

# 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 - Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 3rd December, 2018 at 6.00 pm., for the transaction of the following business:

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

To consider a request from Mr. Gerard Greene, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI, to address the Council in relation to the motion on Community Pharmacies being proposed by Alderman Copeland.

7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 13 - 76)
  - a) Amendment to Standing Orders

To adopt the amendment to Standing Order 37(d) to give effect to the Licensing Committee having delegated authority to determine applications under the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, as set out within pages B2107 and B2108.
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 77 - 120)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 121 - 152)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 153 - 166)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 167 - 174)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Shareholders' Committee (Pages 175 - 178)
13. Brexit Committee (Pages 179 - 188)

#### 14. Notices of Motion

##### a) Social Investment Fund

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,

Seconded by Councillor Long,

“This Council notes with concern the findings of the NI Audit Office report into the Social Investment Fund (SIF).

The Council notes that the Audit Office states that there were ‘*significant failings*’ and ‘*there was non-compliance with the most basic standards of public administration*’.

The Council believes that this report highlights the need for open, transparent and accountable processes in the allocation of public funds.

The Council agrees to review the SIF report and apply any learning from it to relevant Council funds. The Council agrees also to review Council funding processes to ensure that they are fully compliant with the Outcome Based Accountability principles.”

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

##### b) NHS Pay Offer

Proposed by Councillor Heading,

Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

“This Council affirms its support for all staff in the National Health Service. The Council notes the inadequate pay offer made to staff and their decision to ballot for industrial action and calls on all parties to use their influence to resolve the pay issue for staff.”

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

##### c) Community Pharmacies

Proposed by Alderman Copeland,

Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

“This Council recognises the contribution to society made by Community Pharmacies and notes with growing concern the current financial crisis facing the sector, caused by a serious level of underfunding over the last decade.

The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and Public Safety and an all-party delegation from the Council, along with representatives of the Pharmacies.”

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

d) Lighting of City Parks

Proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown),

Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

“This Council recognises the importance of our city parks to walkers, runners, cyclists, dogs, and others and appreciates the desire within our communities to use city parks all year round.

Therefore, the Council agrees to consider options for lighting our city parks, with the intention of opening parks for longer during the winter months. The Council will consider a report which identifies the costs and benefits of lighting a range of parks to give citizens equal access to high quality outdoor space at all times of the year.”

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

e) Belfast Blitz Memorial

Proposed by Councillor Dudgeon,

Seconded by Alderman Convery,

“This Council supports memorialising its more than 1,000 citizens and residents who died in the Blitz, particularly those victims of the two largest air raids in April and May 1941.

Recognising that Belfast, almost alone of heavily blitzed cities, has no commemorative site for this most devastating event in our history; recognising the generous offer of substantial funding towards a Blitz memorial from the Northern Ireland War Memorial; recognising that the Blitz victims came from every part of the city and beyond, but especially its north side, and that the havoc wreaked was immense; the Council therefore calls for a significant memorial, inclusive of the victims' names, to be erected in the city with a view to it being unveiled in time for the 80th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz in 2021.

Cathedral Gardens, which is at the York Street and Lower Donegall Street junction, is perhaps the most appropriate and suitable location, given it was subject to extensive destruction in the 1941 air raids and is Council-owned. It is also accepted that ‘Buoys Park’, as it was known, is now in need of reanimation and a major replacement feature for the departing Buoys.

For all these reasons, the Council agrees that a Blitz memorial at this location is considered as an emerging project for the capital programme in the coming financial year.”

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

f) Arrangements to Deliver Justice in Serious Sexual Offences Cases

Proposed by Councillor Lyons,

Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

“This Council welcomes the publication of the preliminary report by Sir John Gillen, who is leading the independent review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offence cases.

The Council notes that a public consultation is open until 15th January and encourages all, but particularly women, to have their say in this process.

