in this. She then referred to the figures which had been issued by the Department of Education regarding the number of pupils participating in funded Irish Medium Education.

Ms Muller then highlighted the main findings from the respondents to the survey questions in relation to: the areas in which they lived; their age; their use of the Irish language; and what would help them use the language in their everyday lives. Ms Delargey outlined the findings regarding the further, higher education and training which the respondents had undertaken; the language of the courses; their employment since leaving school; and the use of the language in the workplace.

The deputation concluded by indicating that the research report contained six specific recommendations which they were requesting the council to adopt.

They then answered a number of questions from the Members, during which the point was made that the Council had recently appointed an Irish Language Officer and discussions in relation to the recommendations would need to be undertaken initially between that officer and the City Solicitor before any decision could be made.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the City Solicitor undertake an assessment of the recommendations set out in the POBAL research paper entitled "Further and Higher Education, Training and Employment Experience of Past Pupils of Irish Medium Education in Belfast – 1970s to Present" and report back to the Committee in due course.

**Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following five items 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.

**Area-Based Festivals Funding**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th May, it had agreed to fund the following summer diversionary events and education programmes:

- Féile an Phobail (Festival) - £100,000;
- Twaddell Woodvale Residents' Association (Woodvale Festival) - £100,000
- NI Alternatives (East Belfast Community Festival) - £50,000;
- New Lodge Arts (New Lodge Festival) - £40,000;
- Markets Development Association (Diversionary Activities) - £10,000;
- Belfast South Community Resources - £26,521; and
- Ulster-Scotch Heirskip Coouncil/Ulster-Scots Community Network – community education programme, community visualisation programme and 3 year strategic planning process for new festival) - £80,000.

It had been agreed also 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.

It was reported, given the tight timescales in relation to a number of the projects, officers had been working closely with the groups to develop their project proposals and work through due diligence and appropriate legal agreements as agreed by the Members. That had involved officers from a number of Services within the Council.

The Committee was advised that, to date, four of the proposals had been approved and a further two had reached the stage of due diligence where funding agreements could be prepared. Those were Belfast South Community Resources and the Ulster-Scotch Heirskip Coouncil/Ulster-Scots Community Network.

It was pointed out that the Committee, at its meeting on 17th August, had agreed to defer consideration of these applications until this meeting.

It was pointed out also that, given the challenging timescales involved with working with groups to get those requests for funding through satisfactory due diligence, many elements of the programme for Belfast South Community Resources had already commenced. The group was aware that this work had commenced without a funding agreement with the Council, but it had asked the Committee to approve retrospective funding that took place between the point of the previous approval of this funding, that is, 4th June, 2018, and the date of the funding agreement. All retrospective expenditure would be subject to the same monitoring evaluation as detailed in the funding agreement with the group.

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The Committee was advised further that the proposal from Northern Ireland Alternatives for Area-Based festival funding for east Belfast had been withdrawn formally on 10th September, 2018 and the Committee was being requested to consider whether the £50,000 originally earmarked for that event should be reallocated to support the potential work associated with the Bloomfield Walkway site.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee agrees to authorise the release of Funding Agreements to the Belfast South Community Resources, including the retrospective expenditure as outlined, and the Ulster-Scotch Heirskip Council/Ulster-Scots Community Network, with 90% of the funding being paid upfront and the remaining 10% would be paid following satisfactory completion of monitoring and evaluation returns.

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

The Committee agreed that the funding which had originally been earmarked for the East Belfast Community Festival be re-allocated to support the potential works associated with the Bloomfield Walkway site.

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the decisions in relation to the Area Based Festivals funding, in accordance with Standing Order 47(a) (2) (a), be not subject to call-in, on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

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

**Proposals for City Recovery Investment Fund**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update following the fire at Primark Bank Buildings and measures that the Council was taking to support city centre economic recovery. The Chief Executive then provided the Members with a detailed presentation in relation to the current status of the building, the main elements of the City Recovery and Investment Programme; the expert advice which had been provided by external organisations, the key objectives of a wayfinding strategy, the Business Support Programme, including eligibility and the next steps and those finances which had already been committed, and what additional resources would be required for a medium term recovery plan.

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After a lengthy discussion, the Committee agreed:

- the terms and objectives for a City Recovery Investment Programme and approved the expenditure of £410,000 of the £500,000 which the Council had previously allocated by the Committee;
- that an additional £75,000 be allocated to the Specified Reserve to assist with a medium term recovery plan from now until Christmas;
- that a meeting be sought with the Secretary of State and the Civil Service to ascertain what funding could be made available to assist with the recovery programme; and
- in accordance with Standing Order 47(a) (2) (a), that the decisions be not subject to call-in on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

The Committee agreed also that any forecasted year underspend which the Committee would be considering in November be used to replenish the Council's Reserves in the first instance by £1.25 million.

It was noted that the Council had adopted the recommendation of the Committee, at its meeting of 31st August, to delegate authority to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to take any decisions on the issues relating to the Bank Buildings and to approve any expenditure from the aforementioned specified reserve.

**Update on the implementation of the  
Independent Review of Leisure**

The Committee considered a report which had been prepared in response to a Motion on leisure submitted to the Council, following which the Committee had requested that a report on delivery options, including an analysis and implications (in particular financial) of any proposal to bring leisure back in-house and to update the Members on the progress being made on the implementation of recommendations presented within the Independent Review of the Leisure Operating Model.

The Committee:

- noted the update on implementation of the recommendations in the independent report;
- endorsed the continued work of Council Officers, GLL and the Active Belfast Ltd Board to improve the leisure offering to all citizens of Belfast; and
- acknowledged the detrimental impact to the Leisure Development Programme, and the rate payer, in the event of the Council bringing the leisure operating model back in-house, and rule out any further consideration at this time.

### **City Region Growth Deal – Negotiating Position**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed Belfast Region City Deal negotiating position, including the Council's financial contribution and outlining the next steps in securing a City Deal for the region.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- the proposed Belfast Region City Deal negotiating position;
- the Council's overall contribution to the deal of £38m, for the development of the Destination Hub Visitor Attraction; and
- The attendance of the Lord Mayor, Party Group Leaders and the Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at a BRCD event in Westminster on 24th October, 2018.

### **Olympia Commercial Sites – Proposed Disposal**

The Committee was reminded that, following the completion of the new Olympia Leisure Centre and Sports Village, two commercial sites had been created fronting onto the Boucher Road. The sites have been marketed and a number of offers had been received. Accordingly, approval was being sought for the appointment of a preferred bidder, to allow a period of due diligence on planning matters, followed by disposal, subject to planning permission being obtained.

The Committee agreed that Kirk Bryson be appointed as the preferred bidder for taking forward its 'Scheme A' for retail/leisure/food and beverage/apartments and thereafter to enter into a contract for disposal of the site, subject to planning permission and an agreed timeframe for development completion and other terms as agreed by the Estates Manager and Legal Services.

### **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

#### **Motion - Sustainable Development Strategy**

The Committee was minded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd September, the following, which had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds and seconded by Councillor Nicholl, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

*"This Council recognises its important role in shaping a Belfast that is environmentally sustainable (as described in the Belfast Agenda). It recognises also the importance of thinking strategically and with a long-term aim of making Belfast meet the highest environmental standards, especially in the areas of energy, waste, transport, construction and resilience.*

*The Council agrees to establish both a Member-led Sustainable Development Think Tank and an officer steering group that meet regularly to support the development of the Council's Sustainable Development*

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*Strategy and discuss implementing best practice from across Europe and globally.”*

After discussion, the Committee noted the motion and agreed that, initially, a workshop be held prior to any decision being made on the establishment of a Member think tank and an Officers steering group.

**Motion - Irish Women’s Hockey Team**

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd September, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) had, in accordance with Standing Order 12(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

*“This Council applauds the incredible achievement of the Irish Women’s Hockey team in winning a silver medal in the Hockey World Cup. The Council agrees to host a special civic reception to honour the team.”*

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor had indicated that she would be hosting a reception in honour of the Team’s success and arrangements were currently being made. Accordingly, it was recommended that given that those arrangements were already being put in place, the Committee might wish to note the motion and take no further action.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

**Motion - Personal Independence Payment**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd July, had passed the following motion on Personal Independence Payments, which had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown):

*“This Council:*

- *notes the importance of Personal Independence Payments to sustaining and maintaining the lives of many across Northern Ireland;*
- *notes with concern the many issues associated with undergoing assessments and the stress they can bring upon individuals;*
- *is concerned at the fall in figures of those receiving the benefit and the impact this is having on their lives;*
- *notes the link that exists between the drop in support provided and the ‘20m rule’ for the highest rate of PIP mobility support, as highlighted by ‘PIP – a step too far’ published by MS Society; and*

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- *accordingly, agrees to write to the Minister for Work and Pensions, calling for an urgent review of the 20m rule and to engage with key stakeholders to find a more appropriate alternative.”*

The Committee was advised that a response had now been received from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The Secretary of State had pointed out that the Department for Communities was responsible for delivering the Personal Independent Payment system in Northern Ireland and had suggested that the Council might wish to raise the issue with that Department. The Minister had then set out in detail the position in Great Britain to assist in addressing some of the issues raised within the motion.

The Committee noted the response from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

**Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

**Smart Belfast Project Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges and support public service transformation. Delivery of the programme continues to be driven by a ‘pipeline’ of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation framework agreed by Members in 2017.**

**1.2 While the programme’s focus over recent months has been in the development of the digital and innovation pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal, the team have continued to deliver smart city project. This paper provides a short update and seeks Members’ approval on a number of emerging opportunities.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to:**

- 1. Note that the Last Mile Freight Delivery Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition winners will be announced on 18 October at the Belfast Waterfront.**
- 2. Note that following a Things Connected competition, two SMEs have been selected to work with Belfast City Council and Ulster University to develop proto-types to support our city centre services.**



3. To agree to work with the Titanic Foundation to appoint 'Hello Lamp Post' to develop a Maritime Mile demonstrator project.
4. To agree to support Hello Lamp Post's application to the €3 million SynchroniCity IT Open Call.
5. To agree to support a SME-consortium bid to the UK Space Agency's Call for Ideas bid for a major air quality project.
6. To note that the launch of the SBRI 'Managing Open Space' challenge will take place at the Belfast Big Data conference on 18 October and that the competition funding has been increased to £100,000.

### **3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector to tackle urban challenges and support public service transformation It operate at three levels:

- (1) City and regional: Working with partners to inform the Belfast Region City Deal and supporting partners to bring innovative solutions to challenges identified in the Belfast Agenda (while at the same time supporting our digital companies to innovate);
- (2) Organisational transformation: Contributing to the Council's own service transformation by supporting the adoption of user-centric design; innovative procurement; and the application of data science and digital technologies.
- (3) Building the core foundations: Working with partners to build the strategic capabilities of our smart city (including supporting a city data platform, networks, skills sharing, joint delivery mechanisms, etc).

- 3.2 Delivery of the programme continues to be driven by a 'pipeline' of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation framework agreed by Members in 2017. The latest information on the programme is available at <http://smartbelfast.city>

- 3.3 Members are asked to note a number of current and planned pipeline projects:

- 3.4 **Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) on Last Mile Freight delivery**

Following previous committee approval, the Council have been working with Dublin City Council, the NI Department for

Infrastructure, Belfast BIDs, the NI Freight Transport Association, on a €240,000 SBRI competition to encourage SMEs to develop proofs of concepts to help address the challenges of managing freight deliveries in both Dublin and Belfast city centres.

- 3.5 The successful companies have now been selected for Phase One with the winners to be publicly announced at the Big Data Belfast conference <http://www.bigdatabelfast.com> at Belfast Waterfront Hall on 18 October. The councils and their partner organisations will support the development of phase one projects which will explore a variety of approaches in both cities.

3.6 Things Connected challenge competition

Working with Ulster University, the UK Digital Catapult, and other Northern Ireland local councils, the Council is delivering a £30,000 competition to encourage companies to explore ways in which the new NI Things Connected network can be used to support city centre services and the citizen's experience of the public realm.

- 3.7 Two SMEs have now been chosen to go forward for the Belfast challenge. They will be supported by Ulster University to develop their ideas during an initial proof-of-concept phase in autumn 2018

- 3.8 Alongside the competition, the Council has also arranged free training for over 60 SMEs in using cloud-based Internet of Things technology. More than 50 companies have signed up to use the new network, meeting a key success metric set out by the funders Digital Catapult UK. The programme has already led to the creation of one new company.

3.9 Maritime Mile demonstrator project

The Smart Belfast team have also been exploring how IoT technologies could support the development of the city's 'maritime mile' (ie, from the Big Fish to the Pump House) – with a particular focus on how pedestrians and visitors plan their journeys and interact with the public realm. Working with the Titanic Foundation who have offered to provide match-funding, it is proposed that the Council appoint IoT company, 'Hello Lamp Post', to develop a small-scale demonstrator project that will use mobile phone technology to encourage pedestrians to interact with objects along the maritime mile. The learning from the demonstrator project will then be used

to inform the future use of smart technologies in public space and in a future smart district.

3.10 Hello Lamp Post are also planning to bid to a €3 million 'SynchroniCity' IoT fund to develop this work in Belfast and in Eindhoven. It is proposed that Belfast City Council provide a letter of support for this SME-led application.

3.11 UK Space Agency Call For Ideas

Urban air quality and its links to health outcomes is a growing issue at the national and international level. As Members will be aware, Belfast City Council is currently involved in a UK Space Agency funded project with a consortium of SMEs and the Belfast Health Trust. This Urban Healthy Living project seeks to model Belfast's traffic data and air quality to provide information on air pollution in a near real-time for city planners and citizens.

3.12 Building on this ongoing work, the SME consortium lead, Redshift Associates, are now bidding to the Space Agency for an even more ambitious air quality project. It is proposed that Belfast City Council provide a letter of support for their application.

3.13 SBRI challenge for managing open space

As Members will be aware, working with the NI Department for Justice, the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies, the Council successfully applied to the Northern Ireland SBRI challenge programme to support a £50,000 project to work with SMEs to develop innovative ways to support the better management of public space in the city (including parks). The Community Safety Unit have provided a further £10,000 to the competition. More recently, the Department for Finance offered an additional £50,000 for companies.

3.14 The concept has attracted substantial local and national interest. The Smart Dublin team are interested in exploring a similar challenge in and may be able to offer additional funding to the project to allow companies to also test their ideas in a number of parks in Dublin city centre. (This complementary offer has not yet been confirmed.)

3.15 The details of the £110,000 competition are now being finalised and will provide opportunities to explore how data science and digital technologies can support better understanding of the issues associated with safe open space.

**3.16** The competition will be publicity launched to the SME community at the 'Big Data Belfast' conference on 18 October at Belfast Waterfront Hall. Successful companies will work with the Council and others to develop their proofs of concepts up until March 2019.

**3.17** Financial & Resource Implications

The 2018/2019 programme budget for Smart Belfast was agreed by SP&R Committee in November 2017.

For the Maritime Mile demonstrator project, Titanic Foundation are offering to match Belfast City Council's contribution of £3,000.

**3.18** Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Sports Development Strategy –  
Guiding Principles**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting in January 2018, it had agreed that a Belfast City Council Sports Development Strategy and Associated Funding Strategy be developed. Subsequently, a follow up report had been submitted to the People and Communities Committee in June outlining proposed terms of reference and a timeline for development of the strategy and it had recommended these for approval to the Strategic Policy and Policy Committee.

The Committee had, subsequently, at its meeting in June, agreed the report would be submitted seeking agreement on guiding principles. These which would be high level and be used to support the development of the strategy.

The proposed guiding principles were as follows:

- The focus of the strategy will be to contribute to the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in particular 'Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential' and 'Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing'.
- The strategy will consider how we can make the best use of existing limited resources to make the greatest possible community impact and create sustainability.

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- The strategy will consider how we can provide support across the sports development continuum to increase access to, and participation in, organised sporting pathways to ensure maximum participation, especially among underrepresented groups.
- The strategy will consider the delivery and development of activities and programming whilst the use of facilities will be considered in the Council's Assets Strategy.
- The strategy will consider how we can develop partnerships to enhance and complement the support provided by other organisations and within Council to ensure there is no duplication of funding and that we maximise strategic outcomes and impact.
- The strategy will consider how the Council can support governing bodies and their clubs to ensure that the Council minimises risk to itself and members of sporting organisations. Support for Belfast based sports clubs which are not members of recognised governing bodies, will be considered once evidence of appropriately rigorous governance and safeguarding policies, procedures and practices is approved by Council.
- The strategy will recognise the different needs and demands across the city's neighbourhoods and will seek to contribute to identified priorities within these areas.

Following agreement of the guiding principles, officers would draft the strategy based on best practice, the support currently provided by the Council and pre-consultation with key stakeholders. This then would be brought back to the Committee for consideration and approval prior to public consultation.

The Committee agreed the proposed guiding principles for the Sports Development Strategy

**Governance/Members' Issues**

**Amendment to Standing Order 24 –  
Voting and Divisions**

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 17th August, it had agreed to receive a report on a suggestion that all votes at a Council meeting should be taken by way of a recorded vote. If the Committee was minded to agree to this, then it would require an amendment to Standing Order 24.

He explained that the Standing Order currently states that:

*“Subject to any statutory provisions to the contrary, any matter to be decided by the Council will be by simple majority, conducted by show of hands.*

*If, before a vote is called, any Member present at the meeting requests it, the names for and against the proposal or amendment and those abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and recorded in the*

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*minutes of the meeting. Upon such request being received, the division bell shall be rung, and a period of one minute shall be allowed to elapse, when the doors of the Council Chamber shall be closed and no one admitted until the vote has been taken.*

*During the taking of the votes Members shall remain seated.*

*In the case of an equality of votes, the Lord Mayor shall have a second and casting vote.”*

He pointed out that the existing Standing Order provided a simple mechanism whereby any single Member could require a vote to be recorded. If the Committee was minded to amend the Standing Order as requested, then this would inevitably result in the meetings taking longer to complete. Typically, each recorded vote took about seven or eight minutes to complete. Over the year from June 2017 till May 2018, a recorded vote had been requested on 33 occasions, averaging three per meeting. The Council had operated, since it was established in 1973, by way of the existing Standing Order. The Committee might wish to consider if there is any purpose to be served by requiring every vote to be a recorded one rather than maintaining the existing system which permitted a recorded vote to be taken upon the request of a single Member.

If the Committee wished to amend the Standing Order, then the following wording was suggested:

*“Subject to any statutory provisions to the contrary, any matter to be decided by the Council will be by simple majority, conducted by a recorded vote.*

*The names for and against the proposal or amendment and those abstaining from voting will be taken down in writing and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Before the vote is taken, the division bell shall be rung, and a period of one minute shall be allowed to elapse, when the doors of the Council Chamber shall be closed and no one admitted until the vote has been taken.*

*During the taking of the votes Members shall remain seated.*

*In the case of an equality of votes, the Lord Mayor shall have a second and casting vote.”*

If the Committee was in agreement then the recommendation would, in accordance with Standing Order 64, require to be ratified at the Council meeting on 1st October and confirmed at the meeting on 1st November.