The Council also notes the eight key recommendations of the preliminary review, namely:

- public access to trials involving serious sexual offences to be confined to close family members of complainant and the defendant;
- cross-examination of complainants to be pre-recorded and away from court - initially for vulnerable people but eventually extended to all complainants in serious sexual offences;
- measures to combat rape myths and stereotypes, like suggestions that victims provoke rape by the way they dress or act;
- more robust attitude by judges to prevent improper cross-examination about previous sexual history;
- the accused will be anonymous until they are charged, but from that point they will be identified;
- accused will have right to apply for a judge-alone trial without a jury - this would only be granted in "rare circumstances";
- new legislation to manage dangers created by social media; and
- steps to combat excessive delay in the judicial system.

The Council believes that a victim led process is essential in what the report identifies as “one of the worst violations of human dignity” and recognises the immense pressure that victims of sexual crime are under. To this end, the Council cautions against the adoption of a restorative justice measure for fear it will add to intra-process pressure on the victim but agrees to respond to the public consultation outlining its support for the above recommendations.”

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

g) Sexual Harassment

Proposed by Councillor McReynolds,

Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

“This Council is concerned at the number of women in Belfast that feel they have been the victim of sexual harassment.

The Council understands the important role that our universities and entertainment and hospitality sector can play in tackling sexual harassment and endorses the Zero Tolerance campaign that has been adopted by Canterbury and Medway Councils. Accordingly, the Council will undertake to work with our universities, hospitality sector and the PSNI to roll out a similar scheme in Belfast.”

**(To be referred, without discussion, to the  
Licensing Committee)**

h) Zero Hours Contracts

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,

Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

“In a recent study by the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, it was found that the practice of zero hours contracts is having a detrimental impact on young people’s physical and mental health.

The precarious nature of such jobs, the lack of certainty in terms of both wages earned and hours worked in any week, is making it impossible for a new generation of workers to secure mortgages, to pay their bills and to make a decent living for themselves and their families.

Precarious work has now become a systematic feature of present day employment practices. It is anathema to decent working terms and conditions and counterproductive to encouraging inclusive economic growth.

This Council agrees that zero hours contracts have no role in stimulating inclusive economic growth and should be banned.

The Council calls upon employers within Belfast to end the practice of zero hour contracts now and commits itself to doing everything that it can to help make Belfast a zero contacts free zone.

The Council further agrees to request the Mayor to convene a City-wide forum, including local business leaders, trade unions, employers’ organizations, youth groups, anti-poverty groups, and any other concerned sections of civic society, to develop a practical strategy aimed at bringing an end to these damaging and harmful employment practices.”

**(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 Thursday, 1st November, 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, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

### **Summons**

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard), Aldermen McCoubrey, R. Patterson and Spence and Councillors Armitage, McAllister and McCusker.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **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 monthly meeting of the Council of 1st October be taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Official Announcements**

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

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated the Belfast-born novelist Anna Burns on winning the 2018 Man Booker Prize and confirmed that she would,

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

together with the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown), be hosting a civic reception, to which all Members would be invited, to mark her achievement.

At the request of Councillor Long, the Lord Mayor undertook to forward, on behalf of the Council, a letter to Michael D. Higgins, congratulating him on being re-elected as Uachtarán na hÉireann.

At the request of Councillor Lyons, the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked the artist Neil Shawcross for donating his 'Writers of Belfast' collection to the Council.

The Lord Mayor, together with a number of Members, paid tribute to those officers from the Council and other participating councils, universities and colleges for their significant contribution in securing £350 million of funding under the Belfast Region City Deal.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,  
Seconded by Councillor McAteer,

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

**Amendment**

**Brexit Committee Proposed Visit to Brussels**

Moved by Councillor Walsh,  
Seconded by Councillor McAteer,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th October, under the heading "Brexit Committee Proposed Visit to Brussels", be amended to provide that the Lord Mayor accompany the delegation.

On a recorded vote, twenty-six Members voted for the amendment and twenty-four against and it was declared carried.

<b><u>For 26</u></b>	<b><u>Against 24</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey Hutchinson, Johnston, Long, McReynolds, Newton, Nicholl, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds.



**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

**Amendment**

**Brexit Committee Proposed Visit to Brussels**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th October, under the heading "Brexit Committee Proposed Visit to Brussels", as amended, be rejected and, accordingly, the Council agrees not to approve a budget to be made available for a delegation from the Council to undertake a visit to Brussels.

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

<b><u>For 19</u></b>	<b><u>Against 31</u></b>
Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, 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, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.

**Request for Cash Flow**

Prior to considering the above-mentioned minute, the Council agreed to exclude the members of the press and public from the meeting, as there could be a disclosure of exempt information, as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

(Alderman Rodgers declared an interest at this point in that he was a shareholder with Glentoran Football Club and left the Chamber whilst the matter was under consideration.

Alderman Copeland declared an interest insofar as she was on the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and, along with Councillor Beattie, who was also on that Board, left the Chamber whilst the matter was under consideration.)

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Newton,  
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th October, under the heading "Request for Cash Flow" be amended to provide that the Council delegates its powers for a decision on this matter to the Committee, once the due diligence exercise has been completed.

On a vote by show of hands, forty-one Members voted for the amendment and three against and it was declared carried.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 5th and 19th October were thereupon approved and adopted.

(The members of the press and public were readmitted to the Chamber at this point.)

**People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,  
Seconded by Councillor Magennis and

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

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 26th September and 10th October be approved and adopted.

**Licensing Committee**

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

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

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

**Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Garrett,  
Seconded by Councillor McAteer and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 16th and 26th October, 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 Councillor Carson and

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

**Notices of Motion**

**'On the Ball' Campaign**

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

"This Council supports the 'On the Ball' campaign, the aim of which is to provide free sanitary products in as many sporting grounds and public buildings as possible to combat the ever growing issue of period poverty.

As an initial step, the Council will examine the feasibility of providing these products in the City Hall, in all Council offices, and, in keeping with the 'On The Ball' campaign, also look at the feasibility of providing free sanitary products in our sporting and leisure facilities.

It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision to help combat the ever growing issue of period poverty."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna.

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

**Climate Change**

At the request of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown), the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the motion standing in his name be withdrawn from the agenda.

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

**Social Housing**

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

“This Council congratulates the children and families of the Build Homes Now and Homes Now campaign on the production of their film ‘Waiting on a Childhood’, which documents their experiences and campaign to tackle homelessness.

The Council recognises that we are in the midst of a housing and homelessness crisis.

The Council recognises the impact of homelessness on the children of Belfast. Recent figures from the Housing Executive show that there are at least 20,950 children on the housing waiting list in total. At least 13,636 of these children are said to be in ‘housing stress’ and at least 11,372 are full duty housing applicants. On three separate occasions in the last 10 years, the United Nations has intervened, urging the Westminster Government and the devolved Stormont Executive to intensify their efforts to address and overcome persistent religious inequalities in social housing.

The Council calls upon the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to work with the Council to use all available powers, including powers of vesting, zoning and planning, to ensure that housing provision meets current and projected needs in the city of Belfast.”

In the absence of Councillor McCusker, the motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

**Belfast Central Library**

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

“This Council:

- congratulates the Belfast Central Library on the recent celebration of its 130th Anniversary;
- notes that the Belfast Central Library has for 130 years provided free public access to a wide range of social, cultural and educational material and services, and is the oldest civic building in Belfast to continue to serve in its original function;
- further notes that the Belfast Central Library is uniquely positioned to contribute to the regeneration of its locality and enhance

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

opportunities provided by recent nearby developments such as the relocation of the Ulster University and the cultural provisions of the Cathedral Quarter; and

- agrees that an all-party delegation meet with representatives of Libraries NI and the Department for Communities, in firm support of the proposals to have the Belfast Central Library restored and extended.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

At the request of Councillor Reynolds, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to provide for the addition of the following bullet point at the end of his motion:

- encourages Libraries NI and the Department for Communities, along with the relevant authorities, to Belfast Central Library being established and resourced as a Depository Library, as part of its long-term strategy.

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

**‘No Grey Zone’ Campaign**

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

"This Council notes the PSNI led “No Grey Zone” awareness campaign, which clearly sets out what constitutes sexual assault, debunks myths and provides information on available support.