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Moved by Councillor McAllister,  
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the Committee agrees to amend Standing Order 24 to provide that all votes at a Council meeting be taken by way of a recorded vote and that the new Standing Order be set out as above.

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

**NILGA Annual Conference and  
Local Government Awards**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th August, it had deferred consideration of the attendance of Members and officers at the NILGA Local Government Awards, which was being held at the Armagh City Hotel on 11th October, until the finalists had been shortlisted.

It was reported that confirmation had now been received that the Council had been shortlisted in three categories, namely, Best Local Authority Service Team – Property and Projects Team, Employee of the Year, Mr Colin Agnew, Community Parks Supervisor, and Best Local Authority Tourism Initiative – Belfast Waterfront. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Committee approve the attendance of the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy and Resources, People and Communities Committees and the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls Shareholders' Committee (or their nominees), together with appropriate officers at the awards dinner. The cost for attendance at the Awards dinner was £60 plus VAT per person and could be met from within existing budgets.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Recruitment Panel – Head of Commercial and  
Procurement Services**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th August, it had approved the recruitment panel for the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services. Subsequently, Alderman Convery, who had been appointed to the panel, had indicated that he was no longer available for all of the dates and that the Committee would be required to appoint a replacement.

The Committee agreed that Alderman Convery be replaced by Councillor Graham on the Recruitment Panel for the post of Head of Commercial and Procurement Services.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Reflection Room**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Committee on a proposal to consider a Reflection Room in City Hall for visitors and staff.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Having considered the limited demand for such a space together with the lack of a suitable space in City Hall and the amount of the various activities taking place in the building it is recommended that the Committee agrees not to pursue this proposal any further

**Main Report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1 Committee earlier this year asked that a report be brought back on the inclusion of a quiet room/room of reflection within the City Hall which could be used by persons of all faiths and none to facilitate the citizens of Belfast and further afield who wish to have private time out of the hustle and bustle of city life.
- 3.2 Visitor footfall in the City Hall has dramatically increased over the years and, with the opening of the new exhibition area, the City Hall is now one of the most visited tourist attraction in Belfast. The City Hall is one of the busiest buildings in the city and the many activities which take place from weddings, to events, to demonstrations, to tourist visitors, to council business epitomises the hustle and bustle of the city. Given this the City Hall may not be the optimum location for a proposed reflection room.
- 3.3 Consideration has also been given to the demand for such a facility and no demand has been evidenced. Although visitors arrive from all parts of the world, discussions with the front line staff including the receptionists and telephonists, indicate there has been very few requests to provide a Reflection Room in the City Hall. On the very few occasions when a request has been made staff have directed the individual to another location in the city or given them the option of going to the Reflection Space which is already located in Room 14 in the new Exhibition area.
- 3.4 Committee is asked to note that there also have been no requests from staff to provide such a facility in any of the BCC city centre office buildings as there are ample other type of



provision including meeting rooms spaces. The City Hall grounds also offer quieter areas at times on both East and West wings.

3.5 In addition to the general business of City Hall itself and the lack of demand for a reflection room there is also very limited space in the building. Space in the City Hall is at an absolute premium with the additional facilities that have already been or which are currently being provided e.g. new exhibition area on the ground floor, the new Changing Places facility which will be installed shortly, the new family room facility etc. In addition, there have been further demands placed on the remaining space left in the City Hall by the need to find accommodation for the increased number of independent members and new directors. From time to time there are also temporary arrangements for exhibitions, conferences etc. which require a degree of flexibility in terms of the use of space.

3.6 Given all the above it is recommended that that the Committee agrees not to pursue this proposal any further and that if requests are made for quiet space that these continue to be directed to other suitable locations within the building or externally.

3.7 Financial/Resource Implications

There would be costs involved with relocating staff, finding new and/or additional accommodation and of course fitting out an appropriate Reflective Room which have not so far been estimated.

3.8 Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no legal requirements on Belfast City Council to provide such a facility in any of its public buildings. However providing one may be welcomed by a number of the faith bodies or alternatively could create demand for particular faith based facilities raising further issues regarding the council's powers."

The Committee agreed not to proceed with a proposal to establish a Reflection Room in the City Hall for visitors and staff.

## **Physical Programme Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers over 200 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, SOF (Social Outcomes Fund) and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This report provides an update for Members on the Physical Programme.**

### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to –**

- **note that a tour of a number of physical projects (both completed or underway) has been scheduled for Saturday 22nd September - the proposed itinerary for the site visits is attached at Appendix 1. All Members are encouraged to avail of this tour in order to gain an understanding of the scale and complexity of the Council’s physical programme**
- **agree that a series of Party Group briefings on the Physical Programme are undertaken in October**

### **Project Updates**

- **Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 – note the Fleet Programme for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects**
- **Leisure Transformation Programme - Robinson Centre - endorse the recommendation from the East AWG that the skate park is removed from the agreed facilities mix and that the existing playground and proposed 5-a-side pitch are extended on the basis that this remains within the agreed budget envelope. Members are also asked to agree that the option of the local community managing the second 5-a-side pitch be investigated.**
- **Tropical Ravine – note that the Tropical Ravine won the NI RICS project of the year in June and will now go on to compete in the national final in November in London. Committee is asked to authorise the attendance of the**

**Chair of the SP&R Committee and/or the People and Communities Committee (or Deputy Chairs or nominees) and appropriate officers at the awards ceremony**

- **DFC match funding - note that letters of offer from DfC has been received for a range of Council projects as at 3.8 below on the basis that this spend can be completed within this financial year and that these were projects that had already been agreed by the Council and would have been progressed**
- **Urban Villages – note that Committee had previously agreed that the Council would act as the delivery agent for a range of projects due to be funded under the Urban Villages initiative. Members are asked to note that letters of offer have now been received for the delivery of 8 projects this year (see 3.9 below) and that the Council continues to be in discussions with UV on a further range of projects**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme covering over 200 projects under a range of funding streams including the capital programme, BIF and LIF together with the projects that it is delivering on behalf of other agencies including the Executive Office and the Department for Communities. There are currently approx. 200 'live' projects on the physical programme worth in excess of £300m. This makes it one of the most visible and easily recognisable signs of the Council's civic leadership role in the city. However it is also important to ensure that the physical programme is not simply about the stand-alone development of new facilities or assets but that all physical projects are an enabler in their own right towards the achievement of the City's and the Council's wider strategic objectives under the Belfast Agenda and the Corporate Plan.**
- 3.2 Members previously agreed that, given both the current scale of the programme and the number of new Members, that a tour of a number of physical projects (both completed and underway) across the city is scheduled for all Members. Members are asked to note that this tour has been scheduled for tomorrow morning (Saturday 22nd September 9.30am-12.30pm with breakfast beforehand. A proposed itinerary for the tour is attached at Appendix 1. All Members are encouraged to avail of this opportunity and to contact the**

Property and Projects Department if they are interested in attending.

- 3.3 Members are asked to note that moving forward the Council will face a number of challenges in respect of the physical programme including pressures on the capital financing budget; managing expectations in terms of delivery; that the Council's estate is ageing which increases pressure on maintenance budgets and competing demands for investment. Given the complexity of this issue and its implications for Members in terms of future decision making it is proposed that a series of Party Group briefings are undertaken in October on the Physical Programme.

#### Project Updates

- 3.4 *Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2019-2020 and 2020/2021*– Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. In March 2018 SP&R agreed to allocate £1.97m towards the Fleet Programme for 2019-2020 and £2.2m for 2020/2021. Members are asked to note that the Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation. Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects.
- 3.5 *Leisure Transformation Programme - Robinson Centre* - Members are asked to note that the agreed facilities mix for the Robinson Centre included a skate park at the rear of the site. The consultation feedback evidenced no demand for a skate park and in addition a number of concerns had been raised in relation to including this. This element has therefore not been submitted for planning.

On the basis of the consultation feedback the East AWG, at its meeting on 6th September, agreed that the skate park should be removed from the agreed facilities mix for Robinson and that the existing playground and proposed 5-a-side pitch are extended on the basis that this remains within the overall agreed budget envelope. SP&R Committee is asked to endorse this recommendation. Members are also asked to agree that the option of the local community managing the second 5-a-side pitch be investigated.

- 3.6 **Capital Programme - Tropical Ravine –** Members will recall that they were advised in June that the recently renovated and re-opened £3.7m Tropical Ravine project had won the prestigious Northern Ireland RICS project of the year with the judges noting *‘The Tropical Ravine was unanimously supported as Project of the Year. Its sensitive conservation approach was professional, and the partnership created of caring community groups and the Heritage Lottery Fund added strength and injected a variety of views, often conflicting, and aspirations which collectively have transformed this neglected overgrown corner of Botanic Gardens into a visitor attraction with an amazing story to be absorbed at leisure’*. The Tropical Ravine will now go on to compete in the national final in November in London. Committee is asked to authorise the attendance of the Chair of the SP&R Committee and/or the People and Communities Committee (or Deputy Chairs or nominees) and appropriate officers at the awards ceremony

**Externally funded initiatives**

- 3.7 **Members will be aware that over the past couple of years the Council has been requested to deliver a series of capital projects under a number of externally funded initiatives including the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) on behalf of the Executive Office together with projects on behalf of the Department for Communities. These requests recognise both the successful track record of the Council as a delivery agent for capital projects and also the uniquely placed role of the Council as a civic leader in the city.**
- 3.8 **Department for Communities- Match funding –** Committee is asked to note that a couple of months ago the Department for Communities (DfC) approached the Council regarding the potential to match fund a range of Council projects with the proviso that these had to be projects which were already approved by the Council, that DfC would be a minority funder and that the money could be spent within this financial year. Due to these restrictions Members are asked to note that only a small number of Council projects were identified as being suitable and that letters of offer for match funding towards the following projects have been received –

Project Title	DfC funding
City Hall – Development of a Changing Places Facility	£37,000
City Hall– Lighting on the trees in the grounds of City Hall	£36,000
Hammer Playground – development of the playground	£137,000

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<b>Project Title</b>	<b>DFC funding</b>
Playground Refurbishment—Glenbank	£72,000
Playground Refurbishment—Duncairn	£67,000
Playground Refurbishment—Orangefield	£93,000
Gasworks – Upgrade the streetscapes, improve accessibility	£102,000
Old Golf Course Road - New playground, environmental improvements and upgrades to open space	£288,512
Blacks Path (Dunmurry Station Footpath)	£26,000

**Members are further asked to note that a number of other projects are under consideration include upgrades to the existing facility at White Rise; Cathedral Gardens - Relocation of the Buoys; Grace Family Centre; Cancer Lifeline and Paisley Park. In regard to White Rise Members are asked to agree that the option of the local community managing the upgraded facility be investigated.**

- 3.9 Urban Villages - Members previously agreed that the Council acts as the delivery agent for a range of projects under the Urban Villages initiative on behalf of the Executive Office. At this stage the list of projects was unknown. Members are asked to note that letters of offer have now been received for a range of projects which have profiled spend for this year and that officers are now working on these.**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Total LOO</b>
Colin Allotments & Healthy Living Centre	£64,709.00
Footprints Women’s Centre	£80,133.00
Benview Community Centre Refurbishment	£79,360.50
The Foundry Training Café	£148,062.00
Short Strand CF - Play Area	£112,427.00
Glenbryn Playground	£474,192.00
The Diamond Project	£185,297.00
John Paul II Youth Club	£127,970.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,272,150.50</b>

**Members are also asked to note that officers are continuing to work with the UV team and it is anticipated that further LOOs will be received. Many of the proposed future projects on the**

UV lists either align closely to ongoing Council initiatives or to projects already being funded or proposed for funding by the Council under other funding streams including LIF/BIF/SOF.

**3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* – Fleet Programme and Robinson are both agreed projects on the Council's capital programme

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

**3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Assets Report**

The Committee granted approval to the following:

**i) Unit Letting at Smithfield Market**

Functional responsibility for dealing with property issues in relation to the letting of Units at Smithfield Market rests with the Director of Property and Projects. Approval of the letting terms for the Units are to be undertaken by the Director under the scheme of delegation, on the basis that the terms are reported retrospectively to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee accordingly noted the list of Unit Lettings at Smithfield Market.

**ii) Parkgate Avenue Car Park – Licence Agreement**

The grant of a licence to Peter Boyle and Ciara Denvir for a right to pass and repass across Parkgate Avenue Car Park on the terms outlined below.

**iii) Little Victoria Street – Licence Agreement**

The grant of a licence to Clear Channel NI Ltd at Little Victoria Street Car Park for an advertising site on the terms outlined in the report.

**iv) Knockbreda Cemetery, 17 Saintfield Road - Grant of Easement and Land Transfer**

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Mutual Grants of Easement and an exchange of land with the owner of a private dwelling within the grounds of Knockbreda Cemetery to regularise a situation, which has existed for more than 20 years.

**v) St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Donegall Pass - Grant of Right of Way to Trustees**

The grant of a Right of Way to the Trustees of St Mary Magdalene Parish Church, to secure an emergency exit through the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park.

**Area Working Update**

The Committee:

**Area Working Group Minutes**

Approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups (AWG) as follows:

East – 16th August and 6th September; North – 20th August; West- 23rd August; and South - 30th August.

**Belfast Investment Fund**

Agreed the recommendation from the East Area Working Group in respect of BIF as set out below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
BIF042 – Bloomfield Presbyterian Church	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging project

**Local Investment Fund**

Noted that North Area Working Group had approved that the funding agreement under NLIF023 – Fortwilliam and Macrory Church Hall be novated to the to the 174 Trust.

**North Area Working Group**

Endorsed the recommendation from the North Area working Group that a proposal received in respect of community management of the Girdwood Youth Space be deferred and that the current management arrangements continue.



**Finance, Resources and Procurement**

**Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2017-18**

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

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2018.**
- 1.2 The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.**
- 1.3 The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 05/18 dated 9 March 2018.**
- 1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to**
  - Approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2018.**
  - Agree that this paper should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests given that the statement of accounts must be published by 30th September 2018.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Audit Opinion

3.1 It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017-18, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2018 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and
- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2018 is consistent with the financial statements.

Reserves

3.2 General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £24,408,596 (of which £10,738,347 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

*Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position*

Opening Balance	£21.0m
In year movement in reserves	£ 3.4m
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£24.4m</b>
Specified Reserves at year end	£10.7m
<b>Balance Available</b>	<b>£13.7m</b>

**3.3 Capital Fund            £25,669,445**

The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£4,080,715). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£2,301,028) to fund smaller local regeneration projects., the City Centre Investment Fund (£15,287,702) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans, the Social Outcomes Fund (£4,000,000) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support and attraction of investment.

**3.4 Leisure Mobilisation Fund    £1,704,334**

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

**3.5 Capital Receipts Reserve    £4,739,457**

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

**3.6 Other Fund Balances and Reserves    £867,527**

This relates to the Election Reserve (£513,919) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£169,638) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£183,970) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

**3.7 Debt**

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 10 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £3.8m at 31 March 2018. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

*Table 2 : Analysis of Trade Debtors*

	31 March 2018	31 March 2017
Less than three months	£2,859,979	£3,305,930
Three to one year	£154,081	£111,596
More than one year	£736,633	£789,382
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,750,693</b>	<b>£4,206,908</b>

**3.8 Creditors**

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 58,319 invoices totalling £142,055,044.

**3.9** The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 21 days for the year ended 31 March 2018. The Council paid 39,355 invoices within 10 days, 51,403 invoices within 30 days, and 6,916 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

**3.10 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)**

The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2017/18, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- significant governance issues to be disclosed.

**3.11** The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

As outlined above.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**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 accept 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 3.7 and Appendix 1, Table 3.
- noted the contract awarded as per Appendix 1, Table 4

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

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Autocad Subscription Services	R Cregan	5 years
Replacement of boilers at Belfast Zoo Elephant House & Gorilla /Chimp House and calorifier hot water unit at City of Belfast Playing Fields	G Millar	4 months
Replacement of windows to Cherryvale PF Changing Pavilion, Sandy Row CC& Tullycarnet CC	G Millar	4 months
Measured Term Contract for repair, maintenance & minor works to Building Energy Management Systems	G Millar	1 year plus two

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Ormeau Park replacement of metal railings on Park Road from playground to Ormeau Golf Club	G Millar	3 months
Term Contract for kitchen extract canopy assessment, cleaning of cooking area protection	G Millar	1 year plus three
Measured Term Contract for wet trades and general small building works	G Millar	1 year plus two
Term Contract for legionella monitoring & risk management	G Millar	1 year plus two
Courier Service	G Millar	Up to 5 years
Financial Appraisals	G Millar	Up to 5 years
Supply & Delivery of Paint & Sundries (T1896)	G Millar	Up to 4 years
Frozen Food	J Walsh	2 years plus 1
Ambient Food	J Walsh	Up to 5 years
Supply & Installation of Signage	N Grimshaw	3 years

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply & Delivery of Parks Seats	N Grimshaw	5 years
Supply and Delivery of Rubber Crumb	N Grimshaw	3 years
Compactor Maintenance	N Grimshaw	3 years
Hire & Maintenance of Portable Toilets	N Grimshaw	3 years
Off Street Car Parking Enforcement Services	N Grimshaw	3 years plus 1
Off Street Car Parking Barrier Service	N Grimshaw	10 years
Supply & Delivery of Forced Bedding Bulbs	N Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Mattress Recycling	N Grimshaw	3 years plus 1
Roll-on Roll-off Skip Maintenance	N Grimshaw	3 years plus 1
Supply and Delivery of Grounds Maintenance Plant & Equipment	N Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Entertainment for Parks Events	N Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Managed Service for Energy	R Cregan	Up to 5 years
Construction of Employment Academy	A Reid	1 year with the option to renew for a further year

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

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Director Responsible</b>	<b>Proposed Extension</b>
T1365 - Framework for the Delivery of Manned Security Services to Belfast City Council	J Walsh	Month by month until new contract is in place
T1595 Supply, Delivery and Fitting of Hydraulic Hoses	N Grimshaw	Ext to 18 Nov 2018 until new tender is in place
T1577 Administration and Delivery of First Aid Training	J Walsh	Month by month until new contract is in place

**Table 3 Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>System / product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Tender for the Removal of Bonfire and Associated Material	Restricted	Restricted
Installation and Storage of Christmas Lights	BCCM	£70,000 (part contribution)