The Council believes that everyone in our City should feel supported and empowered to speak out when a sexual assault occurs. Accordingly, the Council declares every Belfast City Council premise to be a #NoGreyZone and resolves to arrange a cross-party delegation, to include Council Communications officers, to meet with the PSNI, prosecutors, sexual violence charities and student representatives to identify how to effectively support the campaign in Belfast City Council premises."

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

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

(The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) in the Chair.)

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

**Household Recycling**

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

“This Council is committed to increasing household recycling across the city of Belfast; notes the colossal impact waste is having on our oceans, cities and countrysides; welcomes the recent waste consultation; and will commit to introducing glass recycling in households across the city of Belfast as soon as possible.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Long.

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

(The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey) in the Chair.)

**Definition of Antisemitism**

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

“In recognition of the 80th Anniversary of Kristallnacht, 9th-10th November 1938, this Council follows the example shown by other public bodies in the United Kingdom and adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which is:

*‘Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.’*

Furthermore, the Council agrees that this definition and associated examples of anti-Semitism, published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016, are fully incorporated into this Council’s Good Relations strategy and associated policies.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Boyle.

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

**Westminster Bills**

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

“This Council supports the passing into law at Westminster of these two Bills:

- The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) (Northern Ireland) (No. 2) Bill sponsored by Conor McGinn MP (St Helens North) and scheduled for

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

2nd reading in the House of Commons on Friday 26th October 2018;  
and

- The NIO's Northern Ireland (Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions) Bill with its new clause 7, entitled Equal Rights for People of Northern Ireland, agreed in the House of Commons on 24th October 2018 by 207 votes to 117, against the wishes of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, which new clause reads:
  1. In the absence of Northern Ireland Ministers to address the matters identified by recent, current and future court proceedings in relation to the human rights of the people of Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State must issue guidance to senior officers of all Northern Ireland departments which will specify how to exercise their functions in relation to:
    - (a) the incompatibility of the human rights of the people of Northern Ireland with the continued enforcement of sections 58 and 59 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 with the Human Rights Act 1998, and
    - (b) the incompatibility of the human rights of the people of Northern Ireland with the continued enforcement of section 13(e) of the Matrimonial Causes (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 where they pertain to the provision and management of public services in Northern Ireland.
  2. The Secretary of State shall report guidance under this section on a quarterly basis to the House of Commons and set out her plans to address the impact of the absence of Northern Ireland Ministers on human rights obligations within three months of the day on which this Act is passed."

The motion was seconded by Alderman McGimpsey.

On a recorded vote, thirty-two Members voted for the motion and thirteen against, with four "no votes" and it was declared carried.

<b><u>For 32</u></b>	<b><u>Against 13</u></b>	<b><u>No Vote 4</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen McGimpsey; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Clarke, Collins, Corr,	Aldermen Convery, Haire, Kingston, L. Patterson and Sandford; and Councillors Boyle, Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Hussey, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	Aldermen Copeland and Rodgers; and Councillors Johnston and Kyle.

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

Corr Johnston, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Hutchinson, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, and Walsh.		
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**Welfare Reform**

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

"This Council notes that this month marks three years since the Northern Ireland Assembly voted to give consent to the Welfare Reform Bill (2015) being taken forward by the Westminster Parliament.

The Council believes that, since then, Welfare Reform has been a disaster for benefit claimants here and has resulted in thousands of our most vulnerable unfairly losing money, through the introduction of PIP, Universal Credit and the Bedroom Tax.

In the absence of an Assembly sitting at Stormont, the Council has an important role to play in articulating the negative impact of welfare reform and benefit cuts in this city. To this end, the Council calls on the British government to immediately halt the roll out of PIP and Universal Credit and to scrap the Bedroom Tax for all benefit claimants."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

At the request of Alderman Copeland, the proposer agreed to amend his motion to include the following paragraph at the end of his motion: "The Council agrees that the Permanent Secretary and senior officials within the Department for Communities be invited to meet at the earliest opportunity with an All-Party delegation from the Council to discuss issues associated with Welfare Reform."