**Table 4 Contracts Awarded (April - Aug 2018 inclusive)**

<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Senior Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Contract Duration</b>
Supply and delivery of animal feed for Belfast Zoo (T1814)	Dietex International and Dodson & Horrell	N Grimshaw	1 year with the option to renew annually for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of frozen and live animal feed (T1852)	WD Meats Ltd (Lot 3 only)	N Grimshaw	4 years
Supply and delivery of 26T RCV with Bin Lift (T1854a)	Denis Eagle Ltd via YPO framework	N Grimshaw	3 years with the option to renew for a further year
Peace IV Marking the Decade of Centenaries(T1857)	Corrymela Community	N Grimshaw	4 years



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<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Senior Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Contract Duration</b>
Belfast Bikes Sponsorship (T1863)	Belfast Harbour Comm issioner/Just Eat	A Reid	3 years
Digitisation of Building Control Records (T1865)	Digital Scanning Services Ltd	A Thatcher	1 year with the option to renew for a further 3 years
Tender for the delivery, erection and dismantling of marquees (T1866)	North Down Marquees Ltd	D Durkin	1 year with the option to renew for a further 3 years
Tender for the supply of bottled and mains fed water (T1867)	Irish food & Beverage Ltd and All water Systems Ltd	G Millar	3 years
Design, delivery and management of Twilight Market (T1868)	Event-Ful Company	D Durkin	1 year
Tender for the provision of a taxi service (T1869)	Value Cabs Ltd	G Millar	3 years
Tender for consultancy services for the development of a business case for investment in infrastructure (T1871)	Ove Arup & Partners	A Reid	2-3 years
Animal Healthcare at Belfast Zoo (T1872)	Jubilee Veterinary Clinic	N Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Supply and delivery of frozen fish to Belfast Zoo (T1883)	Marine Nutrition Ltd	N Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of playground equipment (T1849)	Allplay Ireland Ltd; Garden Escapes Ltd; Haffey Sportsgrounds Ltd; Hawthron Heights Ltd; Play & Leisure services Ltd & Spraoi Linn Ltd	N Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years
Provision of consultancy service for technical and procurement advisors for the	Farrpoint Ltd	R Cregan	1 year with the option to renew for a further 3 years

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<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Senior Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Contract Duration</b>
delivery of LFFN (T1874)			
Supply and delivery of crew and day cabs with beaver tails/box bodies (T1884)	NI Trucks Ltd	N Grimshaw	3 years
Event management and support services for MIPIM 2019 (T1886)	Lanyon Communications	N Gallagher	1 year
Supply, delivery, installation and refurbishment of free standing litter bins (T1890)	Unicorn Containers Ltd	N Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years
Tender for the provision of play equipment inspections at BCC sites (T1892)	Play Services Ireland Ltd	N Grimshaw	1 year with the option to renew for a further 4 years
Consultancy services for a strategic sites assessment (T1897)	ARUP Ltd	C Reynolds	1 year
Delivery of procurement operating model and sourcing programme (T1904)	Performance Purchasing Ltd	D Durkin	4 months with option to renew on a monthly basis
Maintenance of housing benefits software & support (NIHE managed service contract)	Northgate	R Cregan	1 year
Maintenance of mapping agreement LPS	LPS Ordnance survey	R Cregan	1 year
Premier Support (Gold)	Microsoft	R Cregan	1 year
Oracle Site Licence	Oracle	R Cregan	1 year
Maintenance & support of the travel & subsistence system	Selima	R Cregan	18 months

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<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Senior Reporting Officer</b>	<b>Contract Duration</b>
Maintenance & support of CIVICA APP (Flare)	CIVCA	R Cregan	3 years
Maintenance & support of Vendor Invoice Management	VIM	R Cregan	4 year
Energy Management	M&C Energy Group Ltd	G Millar	6 months
Contract for Kerbside recycling	Bryson recycling	N Grimshaw	1 year
Development of a bespoke inclusive growth framework for BCC	Metro Dynamics	J Tully	1 year
Contract for the Annual Property Asset Valuation	Land & Property Service (LPS)	G Millar	5 years
Contract for Provision of and access to legal material & research	Lexis Nexis	J Walsh	3 years
Waterproofing for WFH Roof (T1909)	Gordon & Co	G Millar	1 year
Contract for admission to Risk Avoidance Danger Awareness Resource Centre (T1908)	RADAR	N Grimshaw	3 years
Tender for the removal of bonfire and associated material	Restricted	N Grimshaw	1 year
Installation and storage of Christmas lights	BCCM	A Reid	1 year

**Equality and Good Relations**

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

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 10th September and agreed to the following:

**Update on Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme**

To note the contents of the report in relation to the update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme, including a list of groups who had received funding to the 2018 programme, the findings from the monitoring and valuation report and the details of the Review Panel who considered the participation of groups who failed to meet all of the programme guidelines.

**Response to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) Peace Walls  
Consent Paper**

To approved the Council's response to the IFA Peace Walls Programme.

**Request for Nomination to NI Strategic Migration Partnership/NILGA  
Working Group**

To approve the appointment of both the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership being nominated to sit on the above mentioned Working Groups.

**Good and Harmonious Working Environment:  
Clarification on the Legislation**

The City Solicitor reminded the Committee that, at the Council meeting on 3rd July, 2018, at the request of a Member, the Chief Executive had undertook to submit to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee a report providing clarification on the legislation governing the display in the workplace, including the Council Chamber, of clothing or other items which might be seemed to be offensive.

A report outlining the current legislation and guidance had been circulated for Members' consideration and the conclusions are set out hereunder:

- The City Hall, including the Council Chamber, should be considered a workplace environment given that staff are situated and working within these locations. In addition, they are used by clients, customers, third parties and members of the public. Therefore, the good and harmonious environment is required to be promoted within these settings by all who use them.
- While there is no definitive or exhaustive list about what is deemed offensive given the variety of emblems etc. which existed and the fact that context often plays a part, the current Belfast City Council Joint Declaration of Protection and the guidance from the Equality Commission should be taken into consideration along with the duty to promote equality and good relations.

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- In addition, as outlined in the Code of Conduct for Councillors, the promotion of a culture of respect, equality and trust and the embracing of diversity in all its forms should be sought.
- Furthermore Members should display civic leadership on compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and how we promote equality of opportunity and good relations.

The City Solicitor pointed out that Council meetings were required to be open to the public and took place in a workplace environment. He referred to the duties which arose in respect of Section 75 and the Code of Conduct which required Councillors to have regard to the equality duty and the Council's Equality Scheme. He explained that the Council, in agreement with trade unions, had a policy in line with the Equality Commission Guidance on promoting a good and harmonious working environment, within this the following items were regarded as unacceptable:

- Football garments;
- Badges/insignia linked to paramilitary, political or fraternal organisations;
- Poster or displays linked to the above.

Accordingly, in line with the guidance and agreements with trade unions, he recommended that Councillors attending meetings adopt a dress code in keeping with the Equality Commission Guidance and the Council's agreement with trade unions.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Annual Report to Equality Commission  
for Northern Ireland**

The Committee was advised that, as required by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Council had to report annually to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland on the progress of the implementation of its Equality Scheme. Accordingly the City Solicitor submitted the annual report which outlined the progress on actions identified to promote equality of opportunity and good relations for the period April 2017 – March 2018.

The Committee approved the Council's annual report for submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland for 2017 – 2018.

**Rural Needs - Annual Monitoring Report**

The Committee was advised that the Council had a new statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions. The City Solicitor pointed out that the rural population of Belfast was approximately 1,484 people comprising the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.

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The requirement to monitor and report applied to all Northern Ireland departments and district councils from 1st June 2017. The Council was required under section 3(1) of the Act to:

- Compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1(1) of the Act;
- Include that information in their annual report; and
- Send that information to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return.

The Committee approved the Council's Annual Monitoring Return to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for 2017-18

**Operational Issues**

**NILGA Consultation – “Devolution within Northern Ireland”**

The Committee deferred consideration of the report for a period of one month to enable those Parties who so wished to receive a briefing.

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 11th September, 2018 as set out in the following appendix:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
<b>2018 EVENTS</b>						
Belfast Family Support Hub	October 2018  <i>Date tbc</i>	<b>Reception for family hub support</b> – networking event for the 10 Belfast family hub organizations who each coordinate early intervention services and support for vulnerable families, children and young people.	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		Numbers attending - 300				
OGCancer NI	November 2018  <i>Date tbc</i>	<b>Launch and networking event</b> to launch this new locally based charity supporting patients and careers of Oesophago – Gastric Cancer; meet workers and health professionals.  Numbers attending -50	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
United Kingdom Town and Gown Association (UKTGA)	18 November 2018	<b>Networking and Certificate Presentation evening</b> – reception as part of a 2-day conference taking place at QUB in regard to campus issues.  Numbers attending -50	A & B	No - Linked to Visit Belfast	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve Room Charge Wine Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 21st September, 2018**

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED</b>
Belfast Hospital School	23 November 2018	<b>Celebration of achievement evening</b> for young people unable to attend school due to physical or mental illness who missed awards at their schools.  Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
Aisling Events	1 February 2019	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Annual Blackboard Awards –</b> Presentation awards ceremony to honor 40 teachers from Primary and Post Primary schools in Belfast city as well as Principals and classroom assistants.  Numbers attending – 140	C	Yes - £300	No	Approve Room Charge No Hospitality
VIRSA NI	7 April 2019	<b>Vaisakhi Celebration – of the harvest festival in Punjab (India).</b> The event will have cultural performances , food, music	C&D	No (Community )	No ( <i>they have specific dietary requirements</i> )	Approve No Charge No hospitality



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		and dance for the local community				
Young Enterprise	11 April 2019	<b>Young Enterprise Awards –</b> Annual ceremony to celebrate the achievements of young people from across NI who have completed their flagship programmes.  Numbers attending - 350	C&D	No (Charity)	Yes - Shloer Reception	Approve No Charge Shloer Reception
NI Hospice	7 May 2019	<b>Opening Reception of the Inaugural International Conference on Palliative Dementia Care–</b> reception as part of a 3-day conference  Numbers attending - 300	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No Room Charge Wine Reception

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Benenden Health	20 June 2019	<b>Reception for Benenden Health</b> (Not for profit organization) who provide healthcare assistance as part of their a 2-day conference at Belfast Waterfront.  Numbers attending - 350	A & B	No Linked to Visit Belfast	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No Room Charge Wine Reception
Royal Statistical Society	3 September 2019	<b>Welcome Reception for the RSS 2019 Conference</b> – Reception as part of four day international conference held in Belfast Waterfront.  Numbers attending - 300	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception – <i>linked to Visit Belfast</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
<b>2021 EVENTS</b>						
Conference Partners International	8 September 2021	<b>Reception and Dinner for 2021 Mass Spectrometry School</b> - Reception as part of five day conference held in	A & B	Yes - £115	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve Room Charge Wine Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 21st September, 2018**

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED</b>
		University Of Ulster.  Numbers attending - 100				

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 11th September.

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 13th September.

**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 10th September.

Chairperson

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## People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 4th September, 2018

### MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Copeland, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Baker, Corr, Corr Johnston, Heading,  
Magee, Magennis, Milne, McReynolds, Newton and  
O'Donnell.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors Armitage, Canavan, Lyons, McCusker and Pankhurst.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 7th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were reported.

#### **Matters Referred from Council/Motions**

##### **Motion – Graffiti**

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

"This Council recognises the damage caused by and unsightliness of the growing amount of graffiti within our City centre and our neighbourhoods, on our shutters, our walls, our doors, our utility boxes etc.

As the Council has the power under Article 18 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 to remove or obliterate any graffiti which, in the opinion of Council, is detrimental to the amenity of any land in the district, pro-active policies and procedures for addressing the problem need to now be put in place, perhaps on the lines of those adopted in 2016 by Ards and North Down Borough Council.

**People and Communities Committee,  
Tuesday, 4th September, 2018**

Accordingly, the Council agrees to allocate the necessary funding and resources, or the reprioritisation of existing resources, to tackle the environmental scourge of graffiti in the City."

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

**Motion - Green Spaces**

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

"This Council agrees to establish a strategy to tackle the issue of grass cutting along verges and roads in the City. This will include auditing the number of sites that need maintenance, determining the best way to maintain them, increasing revenue to meet the costs and setting up a forum with other relevant agencies, including the Department for Infrastructure, to ensure that the areas are maintained in a way which promotes road safety, civic pride and protects the environment."

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting and that, within the context of this report, consideration would be given to the use of glyphosate based weed killers and possible alternatives.

**Motion – Unadopted Alleyways**

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

"This Council will engage with relevant agencies to develop protocols in respect to addressing issues around unadopted alleyways across the City, recognising health and safety and public hygiene concerns. All efforts should be also made to identify legal owners and compel them to meet their obligations."

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting and that this would include details in respect of the location of unadopted alleyways throughout the City.

**Committee/Strategic Issues**

**Update on Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Development**

The Committee was advised that, at the meetings of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 6th June and 15th August, the following key items had been considered:

- update in respect of the new Crematorium Development at Roselawn and the tender process to appoint a specialist project team;
- the use of memorial trees at Roselawn;

**People and Communities Committee,  
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- update in respect of the water infrastructure at Roselawn;
- update in respect of unstable headstones; and
- update in respect of the permanent memorial to mark Plot Z1 in the City Cemetery.

It was highlighted to the Committee that, following the Motion in respect of children's funeral charges, which had been raised at the May meeting of Council, the Working Group had considered this in detail. At the meeting of the Working Group, held on 15th August, it had recommended to the People and Communities Committee that it waive cremation fees for all under eighteen year olds from a Northern Ireland address. It had also recommended that burial fees be waived for residents of the City who were under eighteen years old, however, this would not extend to any costs associated with the purchase of a grave. In addition, it recommended to the Committee that the aforementioned provisions would be extended to asylum seekers.

The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 6th June and 15th August; and
- noted that Councillor Corr would replace Councillor Carson on the Working Group with immediate effect.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Grant of Right of Way to Trustees of  
St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church, Donegall Pass**

The Committee was advised that, approximately ten years ago, the Council had granted the Trustees of St. Mary Magdalene Parish Church a Right of Way to provide an emergency egress from the rear of church property via a path leading to Lindsay Street. This path had been used over this period, however, the legal process had not been completed and no formal Grant of Easement had been executed.

The Committee was informed that the Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park was due for refurbishment and included in the design was a proposal to close off the Lindsay Street access and incorporate the pathway into the park. This would necessitate the realignment of the emergency exit onto Apsley Street and the issue of a formal Grant of Easement for execution for all parties.

The Committee recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that consent be granted to a right of way in favour of the Trustees of St Mary Magdalene Parish Church to provide an emergency egress through the Council owned Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park.

**People and Communities Committee,  
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**Update on Partner Agreements**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven sites and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for April – June 2018.

She advised that officers from the Council had met with representatives from East Belfast Football Club to highlight the Council's concern over its continued non-compliance. She reported that, at this meeting, an agreed plan of action had been drawn up in an attempt to address the ongoing issues within a reasonable timeframe, which would be closely monitored.

She advised that the regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance had been undertaken and all sites had been fully compliant.

The Director reminded the Committee that funding of up to £20,000 per annum was available for each partner for the delivery of a programme (supporting the Sports Development Plan). She reported that letters of offer had been sent to all partners based on approved sports development plans in the current financial year and added that full payments had been made to all Partners in this Quarter.

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact were priorities at the partner agreement sites and she advised that so far the programme delivery had led to significant positive achievements across the seven sites. She drew the Members' attention to a table which indicated the outputs at the sites as reported by the partners up to the end of June 2018.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2018/2019**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 1 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 1 position for the Committee showed an under-spend of 289k (1.5%), with the forecast year-end position being an under-spend of £598k (0.8%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee noted the contents of the Quarter 1 financial update.

**Operational Issues**

**Naming of New Streets**

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Hazel Drive, off Lagmore Road, BT17 and Hazel Mews, off Lagmore Road and the proposed Hazel Drive, BT17.



### **City Greenways Workshop**

The Director reminded the Committee that the following motion in respect of the Greenway Strategy had been referred from Council to the May meeting of the People and Communities Committee, where it had been agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting.

*“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 and the development of the Greenway in West Belfast and the Shankill linking Belfast and Lisburn. 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.”*

She advised that, over the past year, the North and West Area Working Groups had also discussed the importance of the Belfast Hills to its neighbouring communities and it had agreed to a combined meeting to look at increasing accessibility from the hills to the surrounding neighbourhoods and to the City centre. She also reminded the Committee that, at its meeting held on 6th February, had agreed, in principle, to support Ligoniel Improvement Association in its Heritage Lottery Fund Great Places application for its North Belfast Greenway Project.

The Director advised that, given the strategic importance of all of these individual issues, it was suggested that an all Member workshop would be convened to enable Elected Members and officers to consider them holistically.

The Committee agreed to hold an all Member workshop to discuss greenways on a north, south, east and west basis on 14th November at 4.30 p.m. in the Lavery Room.

### **Update on Transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 The new legislative control, the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 completed Final Stage on 15th March 2016 and received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016. On commencement of this Act, HMO regulation will transfer to local Councils.**
- 1.2 The Committee will recall that an update paper was presented at the meeting on 10th April 2018. A further paper regarding the Department of Health Consultation on proposals to make amendments to the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 was presented to the Committee on 8th May.**

1.3 This paper provides a further update on the progress with the transfer of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) function from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to Councils.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the update information regarding the Houses of Multiple Occupation function and the current status of the programme of transfer.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 The Regional Board, made up of representatives from the three cluster leads (ie Belfast City Council, Causeway Coasts and Glens Borough Council, and Derry City and Strabane District Councils), and representatives from DfC and NIHE, now meets on a monthly basis.

3.2 In order to manage BCC's workload and responsibilities, a BCC HMO Board has been established, and also meets on a monthly basis, usually the week before the Regional Board meeting.

3.3 The date for the transfer of functions is 31st March 2019.

Legislation/regulations

3.4 The Department of Health proposed that amendments should be made to the Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, as outlined in the P&C Committee paper in May 2018. Given that the operation of the HMO licensing scheme will be the responsibility of councils, the proposed amendments would have allowed Councils to carry out all the checks/inspections (including fire safety) required to license or otherwise an HMO. The Department for Health has informed the Regional Board that without an Assembly they cannot make the amendments as it is a change to primary legislation, so therefore would not be in place for commencement of the HMO Act in April 2019. Members of the Regional Programme Board are meeting with representatives from the NIFRS to consider the development of a mechanism to ensure public safety, possibly via a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU), until the legislation is in place.

3.5 DfC is currently considering the process required to lay the necessary regulations to allow for the transfer including setting a licence fee. The Councils are continuing their work on

calculating the cost of the new regime and this will feed into the Department's legislative timetable.

**Operating Model:**

- 3.6 Committee reports have been presented to all 11 Councils regarding the future operating model, as well as the ongoing work in relation to the estimating the cost of the new regime, fee setting, transferring staff and the procurement of a new ICT system.

**SLA**

- 3.7 A draft SLA has been prepared and following consultations with other Councils it will be brought to committee for approval.

**Legal**

- 3.8 Work continues to identify the most appropriate options, and potential costs, regarding the regional supply of legal services to Councils in the new scheme.

**Staff Transfer – HR**

- 3.9 Consultation with staff transferring from NIHE to BCC continues. Two members of NIHE staff will form a transition team, and started work in BCC offices in August for two days a week to start preparing a procedure manual and other relevant documentation.

**ICT**

- 3.10 BCC's Digital Services has lead on the process to procure a regional ICT solution for the new scheme. This will be paid for by the DfC as a transition cost. The specification was developed which required significant consultation with other Councils, EHNI and NIHE. The procurement process is nearing completion, and it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded shortly. Digital Services are currently developing a SLA for ICT support across all the Councils.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.11 It is anticipated that all costs associated with the new HMO licencing scheme will be met by fee income. Given that this is a transferring function with a new legislative regime coming in, decisions around financial, resource implications and transfer will be taken via the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

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

The Committee noted the update information regarding the Houses in Multiple Occupation function and the current status regarding the programme of transfer.

**Update on Partnership Work to Address Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

1.1 Further to previous agreements at People and Communities Committee, this report provides the agreed update on anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces covering the April – July 2018 period.

1.2 At previous meetings, Members further agreed that initial work would be focussed on Falls Park/City Cemetery, Orangefield Park/Avoniel Park, Marrowbone, Dunville and Ballysillan.

**2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

note the progress against these actions and to receive a further progress report in November, 2018.

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**Current Context**

**3.1 *Reported Anti-Social Behaviour To Council***

Ongoing analysis of reports from members of the public, along with anti-social behaviour witnessed by Council Officers has identified the following parks/open spaces as having issues with persistent anti-social behaviour.

3.2 Please note figures provided below are for the period April – July, 2018.

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<b>Park/Open Space</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Reported Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents</b>
Woodvale	West	11
Ormeau	South	10
Jubilee Gardens	North	10
Girdwood	North	8
Botanic	South	8

- 3.3** Please also note that the list below only represents the parks/open spaces with the highest numbers of reports of anti-social behaviour. Reports of anti-social behaviour are received for other parks/open spaces across the city but at a much lower level.

**Repairs at Parks/Open Spaces**

- 3.4** As indicated above, anti-social behaviour is often under-reported. Officers therefore regularly review requisitions for repairs at parks/open spaces due to vandalism, criminal damage or arson.
- 3.5** There has been a marked reduction in serious vandalism, criminal damage or arson at all parks and open spaces across the city with only minor damage presenting.

**Member Feedback**

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

<b>Park/Open Space</b>	<b>Area</b>
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West
Marrowbone	North
Orangefield/Avoniel	East

**Animation/Programming**

- 3.7** **Progress to Date**

- Community Youth Outreach Teams have been proactive around a number of parks and open spaces, in particular Falls Park, Marrowbone and Orangefield/Avoniel.

- A range of positive programming and animation events continue to take place in priority parks and open spaces particularly at the weekends. Activities include community fun days, sports tournaments, health and wellbeing events and added value is being achieved by aligning existing Council services in support of this work.
- Outreach Teams continue to deliver summer activities to encourage positive use

**3.8 Next Steps**

- Continued delivery of the Marrowbone Park programming/animation plan
- Ballysillan Park programming/animation plan to be finalised with stakeholders
- Alignment of Urban Villages Projects around Ballysillan Park and Marrowbone Park to maximise available funding to address anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces and support the associated Urban Villages consultation in the areas
- Ongoing delivery of Policing and Community Safety Partnership funded diversionary and developmental activities for young people across the city.

**Operational Co-ordination**

**3.9 Progress to Date**

- Parks Management Group has been established for Marrowbone and Ballysillan including Elected Members, community and youth providers and other statutory agencies;
- Improved youth provider co-ordination across the city appears to be making a positive impact on the levels of anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces in recent months;
- Weekly operational tasking meetings take place between Council, Police and other statutory agencies as needed to review operational priorities and plan for the week ahead;
- PSNI committed additional resources during the summer period in support of this issue; and
- Mobile CCTV is proactive around priority Council owned parks and open spaces

**3.10 Next Steps**

- Further development of parks management groups for priority parks and open spaces;
- Finalise report on opportunities for improved youth provider co-ordination across the city; and
- Further development of process to maximise internal and external resources/co-operation

**Awareness Raising**

**3.11 Progress to Date**

- PSNI continue to proactively use their social media channels to deter anti-social behaviour around parks and open spaces
- The scoping with partners for the Inter-Agency Community Safety Schools Programme has been completed and the programme is currently being finalised

**3.12 Next Steps**

- Ongoing development of partnerships with post primary schools across Belfast to take place, seeking co-operation around communication with parents and pupils regarding wider community impacts and risks of anti-social behaviour
- Engagement to take place with organisations who advocate and lobby for young people in the development of messaging to maximise impact e.g. Children's Commissioner
- Delivery of the Inter-Agency Community Safety Schools Programme during academic year
- Detailed scoping of how to proactively encourage parental responsibility around this issue.

**Maximising Strategic Opportunities**

**3.13 Officers continue to work to ensure alignment and connectivity between other strategic programmes of work to maximise the potential to positively impact on the ongoing challenges in parks and open spaces:**

- PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project and Wider PEACE IV Programme – Officers continue to ensure the capital/programming investment from PEACE IV Programme are aligned to ongoing work aimed at

improving safety in parks and open spaces. Contracts for a range of PEACE IV work are in the process of being procured and awarded.

- **Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) – Council was recently successful in securing £40,000 of funding from the Department for Economy to facilitate innovation around how to better encourage positive use and deter negative use of parks/open spaces. Officers are currently working with partners to refine the ‘challenge’ to be launched mid October 2018.**
- **Fresh Start – Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan – Officers continue to work with Executive Office Officials and individual lead departments/organisations in maximising the benefit of the following work streams within the action plan for communities in Belfast**

#### **Community Safety Strategic Tasking Work**

- 3.14 Due to ongoing Elected Member and community concern about anti-social behaviour across the city and limited resource available to address this, the Director of CNS identified the need to develop a strategic evidence led tasking approach across agencies. The objectives are primarily to maximise the available resource, allocate resources where needed most and maximise the outcomes for safer communities. The work has been scoped to include three stages of tasking as detailed below:**
- 3.15 Stage 1: Reactive tasking – gather the one dimensional current statistical picture and seek to build a two dimensional dashboard which houses anecdotal/ practitioner information and conduct defined testing of the reporting/ recording mechanisms at a front line level.**
- 3.16 Stage 2: Reflective tasking - core implementation of the business practice being installed for stage 1 and use of more sophisticated analytics to identify patterns, correlations, trends and gaps which would inform proactive and intelligent operational tasking and decision making.**
- 3.17 Stage 3: Resilient tasking – further development of statistical picture and practitioner/anecdotal information to provide insight for strategic and longer term approach to strategic tasking and decision making, ultimately with the aim of preventing rather than managing community safety issues.**



**3.18 Progress to Date**

The work is ongoing but progress to date is summarise for Members consideration:

- The data dashboard has been developed using a pre-existing Council system and refreshes automatically every 24 hours to all other Council systems. The dashboard also absorbs monthly PSNI & NI Housing Executive statistics.
- Opportunities for joint working with the Department of Justice are being progressed
- Data Protection implications have been considered and a Privacy Impact Assessment conducted. No personal data is being processed, but this will be continuously reviewed
- Staff training is being provided to ensure existing service delivery benefits from the learning
- Initial learning from this work has identified opportunities to use this approach in supporting service delivery in other business areas and this will be further examined in the coming months.

**3.19 Next Steps**

Initial progress has been encouraging, but further work is required to embed this approach across agencies and in particular the importance of being able to gather anecdotal/practitioner insight both from within the statutory sector, but also from within communities. Key next steps are:

- Secure the commitment of other statutory agencies to provide relevant data into the system.
- Develop the anecdotal/practitioner insight element of the data dashboard, particularly given high levels of under-reporting of community safety issues in parts of the city.
- Continue to input learning to the Strategic Hub and Information Management CNS Change Project for wider corporate and departmental benefit.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

**3.20 Staff Resources**

The above approach continues to support the values and principles of the City and Neighbourhood Services and wider Corporate Change Programme.

**Financial Resources**

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

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.21 There are no implications at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis.”

The Committee noted the progress report and that a further report would be submitted at the November meeting of Committee.

**Ribbon of Poppies Campaign 2018**

The Committee considered a report in relation a request from the Ancre Somme Association, Lurgan, and Brownlow Royal British Legion regarding the Ribbon of Poppies 2018 campaign.

The Committee agreed that the matter be referred to the Party Leaders’ Forum.

**Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the Statutory Food Law Code of Practice (NI) 2018**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 The Statutory Food Law Code of Practice instructs local authorities how to plan and deliver their regulatory activities. The Council must follow its requirements. The Food Standards Agency have recently published and are consulting on a number of proposed changes to the Code aimed to improve the process of food business registration and the application of the food hygiene intervention scheme. In part these changes are intended to reduce the level of intervention required by Local Authorities in recognition that severe funding cuts to English authorities are preventing increasing numbers from complying with the current requirements. Therefore whilst it is not the FSA intention the proposals may result in an overall reduction in service in Northern Ireland if applied. This report aims to inform Members of these proposals and presents a draft response, as attached, for consideration. The consultation period ends on 27th September 2018, extended to 11th October 2018.

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and agree the consultation response.**

**3.0 Main Report**

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is proposing changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Code) for NI and has launched a public consultation seeking comments and views from stakeholders. The consultation package including the draft code of practice is available at <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/regulating-our-future-amendments-to-the-food-law-code-of-practice-northern-ireland>

**Key proposals include:**

**1. Enhanced Registration**

- **Food businesses are currently required to be registered with their Local Authority at least 28 days before commencing trading and this is considered important to allow Councils to plan their regulatory activities. Each Council currently operates its own independent registration system. Whilst many Councils including Belfast City Council have on line electronic forms available the majority of registrations continue to be made on paper and the information is not shared with the Food Standards Agency. The FSA is proposing amendments to enable the introduction of a new digital centralised registration system to replace the individual local systems. It is anticipated this will make it easier for business to register and access tailored information, it will improve the information collected which the FSA will pass on to Councils to help plan their activities. For the first time the FSA shall have real time access to information on all food businesses in England, Northern Ireland and Wales and it is their intention to use this data to develop a new centralised risk assessment engine that may determine interventions required for new businesses. The FSA plan to develop and launch the new web based system in April 2019.**

The draft Council response supports the increasing use of technology to access and deliver services and recognises the potential benefits to users of a central online registration system. There is little information available as to the likely specification of the system therefore it is difficult to predict how well it will operate. The draft response outlines potential

barriers to use including, lack of awareness, computer skills, literacy issues etc and suggests that alternative options including paper should be available. It also emphasises the need to continue to consult with Councils and businesses as the system is developed to ensure it is user friendly and fit for purpose. Currently officers often assist food businesses in completing paper registration forms on site and it will important to ensure that our own officers have mobile devices and technology provided to continue do so on line.

- Many new food businesses fail to comply with the requirement to register before opening and only register at the Councils intervention. The FSA is considering how to increase the numbers of businesses proactively registering as this will help ensure they are visited by the Council and in compliance before they open. They are considering adding an additional score that may affect a premises Food Hygiene Rating if it is found on inspection not to be registered.

The draft response confirms that the Council believes it is important to introduce new measures to incentivise registration and/or penalise noncompliance. However, it does not agree that non registration should lower the Food Hygiene (compliance) Rating as this will confuse consumers as to the hygienic conditions observed on the premises and may increase the level of intervention required in the future when no additional risk exists. The response suggests alternatives that could be considered including use of fixed penalty notices, introducing charges for registration, working with insurance companies and sharing data with HRMC and other third parties dealing with businesses to encourage registration.

## 2. Revisions to the food hygiene intervention rating scheme

The food hygiene intervention rating scheme within the Code outlines how local authorities must assess and score the food safety risk from a specific food establishment and use that score to determine the nature and frequency of future interventions required for that establishment. Part of that score relates to the levels of compliance observed at inspection and it is this part of the score that is used to determine the published Food Hygiene Rating which must be displayed at the entrance to the premises. The FSA is proposing a number of changes to the risk scoring scheme aimed at reducing the levels of interventions required, in-particular for business showing full compliance over a sustained period of time. It is anticipated by the FSA these changes will reduce the regulatory burden on

better businesses and allow local authorities to divert resources to more effectively target higher risk activities. Specific changes include:

2.1 Defining and recognising 'full and sustained compliance' by applying a risk score reduction which will increase the time between inspections in such premises.

The draft response confirms that Council supports the principle of recognition for full sustained compliance to reduce the frequency and/or nature of future regulatory interventions. It does not support recognition resulting in the removal of establishments handling open high risk food completely from the inspection programme as this would affect Councils ability, over the longer term, to:

- (a) detect changes in businesses that could affect consumer safety, and
- (b) to refresh food hygiene ratings thereby negatively impacting in the integrity of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme as scoring will become more and more outdated.

The Council believes that the current proposals will remove many premises handling open high risk food from the inspection programme and therefore does not support the current proposals. Consideration should be given to the development of a more innovative approach to achieve the same global reduction in the overall regulatory burden whilst maintaining a minimum level of inspection in all premises handling open high risk food. In the absence of revised proposals to that effect the Councils preference is a smaller reduction (-5 ) with additional safeguards to prevent establishments handling open high risk food falling to category 'E' which would remove them from the inspection programme.

2.2 Currently premises, such as care establishments, catering for vulnerable groups including the very young, the very old and the sick, receive an additional score to raise their inspection frequency as such premises were considered to be higher risk. The FSA is proposing to remove this additional score reducing these premises to a level where less frequent and less thorough interventions would replace inspections.

The draft response confirms Councils opinion that premises serving vulnerable groups should be subject to a periodical inspection and risk assessment and therefore it does not support the removal of the additional score. The response

recognises the very serious consequences that food poisoning can have on such vulnerable groups including risk of death and also the resultant loss of public confidence in our care institutions. There are many documented incidents of outbreaks in care establishments including some within Northern Ireland Trusts. The proposals also fail to recognise the value of periodic inspections to the care establishment operators in offering advice and guidance to improve food safety.

2.3 The current scheme allows the application of an additional risk score in exceptional circumstances where the officer has concern over high levels of microbiological risk from an establishment. The FSA is concerned that the additional risk score is being incorrectly applied as 24% of premises in England Wales and Northern Ireland have been awarded the additional score. The FSA are therefore proposing to remove the significant risk score from the Code.

In Belfast City Council currently, only one premises has an additional score applied, equating to 0.0003 % of premises, thus demonstrating unlike England its use is exceptional and rare. Whilst its removal would have little impact overall, on an individual premises basis officers do find it useful in exceptional circumstances to move the next inspection forward. Therefore the draft response confirms the Council would like to see the retention of the additional score to be used in exceptional circumstances to move forward next inspection. We would like consideration to be given to greater flexibility of its use beyond micro biological risks for example for significant allergen risk, food fraud, or chemical contamination.

The full draft response to the consultation paper is attached, including answers to all the questions asked.

#### Finance and Resource Implications

There may be some initial resources required to integrate the Councils back office system with the new registration system and to implement changes to the risk scoring scheme. It is not possible to estimate what these are at this stage but it is expected that these will be absorbed with existing budgets if the FSA do not cover the costs.

#### Human Resources

There are no human resource implications.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment**

**There are no equality or good relations implications, there is no requirement for rural needs assessment.”**

The Committee endorsed the draft consultation response, available on the Council’s website, <https://minutes3.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/s73490/Draft%20response.pdf> to the Foods Standards Agency (FSA) in relation to the proposed amendments to the Statutory Food Law Code of Practice (NI) 2018, and agreed that it be submitted before the deadline of 11th October.

**Drug Support Services and Response – Request for Workshop**

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 the opportunity of a workshop at a suitable date in October 2018.**

**1.2 The purpose of the meeting would be for PSNI to brief Members on what they are doing to tackle large-scale supply of drugs and for the main commissioners of services (PHA/Trust) to brief Members on what support services are provided to help those suffering with drug related issues.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- agree to hold a workshop on a suitable date in October with the PSNI and the main commissioners of drug support services, namely the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Trust.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 A number of Members have expressed concern in recent months about drug use in Belfast and in particular, its changing nature i.e. intravenous drug use and the associated levels of drug litter in the city. Additionally, there has been a lot of media attention on the issue.**

**3.2 Council works closely with other statutory bodies as well as community and voluntary sector partners around this issue and**

there is a wider recognition that the emergence of heroin use, other opiate based drugs and poly drug misuse (taking a mixture of drugs/alcohol) are changing the nature of drug use across the city.

- 3.3 The result of this is that new challenges and pressures are emerging both in the city centre and in communities across the city including the relationship between vulnerability to addiction and vulnerability to mental health challenges.
- 3.4 Members are therefore asked to consider holding a workshop at a suitable date in October 2018 to discuss this issue in more detail with relevant agencies.

#### Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.5 Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) co-funds the following services with the Public Health Agency, aimed at supporting efforts to address these issues:
- Street Injectors Support Service (£15,000)
  - Mental Health/Addictions Dual Diagnosis Services (£30,000).

#### Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.6 There are no implications at present, however, this is monitored on an ongoing basis given the level of vulnerability present with this client group.”

The Committee agreed to hold a workshop on a date to be determined in October with the PSNI and the main commissioners of drug support services, namely the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Trust.

#### Use of Glyphosate Based Weedkiller

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 On 10th August 2018, jurors in a US court found in favour of a groundskeeper who claimed that Monsanto’s Roundup had contributed ‘substantially’ to his terminal illness and ordered the company to pay \$289 million (£226m) in damages. It also found that the manufacturer, knew of the product’s potential health risks as a ‘possible carcinogen’, and acted ‘with malice or oppression’ by failing to warn users.



1.2 Further to this case, the purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Council's current use of Monsanto's Roundup and other similar products, the regulatory regime for these products and the Council's health and safety management arrangements for their use.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main Report

Council Use

3.1 The Council's Parks Service currently uses a number of weedkiller products which are based on the active ingredient glyphosate. These include Roundup 450, Nomix Dual and Nomix Hilite. These are primarily used for treatment of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed and perennial and annual weeds in our parks and open spaces.

3.2 Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide, meaning it will kill most plants. Glyphosate is rarely used on its own in the field and is an active ingredient in a range of broad spectrum herbicide formulations. Herbicide formulations such as Roundup include a variety of other chemicals and additives to help glyphosate work and extend the product's life shelf.

3.2 As Green Flag Award winners, the Council's use of weedkillers, including glyphosate based weedkillers, has significantly reduced in recent years as the Council has developed more environmentally friendly approaches to parks management.