Councillor Canavan requested that the proposer agree to amend his motion further to allow for the following paragraph to be inserted after the first paragraph: "The Council notes also that, without that happening, the Executive and Assembly would have collapsed and full-blown Welfare Reform would have been introduced, without the £500 million mitigation package being in place to assist those most directly affected."

Councillor Collins declined the request.



**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Canavan,  
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the motion under the heading “Welfare Reform”, as proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading, as amended, be amended further to allow for the following paragraph to be inserted after the first paragraph: “The Council notes also that, without that happening, the Executive and Assembly would have collapsed and full-blown Welfare Reform would have been introduced, without the £500 million mitigation package being in place to assist those most directly affected.”

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

<b><u>For 34</u></b>	<b><u>Against 14</u></b>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, L. Patterson and Sandford; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Clarke, Corr, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hussey, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McReynolds, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Aldermen Convery, Copeland, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Attwood, Boyle, Collins, Corr Johnston, Dudgeon, Heading, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle and Lyons.

The motion, as amended, was thereupon put to the Council as the substantive motion and passed as follows:

"This Council notes that this month marks three years since the Northern Ireland Assembly voted to give consent to the Welfare Reform Bill (2015) being taken forward by the Westminster Parliament.

The Council notes also that, without that happening, the Executive and Assembly would have collapsed and full-blown Welfare Reform would have been introduced, without the £500 million mitigation package being in place to assist those most directly affected.

The Council believes that, since then, Welfare Reform has been a disaster for benefit claimants here and has resulted in thousands of our most vulnerable

**Meeting of Council,  
Thursday, 1st November, 2018**

unfairly losing money, through the introduction of PIP, Universal Credit and the Bedroom Tax.

In the absence of an Assembly sitting at Stormont, the Council has an important role to play in articulating the negative impact of welfare reform and benefit cuts in this city. To this end, the Council calls on the British government to immediately halt the roll out of PIP and Universal Credit and to scrap the Bedroom Tax for all benefit claimants.

The Council agrees that the Permanent Secretary and senior officials within the Department for Communities be invited to meet at the earliest opportunity with an All-Party delegation from the Council to discuss issues associated with Welfare Reform.”

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson

## Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Wednesday, 14th November, 2018

### SPECIAL MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Convery, Haire and Spence; and  
Councillors Attwood, Craig, Garrett, Graham,  
Long, and McAteer.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) and Councillor McAllister.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in respect of item 2(b) Glentoran Recreation Company Limited, insofar as he was a shareholder with Glentoran Football Club, and he left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.

#### **Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports related to the following two 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.

#### **City Recovery – Investment and Support**

(Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience and Mr J. Greer, Director of Economic Development, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st September, it had agreed an initial budget of £1.25m for the City Recovery Programme. Subsequently, at its meeting held on 19th October, the Committee had considered and agreed a programme of City Events and Animation and a revised budget of £1.69m. As the

**Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Wednesday, 14th November, 2018**

programme had developed further and additional money had been made available from external sources, expenditure details had altered since the previous report to the Committee.

The Chief Executive reminded the Members also that the Council had submitted detailed proposals to the Treasury and to the Executive Office regarding the need for investment in the city centre as part of the City Recovery Programme. She advised that confirmation had been received of the following:

- £2m investment from the Treasury, announced by the Chancellor as part of his budget statement on 29 October;
- A total of £580k to the Council from the Department for Communities (£380k previously announced, and an additional £200k announced on 12 November);
- Department for the Economy (DfE) contribution of £400k to spend on a range of initiatives to increase visitors to the city centre and boost tourism (although not all of that money would come to the Council or Visit Belfast);

In addition, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) was directly contributing funding of £500k to Translink to fund reduced fares and a travel campaign to encourage use of public transport to drive footfall to the city centre.

The £1.1m which had been announced by the Executive Office on 12th November was in addition to the £380k previously provided to the Council by the Department for Communities, bringing the total amount from NI departments to £1.48m. The Treasury and NI departments investment in City Recovery therefore totalled £3.48m, with £2.58m going directly to the Council.