Glyphosate approval process in Northern Ireland

3.4 In order for glyphosate to be used in the EU, authorisation is required under the terms of the EC Regulation 1107/2009, Plant Protection Products. This process involves all Member States, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Commission.

3.5 When a company submits approval for an active ingredient such as glyphosate, the EFSA carries out a peer review and sends its conclusion to the European Commission. On the basis of the EFSA's review, the European Commission decide whether to authorise the substance.

3.6 Since glyphosate was introduced in 1974, all regulatory assessments have established that glyphosate has low hazard potentials to mammals. However, the International Agency for

Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded in March 2015 that glyphosate is 'probably carcinogenic'.

- 3.7 Consequently, the IARC conclusion triggered a reconsideration of the evidence on carcinogenicity in the EU evaluation. The EU renewal process was the first comprehensive regulatory assessment of glyphosate conducted after the IARC evaluation. In November 2015, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) found it 'unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans' based on a 'large body of evidence' including 'key studies not considered by IARC' that remain unpublished.
- 3.8 Following these divergences, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) was asked to assess the hazard properties of the substance before taking a decision on its potential renewal at EU level. It concluded in March 2017, on the basis of the evidence used by EFSA, that glyphosate did not class as a carcinogen.
- 3.9 In July 2017, the Commission proposed to renew the approval of glyphosate for 10 years. In the face of opposition by some Member States, the Commission proposed, in early November 2017, a five-year renewal. On 12 December 2017, the Commission adopted the act to renew the approval of glyphosate for 5 years.

Council health and safety management arrangements for glyphosate based products

- 3.10 In accordance with our statutory obligations under the Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (NI) Regulations 2003 (as amended), all chemicals used within the Council are required to have a COSHH Assessment.
- 3.11 The COSHH assessment identifies the hazards associated with the product, who may be exposed, how they may be exposed and the controls required to safely use the product.
- 3.12 COSHH assessments have been completed for all the pesticides in use within the Council which contain glyphosate as an active ingredient. These include:

Supplier	Product
Monsanto	Round Pro Biactive 450
Nomix Enviro Ltd	Dual
Nomix Enviro Ltd	Hilite

- 3.13 When conducting these COSHH assessments, reference is made to the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS). By law suppliers of chemicals must provide an up to date safety data sheet if a substance is dangerous for supply. Safety data sheets provide information on chemical products that help users of those chemicals to make a risk assessment. They describe the hazards the chemical presents, and give information on handling, storage and emergency measures in case of accident.
- 3.14 None of the Safety Data Sheets for glyphosate based products used by the Council have classified them as carcinogenic.
- 3.15 As a result of the COSHH assessment process, these products are currently approved for use within the Council on the basis that the recommended control measures are followed. These control measures typically include the wearing of chemical resistant gloves to EN 374 standard; suitable protective overalls and rubber boots during application; suitable respiratory protective device and chemical resistant goggles if exposed to vapour/spray.
- 3.16 Furthermore, the Park's service risk assessment for the use of pesticides stipulates all staff carrying out spraying must have relevant training (PA1, PA6) to ensure they are competent to carry out the task.

Alternatives to Glyphosate based weedkillers

- 3.17 As advised, the Council currently use a number of glyphosate based products. The alternatives to this would include:
- 3.18 1. Use of contact herbicides in place of glyphosate based products Contact herbicides are not as effective as glyphosate based herbicides as they do not kill the root system and therefore would require repeat treatment and additional resource. Contact herbicides can be more expensive.
- 3.19 2. Use of alternative practices such as strimming, mulching, hoeing and hand weeding in place of weedkillers ;
- Use of alternative practices would be more labour intensive and would require additional resource. The majority of perennial weeds treated by Parks Operatives are on hard surfaces so hand weeding would not be possible as a control measure.
- 3.20 Glyphosate is the only recommended control mechanism for the control of Japanese Knotweed so therefore no alternative is available.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.21 At this stage, there are no financial or resource implications however should alternatives to Glyphosate based weedkillers be used in the future, additional budget would be required for the purchase of contact chemicals and/or additional resource to apply alternative practices. Exact costs would have to be explored.**

**Equality or Good Relations/Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.22 None.”**

The Committee noted that, as agreed earlier in the meeting, further consideration to the use of glyphosate based weed killers and possible alternatives would be given when considering the Motion in respect of Green Spaces.

**Northern Ireland Health and Fitness Awards**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the Leisure Development Unit had organised the Teenage Kicks programme for thirteen years. She reported that, during that time, the dance-mentoring programme had worked with over 3,000 children and young people in the primary, secondary and special school sectors to try and promote the development of young people’s self-confidence, body image and leadership skills through an eight-week programme of dance with fitness guru ‘Fitness Freddy’.

The Committee was advised that the inaugural Northern Ireland Health and Fitness Awards were being held on Saturday, 22nd September in the Crowne Plaza, Belfast. The awards would be a celebration of excellence and achievement across the entire health and fitness industry. The Director stated that she was pleased to report that the Teenage Kicks Programme had been shortlisted as a finalist in the Health and Fitness Event of the Year category and she sought permission for the Council to be represented at this event.

The Committee granted permission for the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominee), the Director of Neighbourhood Services, the Sports Development Officer, along with the programme delivery Partners to attend the inaugural Northern Ireland Health and Fitness Awards on 22nd September in the Crowne Plaza, Belfast.

**Naming of Path at Olympia Leisure Centre**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th June, it had agreed that a public vote would be conducted in respect of the appropriate title for the naming of the tree-lined boulevard leading to Olympia Leisure Centre from the Boucher Road. The Committee had agreed six names for the public to choose from:

- Boucher Boulevard;
- Elisha Scott Boulevard;
- Grace Bannister Way;

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- Legends Way;
- Olympia Boulevard; and
- Windsor Way.

The public vote had available from Monday, 23rd July to Sunday, 19th August, during which votes had been cast online, by e-mail, telephone, post and in five venues in the Village area. The total number of votes cast was 2,393 and the Members were referred to a table which provided a breakdown of the votes cast.

The Director reported that Windsor Way was the name that had received the most public support, with 1704 votes (71%) of the vote.

The Committee agreed the title of the boulevard leading to Olympia Leisure Centre be named as Windsor Way.

**Donation of a Discus Cage for Mary Peters Track**

The Committee was reminded that the Mary Peters Track had recently had a major upgrade with the installation of a new International standard Mondo Track and a new 300 seater stadium. It noted that the original proposals had included plans to install two discus/hammer cages but due to budget constraints only one cage had been installed.

The Director of Neighbour Services advised that the family of a thrower called Mr. Mike Fulton, who had sadly passed away a number of years ago, had contact the Northern Ireland Amateur Athletics Association offering to donate a discus cage, in his memory, for use at the Mary Peters Track. The cost of installing and purchasing the cage would be in the region of £11,000 and the family had made a financial donation via the Community Foundation, Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted that, if permission was granted to install the discus cage, it was intended, after installation, that the Northern Ireland Amateur Athletics Association would hold a small reception to thank the funders and benefactor's family. Representatives from Belfast City Council would also be invited to the ceremony.

The Committee agreed to grant permission for the installation of a discus cage in the Council's Mary Peters Track, subject to the following conditions, as requested by the Estates Unit:

- appropriate documentation being received from the Contractor carrying out installation, to include specifications, duration of works and public liability insurance;
- permission being obtained, if not already granted, from Queen's University who are the land owners; and
- letters of indemnity being obtained between the Contractor, the Council and Queen's University.

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**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Christmas Tree in Belvoir – Councillor Newton**

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Reynolds addressed the Committee. He advised that he was seeking clarity on behalf of the Belvoir Residents' Group regarding a previous request to plant a 'living Christmas tree' at Belvoir Drive, Belvoir Estate.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that, at the May meeting of the People and Communities Committee, permission had been granted to the Belvoir Residents' Group to plant 'a living Christmas tree' at Belvoir Drive and advised that procurement of this tree would take place during October and that it would be paid for by the Belvoir Residents Group.

Noted.

**Invitation to Community Rescue Service  
to Address the Committee – Councillor McCusker**

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Heading, on behalf of Councillor McCusker, sought permission for the Community Rescue Service to attend a future meeting of the Committee to highlight its valuable voluntary work with the local community.

The Committee agreed to invite the Community Rescue Services to a special meeting of the Committee (Housing Issues) on 12th November to inform the Committee of its important work in the City.

Chairperson

## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 12th September, 2018

### MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff, Councillor Howard;  
Aldermen Haire, Kingston and McGimpsey; and  
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Corr,  
Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey,  
Johnston, Kyle, Murphy, O'Donnell,  
O'Hara, O'Neill, and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
Mrs. G. Long; Commissioner for Resilience; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Also attended: Councillor Collins.

### Apologies

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

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Restricted Item

**The information contained in the report associated with 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 Committee meeting during discussion of the item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

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**Bank Buildings - Verbal Update**

(Mrs. L. Caldwell, Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications, attended in connection with this item)

The Chief Executive provided the Committee with an overview of the current status of the cordon around the Bank Buildings and the possible options in relation to the remaining structure of the building.

She provided the Members with information relating to the measures which the Council was working on with Primark to ensure that the public and adjacent building users were protected from any danger arising from the remaining structure and to encourage increased footfall and support local businesses.

The Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications advised the Committee of a new campaign, entitled #YourBelfast, to encourage people to support the retailers in the city centre in light of the cordoned off area. She provided the Committee with a preview of the advertisements and explained that the campaign would be launched through various media platforms on 14th September.

The Committee provided the Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications with some additional suggestions for the campaign.

After discussion, the Committee noted the update which had been provided.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

**Motion - Belfast Rapid Transit**

(Mr. S. Dolan, Development Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd September, had considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading:

“This Council notes the introduction of the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) to the City. This £90 million investment is intended to lead to an improvement of connectivity in Belfast and in public transport for citizens. The Council notes, however, that the introduction of BRT has led to a number of serious issues that need urgent redressing if the system is not to have an adverse effect on our City.

These include:

- impaired access to homes for the elderly and those with serious disabilities;
- parents unable to safely leave children to school in some locations;



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- access to local shops has been severely restricted, with car parking spaces removed without any recourse as to where this parking would go thereafter;
- double yellow lines are to be extended into residential areas, restricting access to homes and again exacerbating the parking problem;
- a severe increase in congestion, and the need to come up with solutions to this; and despite these issues being raised, the Department for Infrastructure has failed to introduce any mitigating measures.

In the absence of a Stormont Executive and, acknowledging the important role played by local government in community planning, this Council can play an important role in representing the views of this City to the Department on the relevant issues surrounding BRT. The Council believes that urgent measures are needed to solve these issues. This should be done in an open and transparent manner, involving residents and other stakeholders. Where necessary, aspects of BRT should be delayed to ensure a competent and satisfactory delivery.

To assist such an approach, the Council will host open meetings in East and West Belfast in order to listen to the concerns of residents on this issue. The Council will also arrange a deputation to the Department for Infrastructure, which will be open to Councillors from all political parties, to discuss how the above problems can be resolved or mitigated.”

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

A number of Members stated that they were aware of some issues along the Glider route in the west of the city, making particular reference to the difficulties faced by parents trying to leave their children to St. Kevin’s Primary School on the Falls Road.

The Development Manager advised the Committee of a response which had been received from the Department for Infrastructure, and which sought to address a number of the issues which had been raised in the motion.

The response from the Department outlined that:

- it had, in developing the plans for Belfast rapid transit (BRT), consulted with the Inclusive Mobility Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) in order to fully understand the needs of older people and people with disabilities;
- it had provided an exception within the bus lane legislation which allowed a vehicle to stop in the bus lane, for up to 10 minutes, to drop off or pick up a blue badge holder;
- wheelchair accessible taxis were permitted to drive in and drop off and pick up from the BRT bus lanes under the legislation;

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- it believed that the BRT glider service would help reduce existing local parking pressures as more people began to use public transport instead of private cars;
- it would seek to provide disabled parking bays along the route, where possible;
- it was engaging with the schools along the BRT routes to encourage safer and more sustainable transport;
- it had had numerous discussions with traders along the BRT routes;
- the legislation provided a loading/unloading window between 10am and 2pm, which was available to anyone, commercial or personal;
- limited waiting restrictions had been introduced to help support businesses and prevent all-day commuter parking; and
- under the Northern Ireland Highway code rule 240 it was illegal to park within 15m of a corner, whether it was marked on the ground or not.

After discussion, the Committee noted:

1. the contents of the motion; and
2. that the Department for Infrastructure would be attending a Special meeting in November.

**Presentation**

**Resilience Update**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience, to her first meeting of the Committee.

The Commissioner explained to the Committee that Belfast had joined the 100 Resilient Cities network. She advised the Members that the network helped cities around the world to become more resilient to the physical, social, and economic challenges that were a growing part of the 21st century and equipped them to become better able to identify risks before they happened, better prepared when they occurred, and more capable of recovering.

She pointed out that, while each City was unique, research had shown that they often shared a number of common factors. She provided the Members with an overview of the City Resilience Framework, which identified 12 key drivers, and which was used to determine how resilient a city was.

She outlined that, as she had just taken up her post, she was in the early stages of mapping the key risks for Belfast but, based on the Belfast Agenda priorities, she outlined the potential resilience dividends which she expected.

The Chairperson thanked the Commissioner for her presentation and the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Request to Present to Committee**

**Future Economic Briefings**

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) would present its annual economic briefing at the Special meeting on 26th September, 2018.

He reminded the Committee that it had previously agreed that presentations from other economic perspectives would be provided throughout the year, in order to ensure that there was a rounded perspective on city challenges and opportunities.

The Director suggested that the Committee considered receiving economic briefings from the Nevin Economic Research Institute (NERI), the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF).

The Committee agreed to receive a series of economic briefings from the abovementioned three organisations and that the presentations would be scheduled appropriately during the 2018/2019 financial year.

**Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

**Better Bedford Street Project**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this summary is to update members on the Better Bedford Street 100 Day Challenge**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**The Committee is asked to:**

- **Note the ongoing ‘Better Bedford Street 100 Day Challenge’ project, which is a collaborative project involving a number of stakeholders aimed at improved place making in Bedford Street with temporary design solutions and a series of animation and event activities.**
- **Note that the project includes a programme to capture lessons learned which can be incorporated back into future urban design and animation projects within the city.**
- **Note the Council’s resource commitments in terms of officer involvement and financial contribution to the project.**

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1** A project aimed at improving place making within areas of town and city centres has been developed by the Strategic Design Group, led by the Department for Infrastructure Planning Group, and the Ministerial Advisory Group for Architecture and the Built Environment and includes local councils, private sector organisations and other bodies working to improve the built environment. The aim of the Group is *'Working together to promote successful, inclusive, well designed places which inspire civic stewardship and have an enduring positive impact on people's lives.'*
- 3.2** Bedford St, Belfast was selected for a 100 Day Challenge pilot project due to the numerous issues within the area including congestion, pedestrian connectivity, cluttered streets, lack of cycle lanes and under-utilised or poorly allocated street capacity. Through this pilot project the group is providing an example of how the Living Places planning guidance can work in practice. The guidance sets out 10 principles for better place making. The group has sought to demonstrate that temporary changes can be brought about quite quickly and plans to use this example to drive change elsewhere.
- 3.3** The focus of the project is to push collaborative stakeholder working, innovative urban design, and public and private sector commitment to improve the urban environment and provide a test bed to inform future projects. The project will aim to provide temporary design solutions in the urban environment within a 100 day period from conception to installation.
- 3.4** The project is further supported, and sponsored by the Department for Infrastructure, the Department for Communities and the Central District BID as well as a number of public and private stakeholders. Belfast City Council officers have been involved in the scoping, planning and design of the project.
- 3.5** The 'Better Bedford Street' challenge will utilise temporary urban design solutions to challenge the current situation and will serve as a testbed for innovative solutions that will help to inform emerging design solutions for the proposed Streets Ahead 5 project and other projects across Northern Ireland. It will support many of the key concepts from the Belfast City Council's Linen Quarter Masterplan.

- 3.6 The project will involve a number of different strands including:

**More Space for People**

- 3.7 DfI are currently widening the footpaths along Bedford Street by taking over 9 existing on-street parking bays for a period of 3 months. The effect on car parking within the area will be surveyed continuously throughout the project. These spaces will provide widened footpath locations that can then be utilised for engaging and useful space. The project will also endeavour to remove or relocate obstructive street furniture and remove street clutter, promoting pedestrian routes along footpaths and at key crossings.

**Engaging and Useful Space**

- 3.8 A call-out for design teams from statutory stakeholders, private sector, local businesses and students will be held to design and build innovative urban design ideas for 9 'parklets' along the extended footpath locations. Design teams will creatively animate each part of the street in its own unique way, in doing so providing colour and greenery as well as places to sit and enjoy;

**Bring the Place to Life**

- 3.9 A number of events and activities will be taking place on Bedford Street through August and September including
- Free lunchtime street music supported by Belfast City Council's 'City of Music'
  - an extension of 'Alive After 5' into the Linen Quarter;
  - providing a written history of the 'Linen Quarter Story';
  - Opening a pop-up shop 'Linenopolis' to promote innovative linen products and the Linen Story;
  - Commissioning Street Ambassadors to promote the location, hospitality and events;
  - Development of a 'Linen Festival' from 17th-23rd September which will include street music, animation and activities and an extension of Culture Night
  - General street cleaning and removal of anti-social graffiti,
  - Launching a new Corporate Social Responsibility pilot with a specific aim of reaching out to the surrounding communities.

**Learning & Informing**

- 3.10 The group has sought to demonstrate that temporary changes can be brought about quite quickly and plans to use this example to drive change elsewhere. With this in mind, preparations have been made to record the lessons learned which will be shared widely.
- 3.11 The group, supported by PLACE, local design consultants, Belfast City Council and the local universities has developed a programme to capture the lessons learned and incorporating this back into future projects. These initiatives include:
- Cameras & wifi providers placed at strategic locations along Bedford St to track pedestrian movements, crossing habits within the street, parking habits, linger points and pedestrian interaction with the street environment. Live data will be monitored against baseline data gathered prior to the project going live
  - User surveys of the street users will be undertaken through the project including pedestrian, tourist, drivers, businesses and delivery operators.
  - Social media will track and record trends and interaction with the project hashtags
  - Engagement with activities will be recorded and reported on
  - A documentary video is currently being filmed for the project & will record and report on lessons learnt throughout the project
  - A report will be presented to the Strategic Design Group to inform the future evolution of the group and the wider implementation of future public realm schemes including Streets Ahead 5
  - A report will also be presented to the WHO Healthy Cities Conference to be held in Belfast in Oct 2018

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.12 Members are asked to note the allocation of officer time to contribute to the design and planning of the Better Bedford Street Challenge. Officers are currently engaging with the Better Bedford St Project to confirm the financial ask from Council. The financial commitment will be met from the City Regeneration and Development team's budget for City Animation as agreed by the City Growth & Regeneration Committee in April 2018 and will be up to a maximum of £25k for this project.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

- 3.13 The Project Sponsors are assessing equality, and other implications throughout the project, and have incorporated appropriate Section 75 and equality groups within the stakeholder reference groups.”**

During discussion, a Member expressed that, while they welcomed the project which was taking place in Bedford Street, there were numerous streets which were in worse condition.

The Chief Executive clarified that it was not a Council-led project and that the Council had been approached by Planning Landscape Architecture Community Environment (PLACE) and the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi).

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Growing Businesses and the Economy**

**City Youth Pledge**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Committee on progress against the Belfast Agenda commitment to ‘Establish a city pledge for our young people’.**
- 1.2 The work is one element of the ‘Working and Learning’ work programme for 2018/19 that was approved at this Committee on 11 April 2018.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the research findings, recommendations and proposed next steps for work on the City Youth Pledge**
- Agree that a report will be brought back to a future meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, setting out a series of proposed actions to deliver on the Belfast Agenda commitment to help the city’s young people to achieve positive and productive education, employment and training outcomes.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1** The Belfast Agenda includes a commitment that, by 2035, Belfast will be a place where everyone fulfils his or her potential and that they will be supported and enabled to do so and to make a positive contribution to city life. This will mean creating access to opportunity and removing the barriers that prevent people from achieving that potential and participating in all areas of life.

**3.2** In order to achieve this ambition, the Belfast Agenda commitment was to 'establish a pledge that commits to developing coherent pathways for education, training and employment for our young people'.

**3.3** As part of our research and development work to scope out the potential approach to developing a Youth Pledge for Belfast, we engaged the local organisation Include Youth to help us better understand what this Youth Pledge might look like. They examined best practice and engaged with our young people and employers to ascertain interest and potential commitment to and support for the initiative. The research has recently been completed and work is under way to articulate how the Youth Pledge may develop and what the resource commitments are likely to be.

**3.4** The research undertaken by Include Youth involved:

Stakeholder engagement on the focus, content and structure of the City Youth Pledge involving partner organisations, young people themselves and employers

A review of best practice models for City Youth Pledges and their impact in other locations.

Identification of recommendations on how the City Pledge might operate in practice in Belfast.

**3.5** A total of 174 young people from across the city and 65 adults including teachers, employers and voluntary/community representatives were involved in the qualitative research through focus groups and interviews and a further 106 young people responded to an online survey. Five consultation events were also held in Belfast City Hall.



**Research Findings**

**3.6** The research identified a number of barriers preventing young people from engaging fully in society through education, training or employment. These included:

- **Lack of confidence, qualifications and finance prevent progression into positive post- formal education options: 73% of respondents to the online survey cited lack of confidence as the main reason for not progressing into further education while 69% suggested that the lack of money and lack of qualifications were key factors impacting on their ability to access third level education. With regard to the world of work, 61% said that the lack of qualifications was preventing them from progressing into employment, 56% said lack of work experience, 47% said not having interview skills and 53% suggested that it was a lack of confidence. Only 36% said there were not enough jobs.**
- **Undervaluation of certain education pathways and competition between providers: participants in the research suggested that some education routes were perceived more positively than others: they felt that schools sought to market themselves based on academic achievement. As a result, A-levels results leading to university entrance is often presented as the 'best' – or sometimes only – option available and many young people are left feeling ashamed, invisible and unsupported if they fail to meet the school's expectations.**
- **Access to Advice: there is evidence that many young people receive limited and, at times, poor advice about their options; the advice is often too general and variable as there is no standardisation. Also evident from our research was the lack of standardisation of careers advice, both within mainstream education, and across the alternative education projects. Those from alternative education are considerably more disadvantaged than those in mainstream education.**
- **Preparation for employment: nearly one third of 16-18 year old respondents had not met with a Careers Advisor; less than half had been taught interview skills and nearly one third of this age group did not have the opportunity of work experience for more than three days. Young people were very keen to experience work placements and could see the value in them but they were often frustrated that the placements were not for**

long enough and were not necessarily with employers they were interested in. If they are to be of value, the necessary preparation must be put in in advance both to ensure that the employer is ready to receive the young person and has a programme in place, and that the young person goes to a placement which is relevant to their career interests.

- Access to relevant support services: lack of mental health and social support for young people trying to access employment or entering into further education/training were highlighted as being a critical barrier. Self-motivation and self-confidence are seen as key: transitions can be particularly challenging for young people who have received a high level of individualised support as they often struggle to cope in mainstream educational provision
- Child and youth friendly education system: respondents felt that schools needed to be more responsive to pupils' personal circumstances and that the current provision failed to meet specific requirements – thus impacting on performance
- Financial concerns: young people felt that there were financial barriers preventing them from staying on in education (concern at student loans; expensive childcare costs). They also wanted to ensure that they would be appropriately remunerated for the work undertaken – and there were concerns about only being able to achieve minimum wage and not having access to progression routes once they find a job.

- 3.7 Statistics demonstrate that, of the 3,695 school leavers in Belfast in 2015, 42% went on to higher education, 26% to further education, 14% to employment and 12% to training. Only 5% were 'destination unknown' (205 individuals). On the face of things, it might appear that at least 95% of young people already go on to a 'positive destination in education, training or employment' in terms of the aspiration of the Youth Pledge. However, the recently-completed Skills Barometer for Belfast acknowledges that educational performance – particularly to GCSE level – is lower in Belfast than in all other District Council areas (although there has been a steady improvement over the last decade). 61.5% of young people in Belfast achieve 5 GCSEs including English and Maths at grades A\*-C. This achievement limits the potential for young people to move on to further and higher education and, as a result, impacts on their potential to access employment opportunities that can provide levels of remuneration beyond minimum or low wage roles. It is also important to note that achieving 5 GCSEs including English and Maths is often a

requirement for many jobs and a pre-condition for entry to many education and training courses. Finally, this research also demonstrates that young people in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) are less likely than their peers to achieve the 5GCSEs A\*-C including Maths and English. Only 41.5% of pupils in receipt of Free Schools Meals achieve this standard. This is a source of significant concern as a failure of address inequities amongst young people at an early age, and throughout their school journey, can cause a long tail of underperformance at GCSE level which perpetuates in the form of worklessness and poverty concentrated in deprived communities in later years.

- 3.8 The examples from other cities indicated that there are a number of approaches that have been tested. Some of the collective lessons learned from those experiences include:

Need for engagement with both employers and young people: initiatives which address both supply (young people) and demand (employers) are likely to be more effective

All of the projects are public-private partnerships: this is critical to their success. Where the private sector has actively engaged, the levels of success in terms of job outcomes have been enhanced

The Local Authority has played a lead role in all instances but this has varied from place to place: in some areas, they have been the convenor; in others, the key funder

Some of the pledges have recognised the employers; some have been used as a 'campaign banner' for a series of initiatives focused on young people

Work experience is a critical element of the support that the private sector partners can offer

Some cities have used financial incentives – for both employers and young people

Many of the areas have targeted specific groups – these appear to have been identified as priority groups for other areas of work (Nottingham example)

A number of these initiatives have been supported by online resources.

- 3.9 The next step is for the Council to share some of these research outcomes with partners and to agree the way

forward, including securing buy-in from partners for key initiatives. This will include our work with the five neighbouring Councils as part of the Belfast Region City Deal. These proposals will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for agreement and decision. Based on the work to date, there are a number of principles and key findings that are likely to guide the Council's investment decisions and approach to this work:

- Work placements are critical: securing meaningful work placements will require strong engagement with willing private sector partners. We need to use all levers at our disposal to secure this buy-in from the private sector
- Young people who are disadvantaged are statistically less likely to have a positive post-formal education outcome. Early interventions will be critical to give these young people the best possible chance to achieving a positive outcome once they complete their formal education
- There are a lot of initiatives currently in the market which are supporting this work to some extent but activity is patchy. The challenge is to develop a programme of scale to ensure that all young people can benefit – regardless of where they live or what their educational outcome will be post formal education
- The Council itself has a key role to play – we are a major employer and are already actively involved in engagement and outreach work. We can use this best practice to influence others to get involved and to dispel any concerns that other employers might have about engagement in initiatives such as this.

**Financial and resource implications**

- 3.10 No specific financial or resource implications at this point.

**Equality or good relations implications/rural needs assessment:**

- 3.11 All activities will be equality screened. Consideration will be given to prioritising specific groups requiring targeted intervention and reasonable adjustments and additional support will be provided where required. Research indicates that this challenge is more significant in urban areas.”

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Economic Development confirmed that the report which would be submitted to a future meeting would include the qualitative data for Members' consideration.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Local Tourism Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Committee on Council investment to support tourism product development all across the city, including in the city’s neighbourhoods.**

**1.2 The report also sets out the proposed way forward for intervention activities led by the Council to invest in tourism product development with the objective of:**

- **Increasing visitor spend and dwell-time and contributing towards the Belfast Agenda target of increasing the value of out-of-state tourism to £500 million**
- **Capitalising on the significant private sector investment, particularly within the hotel and leisure sectors**
- **Ensuring that the benefits of tourism investment and growth are felt across the city and that local organisations and businesses are supported to maximise these benefits.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the Committee:**

- **Notes the work underway across the Council to support tourism product development – including local tourism products**
- **Notes and agrees the proposed way forward (3.14) to support tactical investment in local areas to ensure that product development opportunities are maximised and that local organisations and businesses get the support that they need to help bring forward high quality, sustainable tourism products**
- **Considers the potential for the development of a feasibility fund to develop tourist products to concept stage. The establishment of this fund by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would need to be considered as part of the half-year finance report in November 2018.**

**3.0 Key Issues**

- 3.1** The mid-term review of the current Tourism Strategy highlighted the need for the Council and partners to enhance efforts to support high quality tourism product development in order to complement private sector investment in the hotels and wider hospitality sector in Belfast.
- 3.2** This challenge is not unique to Belfast. Tourism NI have been identifying for some time the need to bring forward additional tourism products that respond to changing visitor trends and demands. The work that is currently under way as part of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) includes a commitment to enhance the investment in tourism as a key economic generator. In Belfast, there are already almost 20,000 people employed in the hospitality and leisure industry and recent investment by the private sector will see those numbers grow. The sector currently accounts for around 6% of GVA. In many other successful cities and tourism destinations, the figure is almost double that. This demonstrates the fact that there is still some way to go if Belfast is to capitalise of the tourism growth potential in the city.
- 3.3** Titanic Belfast has been a game changer for Belfast in terms of the city's confidence as a tourism destination. It was voted the World's Leading Visitor Attraction in 2016. That designation helped put Belfast on the map in the highly competitive global tourism market. While the venue attracted over 840,000 visitors last year, it is recognised that many of these visitors were day trippers who came to Titanic Belfast as part of a short visit to the city but who did not stay in Belfast. This reduces the economic potential of the visitor spend.
- 3.4** The 2015 City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy identified the need for another stand-out visitor attraction in the city in order to increase visitor dwell-time and, by default, visitor spend in the city. Members will be aware that work is under way on the development of the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the 'Destination Hub' – a unique project bringing together visual arts, new technology and media to tell the story of Belfast. The ambition is for this project to act as another 'anchor' in terms of tourism offer in the city which will change visitor behaviour from considering Belfast as a day trip location to thinking about it as somewhere that visitors think that they should stay at least one night in order to experience the breadth of the city tourism offer. If this is successful, the result will be a significant uplift in tourists

staying overnight in Belfast and having time to explore the other products and experiences on offer.

- 3.5** At the June meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, members received an update presentation from the consultancy team working on the OBC for the Destination Hub. That presentation identified a number of emerging ‘themes’ for the building – reflecting the city’s heritage and unique offer. The presentation also identified the opportunity for this investment to act as a catalyst for new products and experiences which may also reflect these themes but take a different perspective or offer a specific insight. One example might be the theme of music. Belfast has a long and diverse musical history and it is likely that, if the Destination Hub project is to progress, it will consider the importance and role of music in the Belfast Story. However there are lots of specific angles that could be developed into new products and experiences across the city including the Van Morrison story; the origins of punk; traditional music; piping; music classes and summer schools; tours of music venues. It is likely that many of these products and experiences will have their roots not only in the city centre but also in locations outside of the city centre. This offers an opportunity to support investment in the ‘local tourism’ product and to help bring that forward and take it to the market.
- 3.6** Belfast City Council has, over many years, supported the tourism industry in the city. This includes an annual investment of around £1.9million in Visit Belfast – the Destination Marketing and Management Organisation (DMMO) for the city. The Council has also invested in a range of local capital schemes to support tourism growth across Belfast. This has included investment from the Local Investment Fund (LIF), Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and Social Outcomes Fund (SOF). An assessment of the investment to date in these schemes indicates that the Council investment will be in the region of £36million and that this will lever a further £154million from other public and private sector partners. The Council was also a significant investor in the Belfast Waterfront Conference and Exhibition Centre. This £30million development has transformed the facilities for business tourism in Belfast and acted as a catalyst to the recent wave of hotel investments in the city.
- 3.7** In addition to capital investment, the Council has also provided revenue support for local organisations working across the city to promote tourism in the city’s neighbourhoods. Only two parts of the city – east Belfast and west Belfast – have dedicated organisations that are focused

on increasing the number of tourists visiting those respective areas. These organisations are important conduits for encouraging more local organisations to develop new products and experiences targeted at tourists. Last year, funding from the Tourism Unit's budget (£80,000) was used to support local tourism promotion and engagement in east and west Belfast through Eastside Tourism and Fáilte Feirste Thiar. The initial evaluation from that work has identified that these organisations play an important role on the ground involved in championing local tourism investment and that there is an appetite to develop the local offer further. However, in addition to the 'bottom-up' approach, it also pointed to the scale of investment required in capacity building support that is 'market-led' i.e. shares intelligence on who visitors are, when they come to the city and what they want to do and helps local businesses to bring forward new products and experiences to meet their needs. This highlights the importance of engagement with Tourism Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and Visit Belfast. Finally, a recurring theme is the need to identify and bring forward tourism product that can be financially sustainable and not continue to rely on public funding.

- 3.8 Members will also be aware that the Council has been supporting the tourism sector – and a number of other growth sectors – through investment in skills development activities. Our Hotel Academy programme has helped over 150 people into sustainable employment and we are also working with Titanic Belfast and the other tourism assets in the Titanic Quarter to help Belfast residents find employment.
- 3.9 Given the findings of the Tourism Strategy review around the need for increased investment in product development, there is a need to consider a targeted approach from the Council and partners. The proposed Destination Hub will be a critical 'anchor' that will raise the profile of the city's tourism offer. However, there is clearly significant potential for investment in high quality, authentic and sustainable product development and experience development initiatives across the city.
- 3.10 In order to inform the Council's approach to its investment in this work, Deloitte have been commissioned to develop a product development narrative and framework. This work is still at draft stage but there are a number of principles and potential assessment criteria emerging which, it is suggested, should be used to inform any future decision-making on investment in tourism products – for both capital and revenue investment.



**Future investment in local tourism: proposed approach**

- 3.11 The proposed approach is set out in the Deloitte document (see attached – Appendix 1). At this stage, it is proposed that this should be along the following lines:

**Key principles:**

- A clear focus on authentic experiences
- Use of market intelligence to develop what the visitor wants
- An emphasis on out-of-state visitors
- Collaborative planning and development to develop better experiences
- Harnessing digital technology – from website design to on-site visitor experience
- Nurturing skills
- Recognising the contribution to both economic and social outcomes (unique to local tourism).

**Potential assessment criteria**

- Is it tourism? Does it focus on key market segments: is it informed by market intelligence; is it more than regeneration?
- Does it align with the wider tourism narrative? Does it complement the key tourism themes/product areas (e.g. maritime; music; literature; outdoor leisure; 'Beyond Peace')?
- Does the promoter have the requisite skills and ability? It will be important to recognise that there are varying degrees of ability and capacity and support will need to be flexible in line with need and taking account of the Council's ambition for local tourism investment to be part of the approach to promoting inclusive growth
- Is it supported by market testing? This approach assumes a significant change to how product development initiatives currently come forward. There will be a need for the Council to invest in visitor intelligence (activities already underway with Smart Cities Team and Tourism NI) and to ensure that research and insights are made available to inform new investment
- Economic impact and viability: the starting point for engagement should be to consider how investment can contribute to specific targets (particularly Belfast Agenda targets). In addition, it will be important to consider whether Council/other public investment can

pump-prime investment as opposed to the project being reliant on subvention on an ongoing basis

- **Social impact:** it is clear that many local tourism activities are starting from a lower base than other activities that are clearly market-led. In order to demonstrate a recognition of this, it is proposed that wider contribution to social impact is considered as part of the assessment process (e.g. opportunities for local employment/training; ability to complement regeneration investment).

- 3.12** The identification of the local tourism projects as ‘connectors’ to other key tourism ‘anchors’ in the city (e.g. Titanic Belfast, proposed Destination Hub) is an important part of developing a clear tourism proposition that distinguishes Belfast from other cities and ensures a coherent set of ‘experiences’ that the visit can expect to get when they come to Belfast.
- 3.13** The Council is only one funder in this field and it is important to consider alignment with the approaches of other funders, particularly Tourism NI. Officers have been working closely with Tourism NI on this approach and are proposing alignment with their ‘Tourism Clusters’ model. This involves bringing together local organisations to look at how to capitalise on tourism growth and to develop new products and services as well as building skills. Tourism Ireland projections suggest that tourism is likely to grow at a rate of at least 6% in the coming year and, with an enhanced profile for Belfast on the back of initiatives such as the Lonely Planet Designation as the Number 1 place to visit in 2018, there is likely to be a commensurate increase in visitor numbers. Intelligence suggests that the overseas (USA, China) markets are growing significantly while there are specific EU countries with a particular interest in Ireland/Northern Ireland (France, Germany, Spain, Netherlands). These visitors have specific interests and requirements (e.g. language skills) and successful tourism activities need to be able to provide these services to meet demand and take advantage of consumer interest.
- 3.14** It is therefore proposed that the Council develops and manages a significant programme of capacity building and information sharing to improve the quality of existing products, bring forward new products and help develop coherent packages and experiences that are aligned to visitor needs. It is proposed that the focus of activity for the remainder of the financial year will include:

- Use of local conduits where possible to increase engagement and promote the benefits of participation (e.g Fáilte Feirste Thiar, Eastside Tourism) – up to £60,000 to be allocated
  - Testing out of potential new products – support for initial feasibility to help bring forward ideas emerging from the local consultations and engagement activity and working with new capital schemes coming forward from Council funds – up to £25,000 to be allocated
  - Capacity building and development work on cluster approach, in conjunction with Tourism NI - involvement of industry experts and practitioners who have first-hand experience of this activity - £45,000.
- 3.15 Following the initial investment, the Tourism Development Plan for 2019/20 will take account of the learning and the potential for engagement with partners on this work. It will detail proposals for engagement and activity from April 2019 onwards, in line with the proposals set out in this report.

#### Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.16 At present, TCA Unit has set aside £130,000 for expenditure on Local Tourism in financial year 2018/19. An indicative breakdown of the expenditure is set out in 3.14.
- 3.17 An indicative allocation of £4m has been set aside to match-fund projects under the Social Outcomes Fund (currently at varying stages of due diligence).
- 3.18 Currently, there are no Council funds available to support further capital investment in neighbourhood tourist products. Members will therefore need to consider this priority in the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan and the rate setting process. In the first instance, a feasibility fund would be required to develop tourist products to concept stage. The establishment of this fund by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would need to be considered as part of the half-year finance report in November 2018.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

#### Positioning Belfast to Compete

##### Eastern Economic Corridor

The Chief Executive reminded the Members that Belfast had a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration with Dublin and that engagement was ongoing between Belfast City Council and the seven other councils along the route to support the development of work along the economic corridor.

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She reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its meeting on 7th March, to support a conference to highlight cooperation opportunities along the corridor.

She explained to the Members that a Steering Group of senior council officials had been established to determine the content of the conference. The Committee was advised that the steering group had recently commissioned the Ulster University and Dublin City University to carry out further research to articulate the economic opportunities along the corridor. The Universities' research would form the basis of the conference proceedings.

The Committee was informed that, while the main focus of the Steering Group was the conference and the research work, it had also developed a broader terms of reference which included:

- identifying and developing collaborative projects which had economic and strategic merit for the eight local authorities of the eastern corridor;
- articulating the economic and social benefits along the length of eastern corridor between Belfast and Dublin; and
- driving buy-in and engagement with the private sector on the future development of the eastern economic corridor.

The Chief Executive explained that a key agreed outcome of the steering group meetings to date had been the aspiration to deliver a Memorandum of Understanding between the eight local authorities. She explained that the MoU would set out the scope of the joint areas of working across the corridor on infrastructure, attracting investment and jobs.

The Committee:

- noted the progress to date, including the proposed conference, which was likely to be held at the end of March 2019, and to which all Members would be invited to attend; and
- agreed that a further report be submitted to the Committee in advance of the conference, providing an update on the conference plans and the emerging research outcomes.

**Strategic and Operational Issues**

**Elite All Ireland Boxing Championships**

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that the Council, at its meeting on 5th March, had agreed a Notice of Motion which requested that officers would engage with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) to explore the possibility of bringing the All Ireland Boxing Championships to Belfast. He pointed out that a time had not been specified for the event.

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He explained that Council officers had held preliminary conversations with the IABA and that they had expressed an interest in holding the event in Belfast in February 2019. The Committee was advised that the event was usually held in Dublin and that there would be a financial ask of £69,470 from the Council or its partners if the event was to be held in Belfast, and that such a financial allocation had not been set aside in the Council budgets for this financial year.

The Members were advised that the economic impact of holding the event in Belfast would likely give a 2:1 return on the Council's investment, which the Director advised did not compare favourably with other events currently hosted in the city. He advised the Members that the Republic of Ireland's figure for the return investment in the Maritime Festival as 6.42:1.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the £200,000 of funding which was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 5th January 2018 for the implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy through the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA);
2. noted that, following engagement with Officers from the Council's City Events Unit, IABA had expressed a wish to stage the Elite Irish Amateur Final event in Belfast on 23rd February 2019, with a request for a financial contribution from Belfast City Council of £69,470 towards the event; and
3. noted that the IABA Championship was not considered as part of Place and Economy's 18/19 operational plans and consequently there was no existing budget allocation to support the event; and
4. agreed that officers would continue to negotiate with IABA to build a greater understanding of the costs associated with holding the event, including options for the Council to secure income from ticket revenue.

**Zoo - Update on Review**

(Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, attended in connection with this item.)

The Strategic Director of City and neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that, in November 2017, consultants had been commissioned to carry out a strategic review of the operational model for the Zoo, based on the Committee's agreed options.

The Committee was advised that the consultants had since reviewed the operator models for the Zoo based upon international best practice and had carried out an expression of interest exercise to validate the findings on the relevant operating models.

He explained that the aim of the early market engagement was to ascertain how potential operators and developers viewed the opportunity to work with the Council on the

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operational delivery of Belfast Zoo. He explained that what was learned from the early market engagement would be used to shape the Council's procurement strategy.

The Members were advised that, of the 7 companies which had responded to the questionnaire, 4 had experience or capabilities which were relevant to the operation of a world class zoo.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to receive further detail on the expressions of interest through party group briefings.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Quarter 1 Finance Update**

The Chief Executive presented the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to the Members. She advised them that the Quarter 1 position for the Committee was an under spend of £143,000 (2.5%), with the forecast year-end position being an overspend of £90,000 (0.5%) which was within the acceptable tolerance which was 3%.

The Committee was advised that the current position related to vacant posts across a number of services, loss of Belfast Bikes sponsorship income and additional health and safety expenditure in City Markets.

The Committee was also advised that the forecast year-end position for the Council was an under spend of £1million of the budgeted net expenditure and that this had been reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17th August.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**The Belfast Canvas Public Art Project –  
Councillor Baker to raise**

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting exploring the options for implementing a similar scheme in Belfast.

**Airport Security –  
Councillor Mullan to raise**

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

Chairperson

D1170

## Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 19th September, 2018

### MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);  
Alderman Spence; and  
Councillors Boyle, Clarke, Collins, Craig, Dudgeon,  
Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Magennis,  
McConville and Nic Biorna.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard), Aldermen Copeland and L. Patterson and Councillor McReynolds.

#### **Minutes**

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

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

#### **Applications Approved under Delegated Authority**

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration a list of licences and Road Closure Orders which had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

A Member drew the Committee's attention to an Entertainments Licence which had been issued to Queen's University in respect of the Speak-Easy, Student Union Bar, 92-96 Lisburn Road and highlighted concerns around potential overcrowding and noise nuisance.

He pointed out that the premises which it was replacing temporarily had a maximum capacity of 2,000 patrons, whilst this venue accommodated only 500. In terms of noise, there were several residential properties close by and the Council's Night Time Noise Team already had cause to visit the premises. He highlighted the need to monitor

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noise levels on an ongoing basis and referred to the fact that Queen's University had already applied to vary the Entertainments Licence to allow for entertainment to take place till 2.00 a.m.

The Building Control Manager reported that a noise consultant's report had been submitted for the premises and that all of the required checks had been carried out in advance of the Entertainments Licence being issued. He confirmed that the noise complaint to which the Member had referred had been resolved by Queen's University and that the premises had been inspected by Council officers on one occasion whilst entertainment had been taking place, which had revealed no issues relating to overcrowding or excessive noise. He assured the Committee that officers would continue to inspect the venue on a regular basis and that enforcement action would be taken, if required. He added that it was normal practice for an application to vary an Entertainments beyond the standard hour of 1.00 a.m. to be placed before the Committee and that Members would, at that meeting, have an opportunity to raise any issues which might arise in the meantime.

The Committee noted the list of licences and Road Closure Orders which had been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation and the position regarding the aforementioned premises.

**Application for the Grant of a Fourteen-Day Occasional  
Indoor Entertainments Licence – Holy Cross Boys' Pitch**

The Committee was informed that an application had been received from the Ardoyne Association for the grant of a Fourteen-Day Occasional Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Holy Cross Boys' Pitch, Flax Street, based upon the Council's standard conditions to provide indoor music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

The Building Control Manager reported that the application related to a number of events, including theatrical performances, which had taken place from 16th till 26th August within a marquee, as part of the Ardoyne Marrowbone Community Festival. He explained that, although the application for the Entertainments Licence had been received on 6th July, the legal advertisement had not been placed until 11th August, which had meant that the twenty-eight day statutory period for the receipt of representations had not expired until after the events had been held.

He explained that, since a significant number of tickets had been sold, the Council's Chief Officers, in consultation with the Party Leaders, had granted approval to hold the events over the aforementioned period, on condition that the application be placed before the Committee in September for consideration.

The Building Control Manager reported further that no written representations had been received in respect of the application and that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service nor the Police Service of Northern Ireland had lodged an objection. He added that officers had worked closely with the applicant and event organisers to ensure that all documentation and technical requirements were in place and a number of measures around the management of noise had been implemented. No enforcement



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action had been required in response to two noise complaints which had been received over the weekend of 25th and 26th August.

The Committee agreed to grant a Fourteen-Day Occasional Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Holy Cross Boys' Pitch, Flax Street.

**Application for the Transfer and Renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence – The Great Eastern Bar, 273 Newtownards Road**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th February, it had been advised that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had submitted an objection to an application for the transfer and renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of The Great Eastern Bar, 273 Newtownards Road. As required under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee had agreed to consider the application at a future meeting.

The Building Control Manager reported that officers of the Police Service of Northern Ireland had since met with the applicant and a plan of action had been agreed, with a view to addressing concerns around the operation of the premises outside of the permitted hours and other liquor licensing matters. As a result, the Police Service had withdrawn its objection to the application. He pointed out that no written representations had been received and that inspections which had been undertaken by Building Control officers, as part of the application process, had found that all safety measures and management procedures were being implemented. The application would now be approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

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

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th May, it had agreed that it was minded to revoke two Stationary Street Licences held by Mr. J. Kerr for designated sites in Fountain Lane and Fountain Street, on the basis that he had failed to pay the annual licence fee for each site.

The Building Control Manager explained that Mr. Kerr had been invited to address the Committee on 15th August. However, as he had been on holiday at that time, he had been unable to do so and the Committee had agreed to defer the matter for a further month. In the meantime, Mr. Kerr's debt had continued to rise and now stood at £2,410.90.

He reported that Mr. Kerr had been invited to attend this meeting. However, he had, earlier in the day, confirmed that, due to the adverse weather conditions associated with Storm Ali, he would not be present and had requested a further deferral.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer the matter until its meeting in October and agreed also that officers inform Mr. Kerr of its intention to reach a final decision at that meeting and again invite him to make representation.

**Restricted Item**

The Chairperson informed the Committee that the report relating to the following item had been restricted, on the basis of a request which had been received from the representatives of Visit Belfast for their presentation not to be recorded and to be delivered in private.

The Building Control Manager reported that, prior to the meeting, the representatives had withdrawn their request.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that there was no longer a requirement to restrict this item.

**Consideration of the Variation of Designated Commodities for  
Street Trading Sites – Sale of Bus Tour Tickets**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th August, it had agreed to defer an application for the variation of the Designating Resolutions for stationary street trading sites in Castle Junction and Castle Place to provide for the sale of bus tour tickets, to enable representatives of Visit Belfast, which had submitted additional comments, to attend.

Accordingly, Mr. G. Lennon and Ms. M. J. McCanny of Visit Belfast were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Lennon informed the Committee that the tourism sector in Belfast had grown by up to 50% over the past five years, which could, to a large extent, be attributed to a positive visitor experience. He reported that 25% of visitors had undertaken a tour whilst in the City and highlighted the fact that there had been a significant rise in the number of complaints received over the summer months around the operation of those tours, some of which were related directly to visitor experience and highlighted the need for increased regulation.

With that in mind, representatives of the Council, the Department for Infrastructure, the Driver and Vehicle Agency, Tourism NI and Visit Belfast had, at a meeting on 17th September, made a commitment to work together to improve the quality and standards of the bus tour sector through, for example, an agreed Code of Conduct and a permit scheme. Given that a process had now been put in place, Mr. Lennon confirmed that Visit Belfast was now suggesting that the Committee approve the sale of bus tour tickets at the sites in Castle Junction and Castle Place on a one-year trial basis.

Mr. G. Lennon and Ms. M. J. McCanny were thanked by the Chairperson.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to vary the Designating Resolution for stationary street trading sites in Castle Junction and Castle Place to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets and that any resulting applications to sell tickets would be considered by the Committee and, if approved, be granted on a one-year trial basis.

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The Committee agreed also that officers, in consultation with Visit Belfast and other relevant agencies, submit to a future meeting potential criteria to be used to assess whether the twelve-month trial period had been effective.

**Non-Delegated Matters**

**Review of Licence Fees for Sex Establishments**

The Committee was informed that, under Article 4 and Schedule 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Council had powers relating to the licensing of sex establishments.

The Building Control Manager explained that, whilst the Order stipulated that a person applying for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence should pay a reasonable fee, as determined by the Council, it differed from the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 and the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, in that it did not specify a procedure for the Council to follow in determining that fee.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 15th June, 2016, it had agreed the following schedule of fees for the licensing of sex establishments and that they should be reviewed on an annual basis:

<b>Application Fee</b>	<b>£3,200</b>
<b>Renewal Fee</b>	<b>£1,430</b>
<b>Transfer Fee</b>	<b>£1,125</b>
<b>Licence Fee</b>	<b>£500</b>

He reminded the Committee further that it had, in 2017, agreed that there should be no change to the fees, on the basis that the costs associated with the processing of a Sex Establishment Licence were in line with those of the previous year. Since this was still the case, he recommended that the fees should again remain unchanged.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Training for the Licensing Committee**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th August, it had agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting providing details on a proposed training programme for the Committee, with a view to assisting it in discharging its responsibilities.

The Building Control Manager suggested that the training should focus primarily upon the following topics:

- an overview of the different types of regulatory functions for which the Committee was responsible;

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- the Licensing Committee protocol and representation process;
- the legal principles governing the decision-making process; and
- alcohol licensing matters and its relationship to entertainments licensing.

He confirmed that the training programme would, as in previous years, be developed by the Building Control Service and the Legal Services Section and invited Members to identify any additional topics which they wished to have included.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the training programme should be delivered immediately following future Committee meetings, that it should cover the topics listed above and that an all Members of the Council be invited to attend.

**Fourteen Belfast, Tomb Street**

With the permission of the Chairperson, due to the urgency of the matter, a Member raised the issue of a cut-price drinks promotion being advertised by Fourteen Belfast, which had been brought to the attention of a number of Members by concerned parents.

The Building Control Manager explained that liquor licensing was the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. However, the Committee had, in the past, as part of the Entertainments Licensing process, requested a number of licensees to agree to adhere to the Pubs of Ulster's voluntary code of practice on irresponsible drinks promotions and had taken their compliance into consideration when determining future applications.

He reported that he had been informed by the Chief Executive of Hospitality Ulster, formerly Pubs of Ulster, that the sale of one drink, albeit at a very low price, did not contravene the responsible retailing code. He added that a recent inspection by officers from the Building Control Service, the Food Safety Section and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had identified no issues with the operation of Fourteen Belfast and that the licensee had confirmed that he would be willing to attend a future Committee meeting in order to address any issues raised by Members.

A Member referred to the fact that some advertisements had, in addition to promoting one drink at a low-cost price, referred to a "Bottomless Package" which, he pointed out, gave even greater cause for concern.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Chief Executive of Hospitality Ulster be advised of its concerns around the drinks promotions associated with Fourteen Belfast and agreed also that the licensee be invited to attend the meeting at which the renewal of his Entertainments Licence was being considered.

Chairperson

**E649**

## Planning Committee

Tuesday, 11th September, 2018

### MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);  
Alderman McGimpsey;  
Councillors Carson, Dorrian, Hussey,  
Hutchinson, Johnston and Magee.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;  
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors McAteer, Mullan and Nicholl.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 8. q) LA04/2018/1650/F and LA04/2017/2786/LBC Crumlin Road Courthouse, 94 - 100 Crumlin Road Change of use and extensions and alterations to the existing courthouse, Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest, in so far as he was a member of the Courthouse Community Benefits Forum, however, he had not formed any opinion on the matter prior to the meeting.

### Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 14th August, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 29th August in respect of planning application LA04/2017/2623/F - 88 Circular Road, dwelling with detached garage and LA04/2017/0261/F - Land to rear of 49 Diamond Gardens, 2 Storey detached dwelling.

In relation to a forthcoming major application for LA04/2017/2811/F - 81-87 Academy Street and 2-6 Exchange Street - Demolition of existing building and erection of 16 storey residential building comprising 90 units (30 x one bed and 60 x two bed), ancillary ground floor uses including management suite, café, servicing (refuse/recycling/cycle storage/general storage), plant room, substation and associated public realm works, the Committee agreed that a site visit be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location.

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**Financial Reporting - Quarter 1, 2018-2019**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the financial position of both the Planning and Licensing Committees, as at the end of the first quarter of the financial year. It was noted further that, as at 30th June, there had been a net under spend of £322k (73%), with the forecast year end position being an under spend of £200k (11.5%).

**Response to re-consultation requests from Department for Infrastructure**

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

**LA04/2017/1388/F- Transport Hub**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the re-consultation by the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) on the planning application for the new Transport Hub (LA04/2017/1388/F). It was noted that the Dfi was the determining authority having formally "called in" the planning application under Section 29 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The Committee was reminded that, in July, 2017, Dfi formally consulted the Council on the application and the following summary of response had been agreed by the Committee in October, 2017:

- Further clarification required regarding cycle and car parking;
- Recommendation of a larger amount of usable green space;
- Recommendation of the use of Section 76 agreements for phasing, landscaping, public realm, parking and job creation (failing that a planning condition); and
- In addition, the Council requested that the Department considered the potential for regeneration opportunities for the communities in the area and a direct resource for local communities to deal with issues such as disruption, transport, and business closures. It was also suggested that a Section 76 agreement, which had the potential for supporting local regeneration such as business development, tourism initiatives, and tackling health inequalities, and that provided resources at a local level for the wider community via development contributions, should be considered.

In August, 2018, Dfi undertook a further round of consultation with the Council based on the receipt of further environmental information from the applicant, such as:

- A 'Further Environmental Information' Planning Statement which responds to issues previously raised by consultees;
- The Boyne Bridge Planning Information Summary which outlined the history of bridges at this location and the constraints of retention. It also outlined the proposed heritage aspects and highlighted that Historic Environment Division welcomed the approach and mitigation measures proposed;

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- A Construction Phase Sustainable Travel Plan; and
- Multiple documents pertaining to traffic surveys and modelling.

The following information had been received in response to issues previously raised by the Council:

- Clarification had been provided regarding cycle and car parking. Officers advise that the proposed temporary car park should be appropriately conditioned to prevent permanent use;
- Clarification and further information had been provided to deal with transport and parking. This would be assessed by DfI Roads;
- Whilst the Council felt that a larger amount of green usable space should be provided, the applicant stated that the public consultation exercise showed a preference for flexible open space to hold events;
- The Council recommended a legal agreement to ensure that public realm, phasing, landscaping and parking were completed in the appropriate time and manner. The applicant responded to state that they were fully committed to the delivery of all of these components and that DfI felt that these could be satisfactorily addressed via planning conditions. They further stated that Translink's public funding included £7m for public realm and landscaping;
- The Council recommended a Section 76 agreement to leverage opportunities for residents to benefit both from construction jobs and long-term jobs. The applicant stated that they had been working with the Council's Economic Development Unit since April, 2017 and hosted an event in October, 2017 for attendees to learn of immediate and long-term employment opportunities as a result of this project. In addition, Translink and the Council had announced an official partnership to deliver the "Buy Social" clauses during the construction and engineering phase of the project which would include the formation of a "bespoke Construction Employment Academy";
- Finally, the Planning Committee requested the appointment of a dedicated community liaison officer to work closely with the local community on all aspects of the project. The applicant advised that a Community Development Manager was appointed specifically for this in Spring, 2017.

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

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

**LA04/2017/0474/F- Casement Park**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the re-consultation by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) on the planning application for the redevelopment of Casement Park (LA04/2017/0474/F). DfI was the determining authority having formally

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“called in” the planning application under Section 29 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The Committee was reminded that, in June, 2017, DfI formally consulted the Council on the application. The planning application was considered by the Planning Committee in August, 2017 and it had agreed the response with emphasis on the following points:

- Further detailed cross sections through the entire site and surrounding properties as a whole were recommended;
- In addition, in terms of wider visual effect, it was recommended that further images were required to demonstrate the impact on the skyline and on key views, both near and distant; and
- Greater certainty around travel, transport and traffic should also be provided at this stage.

In June, 2018, DfI undertook a further round of consultation based on the receipt of further environmental information, an updated planning statement and additional/revised plans such as:

- An updated Environmental Statement which revisited a number of chapters of the original Environmental Statement in terms of noise, overshadowing and a management plan;
- Drawings covering kitchen extracts, light pollution and re-labelling of some previously incorrectly labelled drawings; and
- Updated planning statement.

The following information had been received in response to issues previously raised by the Council:

- The updated Environmental Statement was being assessed by the relevant technical consultees as part of the re-consultation process;
- DfI had confirmed that it did not request any further sections or visuals as a result of the Council’s consultation response; and
- Travel, transport and traffic – no further information had been provided by the applicant as part of the revised Environmental Statement.

During discussion, Members raised concerns regarding the length of time that the application process had taken. The Committee also highlighted that all travel, transport and traffic information submitted to the DfI should have been made available to consultees and the nature of the letters of support should have also been outlined.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and that it had no further comments to make on the application.



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**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 Building Control, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 8th August and 3rd September, 2018.

**Miscellaneous Items**

**Belfast Local Development Plan - Timetable Revision**

The Committee was reminded that the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy (DPS) had been published for consultation on 23rd August and it had previously been agreed to keep the timetable under review to consider progress to date and the next stages in the process.

Whilst approval for publication of the DPS had been granted by the Council in June, it had been agreed to delay the launch until the end of the summer break to enhance the potential engagement and responses. Due to the revised launch date for the DPS, it was likely that the full DPS consultation stage, including collation of representations and reporting to Members, would be completed by March 2019.

Following this, the DPS, all associated documents and all representations received must be collated and submitted to the Department for Infrastructure in May 2019. Following its consideration of the documents, DfI would then refer the DPS to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) for the Independent Examination stage.

DfI had recently indicated that its consideration of the document should take up to six weeks, meaning that the DPS and all documents would be issued to the PAC by the end June, 2019.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to the updated draft LDP timetable as set out in Appendix 2. (copy available on the Council's website [here](#).)

**Planning Applications**

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

**Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/2623/F - 88 Circular Road, dwelling with detached garage**

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The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th August, 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 proposals at first hand.

The case officer highlighted that an additional condition was recommended to limit the use of the proposed garage to purposes ancillary to the main dwelling.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Magee, and  
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

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

Accordingly, the Committee approved 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 Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

**Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/0261/F - Land to rear of no 49 Diamond Gardens,  
2 Storey detached dwelling**

(Councillor Hutchinson took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the applications since he had not been in attendance at the meeting on 14th August when it had originally been considered.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th August, 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 proposals at first hand.

The case officer provided an overview of the application and highlighted that, in respect of clarification over the ownership of the pillar to be re-located, Transport NI had provided confirmation that Diamond Avenue had been adopted by Transport NI in 1973 through re-organisation and had provided a map which illustrated the location of the pillar within its control.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following points had been received from Mr. J. McVeigh:

- A query in relation to the specific time the case officer's report would be published on the Council's website; and
- Clarification of adding conditions to applications recommended for approval.

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

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The case officer also pointed out that three additional conditions had been outlined in the addendum report to safeguard the privacy of adjacent properties.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. J. McVeigh, resident, in objection to the application. He suggested that the conditions of the recommended approval had not been mandated and should be considered carefully by the Committee. He suggested that the development would be out of character with the local area, there had been a lack of consultation between residents and the developer and the updated design would not be an improvement on the first proposal. He suggested that trees had been removed to increase the likelihood that the application would be approved and the land on which they were situated had been obtained through adverse possession. He highlighted that objections had also been raised in relation to the nature of the area and traffic concerns had not been considered fully by the Planning Service.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. C. McAuley, agent, representing the applicant. He suggested that the pattern of development in the area was characterised by pockets of urban back-land developments, in the rear gardens fronting on to Diamond Gardens. He suggested that the proposal complied with the LC1 addendum to PPS 7 and the adjoining dwellings were safeguarded through appropriate design, orientation and separation distances. He suggested the road widening and proposed landscaping scheme, which would replace the current hedge, would assist with the safety of the entrance, the exiting parking would be maintained and they had no objections to the additional conditions outlined in the case officer's addendum report.

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

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

**LA04/2017/1153/F - 10 Lorne Street 4 Storey apartment development, comprising 31 apartments, car parking, amenity space and associated**

Before presentation of the application commenced, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

The Committee also noted, as the application had not been presented, that all Members' present at the next meeting, would be able to take part in the debate and vote on this item.

**LA04/2018/0124/F - 49 Hawthornden Road Demolition of dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling**

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, a query in relation to the dimensions on drawings 03A and potential overlooking had been received from Councillor McReynolds.

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

The Committee received a representation from Councillor McReynolds in objection to the case officer's recommendation for approval. He suggested that objecting residents had had issues with the application since 2004, which included dominance, privacy and over shadowing. He suggested that the Committee should defer consideration of the application for a site visit.

The Committee received a representation from Mrs. L. Rooney, resident, in objection to the application. She advised that she had lived next door to the site for 15 years and the 2-storey proposal would cause loss of light, be overbearing, dominant and cause overshadowing to her property. She suggested that the height of the trees currently at the site already caused overshadowing which indicated that the proposed dwelling would exacerbate the problem. She suggested that the proposal was not compliant with Policy QD1 of PPS 7 and the development would dominate her house and affect her outlook. She suggested also that the flat roof would still overshadow her home and garden. She advised that she was housebound and spent all day in her home and garden and suggested that the proposal would have a detrimental impact on her life and that a site visit would be beneficial.

The Committee received a representation from Ms. J. Mawhinney, representing the applicant. She suggested the following points in support for the application:

- The proposal would form part of a larger scheme which had obtained Planning Permission in 2017 for six detached dwellings;
- The current building on site was dilapidated and the proposed replacement would provide a high quality dwelling;
- The conservation officer agreed that the proposal was acceptable;
- The design and finish were of high quality to fit with the Area of Townscape Character;
- Suitable separation distance had been proposed ;
- The ridge height of the proposal was lower than the adjacent property;
- The landscape design aimed to enhance the visual character overall;
- Residents' concerns had been considered and the scale had been reduced; and
- The proposal complied with Policy Planning Statement and Guidance.

During discussion, the case officer clarified queries in relation to over shadowing.

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

**(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.)**

**Z/2015/0118 /F - 37- 41 Little Patrick Street 11 storey mixed use scheme comprising 50 apartments and retail;**

**Z/2015/0176/F - 21-29 Corporation Street and 18-24 Tomb Street, 250**

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bedroom hotel with basement car park;

LA04/2015/0668/F - Land east of No. 43 Stockmans Way, demolition of buildings and erection of 96 residential units;

LA04/2017/0562/F - 14 Dublin Road and Bankmore Square, demolition of cinema building and erection of 12 storey Grade A offices

The Committee agreed to consider the aforementioned applications together.

The Development Engagement Manager explained that on 24th May, the High Court quashed the Council's decision to grant planning permission for a Major office development at the junction of Stewart Street/East Bridge Street and West of Central Station (LA04/2016/0559/F). The Judicial Review was successful on two grounds:

- Firstly, that the Planning Committee, when it made its resolution to grant permission in September 2016, failed to consider the change in status of the Belfast Metropolitan Plan (BMAP). This meant that the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) became the statutory plan and BMAP reverted to draft plan status. Moreover, officers should have ensured the application was put in front of the Planning Committee, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, to reassess it in the light of the adoption of BMAP being quashed; and
- Secondly, that the Council failed to take account of the Planning Appeal Commission's recommendation (ultimately rejected by the Ministers) that the application site should be designated for social housing.

He informed the Committee that, in view of the High Court's decision, the planning service had reviewed older applications which had previously been considered by the Planning Committee but where the decision had yet to be issued. It had identified the four aforementioned applications where the report to the Planning Committee did not adequately address the issues around the correct status of the BUAP and BMAP and/or the recommendations of the PAC following the examination of BMAP, therefore they had been submitted to the Planning Committee so that these aspects could be reconsidered.

During discussion, the Divisional Solicitor advised that the addendum reports rectified the failures outlined by the High Court's decision in relation to the consideration of BUAP, draft BMAP and the comments of the Planning Appeals Commission in the BMAP Inquiry process. She advised that a report in relation to the broader learning from the Judicial Review would be submitted for consideration at a future meeting.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Carson, and  
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

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That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the applications pending a review of the outcome of the Judicial Review and its implications for the Planning Committee decision making.

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

The Committee agreed to proceed with consideration of the decisions without presentations from the case officer.

**Z/2015/0118/F**

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when five Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee. approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant in relation to developer contributions and to enter into such a Section 76 Planning Agreement on behalf of the Council.

**Z/2015/0176/F**

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when five Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee. approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant in relation to developer contributions and to enter into such a Section 76 Planning Agreement on behalf of the Council.

**LA04/2015/0668/F**

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when five Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee. approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant in relation to developer contributions and to enter into such a Section 76 Planning Agreement on behalf of the Council.

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**LA04/2017/0562/F**

The case officer's recommendation to approve the application was put to the Committee when five Members voted in favour and none against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant in relation to developer contributions and to enter into such a Section 76 Planning Agreement on behalf of the Council.

**LA04/2018/1216/F - Units E-F, Westwood Shopping Centre, 51 Kennedy Way  
Amalgamation of Units E and F, creation of mezzanine floor, minor  
elevational changes and change of use to a trampoline play area**

The case officer provided an overview of the aforementioned application.

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

**LA04/2018/1650/F and LA04/2017/2786/LBC - Crumlin Road Courthouse, 94-  
100 Crumlin Road. Change of use and extensions and alterations to the  
existing courthouse**

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, a letter of support had been received for both applications.

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

**LA04/2018/0949/F - 135-137A Andersonstown Road, 2 shop units with two  
apartments over**

The Committee received a representation from Mr. J. Webb in objection to the case officer's recommendation for approval. He suggested the following points of objection:

- Loss of light;
- Affect on family life;
- Loss of privacy;
- Car parking issues;
- Overlooking;
- Noise level; and
- Design and layout conflict in relation to Planning Policy QD1 of PPS7.

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The Committee received a representation from Mr. W. Noteman, agent, representing the applicant. In answer to queries raised by the Committee, he explained that the proposal had been reduced from 3 shops to 2 shops with four car parking spaces. In relation to overlooking, he confirmed that the condition of obscure windows with limited opening would address this issue and the affect of overshadowing would be addressed by the separation distances and a hipped roof. He suggested that the sun path test that had been completed in June had illustrated that by 10.30am there would be no loss of sunlight to the neighbouring property.

During discussion, the case officer confirmed separation distances and space standards of the proposal.

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

**LA04/2018/0755/F - Land adjacent to Boucher Road and Balmoral Road, retention of car storage area**

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

The case officer outlined the application for temporary (3 years) planning permission for the retention of existing car storage area and associated access. The proposal was retrospective as the site currently operated as a car storage area.

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

**LA04/2017/2048/F - 14c Hi-Park Centre Change of use from shop to office, single storey boiler house**

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 development.

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

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

**LA04/2018/0021/RM - 1-5 Gaffikin Street, erection of 42 apartments**

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

The Committee considered the application at a site located within the city centre of Belfast as defined within the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan. It was reported that outline planning permission had been granted for 42 apartments on the site in August, 2016.



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

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

**LA04/2018/0323/F - Lands adjacent to west side of Westlink between 23 Albert Street and Frank Gillen Centre Sports Active Zone**

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

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 development.

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 and the outstanding representations from the Department for Infrastructure Rivers.

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

**LA04/2018/1590/F - Cancer Lifeline 42 - 44 Alliance Avenue Demolition and remodelling internal layout to create new office accommodation**

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 development.

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

**LA04/2018/1458/F - Hammer Playground Agnes Street Refurbish existing playground facilities and construct a bitmac Multi Use Games Area 33.0 x 18.0 metre with 5.0 metre high ball stop fencing. Replace existing boundary fencing with 2.40 and 1.80 metre high Paladin fencing**

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions and the resolution of drainage issues raised by the Department for Infrastructure Roads.

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Chairperson

## **Brexit Committee**

Thursday, 20th September, 2018

### MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and Spence;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan,  
Carson, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Hutchinson, Lyons, McAllister,  
McDonough-Brown, Nichol, O'Hara, Pankhurst and  
Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Ms K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development  
Manager,  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer, and  
Ms C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Motion Brexit – The People's Vote**

The Committee was reminded that the following motion regarding a People's Vote, which had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor McAllister, was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3rd September:

“This Council acknowledges the result of the EU Referendum of June 2016, but asserts that no one in Belfast voted for a bad deal, or no deal, that could wreck our economy or jeopardise our peace process.

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The Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State and to the Prime Minister expressing its support for the growing demand for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal."

Councillor Nicholl, who had proposed the motion at the Council meeting, subsequently proposed that the Committee adopt the motion as the Council's position. It was seconded by Councillor McAllister.

The motion was thereupon put to the Committee, when three Members voted for and eleven against, and it was declared lost.

**Brexit Committee - Port Health Study Visit**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th August, it was agreed that Members would undertake a study visit to the Port Health Unit and that a report be submitted on the potential impact of Brexit on the Port Health Unit.

The Members were informed that the study visit to the Port Health Unit facility had been organised for Friday 28th September at 12 noon.

Noted.

**Workshops on the Potential Impact of Brexit**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th August, it was agreed that, in order to help identify the potential impact of Brexit on the Council, community organisations, the business and other sectors, to the holding of two workshops/events, with one event being internally focussed and the other to host the external sectors.

It was proposed that the following be undertaken:

**External workshop:** officers to arrange a workshop for business and community and voluntary sector stakeholders and invite them to an externally facilitated workshop in mid-October to explore and identify potential impacts of Brexit. A report of the workshop would be brought back to the Committee in November.

**Internal engagement:** that rather than one workshop, that officers use the various internal communications channels, including information sessions, Team Brief and Interlink to engage with staff around the potential impacts of Brexit. This engagement would be used for both information gathering and sharing with the activities tailored to what is required for various staff

As officers had proposed an engagement strategy for internal engagement rather than a workshop, as previously proposed at the meeting on 9th August, a Member requested that a report on the internal engagement outcomes be brought back to the Committee.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services agreed to this course of action.

Noted.

### Update on EU Settlement Scheme

The Committee considered the following report:

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

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the EU Settlement Scheme

**2.0 Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the update provided.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

To allow EU citizens and their families to continue to live and work in the UK after 31 December 2020 (the end of the proposed transition period) the UK government reached an agreement with the EU in March 2018 called the EU Settlement Scheme. This includes all EU citizens who arrive in the UK before 31 December 2020. EU citizens will need to get ‘Settled’ or ‘pre-settled’ status to continue to live and work in the UK after December 2020. (As a general rule someone with a ‘pre-settled’ status can apply for ‘settled’ status once they have lived in the UK for 5 years.)

People with a ‘settled’ or ‘pre-settled’ status can live in the UK and:

- work in the UK
- use the NHS
- enrol in education or continue studying
- access public funds such as benefits and pensions, if eligible for them
- bring family members to the UK after 31 December 2020
- travel in and out of the UK

High level details of the scheme are currently available on the Home Office’s website <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families> .

**In summary:**

- The scheme applies to EU citizens and their family members in the UK (spouse, parents, children and dependent relatives).
- Only 3 conditions to be eligible:
  - Proof of ID
  - 5 years residence in UK (if you are in the country before the end of 2020, you can have temporary status until you reach the 5 years and then you have to apply using this same process).
  - No serious convictions.
- Irish citizens are exempt from the scheme
  - Irish citizens enjoy a right of residence in the UK that is not reliant on the UK's membership of the EU. They will not be required to apply for status under the scheme (but may do so if they wish), and their eligible family members (who are not Irish citizens or British citizens) will be able to obtain status under the scheme without the Irish citizen doing so.
- The scheme will be fully open by the end of March 2019 and the deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021.
- An application will cost £65 for adults and £32.50 for children under £16. It will be free for those with valid documented permanent residence or valid indefinite leave to remain or enter and also for looked after children.

The Home Office will be running campaigns advertising the scheme over the coming months and there are also proposing to run regular teleconferences with local authorities across the UK, updating them on how this scheme will be implemented. Members will be kept updated on the scheme as further information is made available.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no implications relating to this report.

**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no implications relating to this report.”

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A Member suggested that Council take action to undertake a responsibility to make EU citizens within Belfast aware of the December 2020 deadline, in order to limit the impact on families and the dependants of EU citizens resident in Belfast.

The City Solicitor stated that he would explore the suggestion and would bring a report back to a future Committee meeting.

Noted.

**UK Government Technical Notices for 'no deal' Brexit scenario**

The Committee noted the content of the report and that further updates would be provided to future meetings of the Committee.

Arising out of discussion, it was agreed that post Brexit access to EU funding be added to the agenda of a future meeting of the Committee.

**Proposal**

Arising out of discussion in the matter, it was

Moved by Councillor Carson  
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

That an all-Party delegation from the Council undertake a visit to Brussels to engage with EU officials to represent the views of the council in relation to Special Designated Status, remaining in the single market and the Council's position on the Backstop; and to engage with EU Funding Bodies about our future participation in EU Funding Programmes.

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

The City Solicitor highlighted that the Committee did not have a budget and any expenditure agreed by this Committee would have to be approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. He explained that the proposal would have to be ratified by full Council and then passed to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to make a decision regarding finance.

Noted.

Chairperson

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