The Committee was then provided with further proposals in relation to a Temporary Trading Business Support Programme for businesses within the cordon, the current status of the Bank Buildings and access around the area and the proposed animation programme.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted and agreed the overall programme expenditure, which included capital and revenue expenditure;
2. noted that the Council would undertake some expenditure on behalf of other government departments;
3. noted that the total cost of the Phase 1 programme was £2.79m;
4. approved a Temporary Trading Business Support Programme for businesses within the cordon; and
5. agreed that a special meeting on Transportation Issues in the City centre be arranged to which representatives of Translink and the Police Service of Northern Ireland would be invited to attend.

**Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Wednesday, 14th November, 2018**

**Call-In**

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 47(2)(c), that the decisions would not be subject to call-in, on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

**Chairing of Meeting**

(In the absence of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, the Committee agreed that Alderman Haire take the Chair.)

Alderman Haire in the Chair.

**Glentoran Recreation Company Limited**

(Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor, attended in connection with item.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th October, it had agreed that due diligence be undertaken in relation to a request for a cash flow which had been received from Glentoran Recreation Company Limited. Subsequently, the Council, at its meeting on 1st November had agreed to delegate its powers for a decision on this matter to the Committee, once the due diligence exercise had been completed.

Accordingly, the Director of Finance and Resources and Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the financial and legal due diligence being undertaken on the cash flow request for a payment of £241,000 by the Glentoran Recreation Company Limited.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to accede to the request on the basis that:

1. The payment would not be made until a Contract of Purchase, which was to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor, was signed by the Belfast Harbour and Glentoran Recreation Company Limited.
2. The Contract for Purchase must include repayment of the cash flow payment directly to the Council by Belfast Harbour upon completion of the sale.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the City Solicitor, be delegated authority to proceed with the payment of the cash flow once the Contract of Purchase had been signed.

**Call-In**

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 47(2)(c), that the decisions would not be subject to call-in, on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

Chairperson

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# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd November, 2018

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

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, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Browne and Spence and Councillors Long, McAllister and Reynolds.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following 5 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.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

**Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report which provided an update on the development of the revenue estimates for 2019/20 and which advised the Members of the next steps in the rates setting process.

The Director highlighted the seven key elements to setting the rate, the current estimates position, including the recommended growth proposals, the business as usual costs pressures, the efficiency programme and additional efficiencies and the recommended departmental growth proposals.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Haire,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee:

1. notes the update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate;
2. notes that party group briefings had been arranged for the week beginning 26 November 2018, with a further report on the setting of the district rate being brought to the Committee at its meeting on 14 December 2018;
3. agrees that a charge for the Bulky Household Waste Service would not be considered as part of the efficiency savings for the next financial year;
4. agrees that savings in the sum of £507k in agency and overtime costs be included as part of the efficiency programme; and
5. agrees that the target for the rates increase for 2019/20 be in the region of 1.98%.

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

**Bank Buildings Update/City Recovery Programme Update**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the activity underway to support the City Recovery Programme, focusing on the period to the end of December, 2018. It was reminded that approval for the works and the associated budget had been agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 19th October. Since that time, officers had had to work quickly in order to ensure that all relevant licences, statutory approvals and consents were in place and that the attraction and activities had been procured and mobilised, with an enhanced marketing campaign in place.

The Committee was then provided with an update on the following areas:

- the cordon
- city marketing



**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

- city animation, infrastructure, major attraction and events
- the allocation of the funding provided by Primark towards a Business Support Fund for affected traders in the vicinity of the building
- the planned incentive approach to help drive the additional footfall towards the existing retail and hospitality offer in the city.

After discussion, the Committee noted:

1. the update on the construction work, the cordon and the protected walkway;
2. the update on the city marketing, street animation, major attractions and environmental improvements to enhance the vibrancy and increase footfall in the city centre;
3. the progress on the allocation of the funds from the Primark Business Support Fund; and
4. the update on the proposed incentive scheme, including the timeline for implementation.

**Response to Planning Application submitted for  
Sprucefield Park, Lisburn**

(Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered a report in relation to an application for outlined planning permission for new retail development at Sprucefield Park, Lisburn which had been submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

The Committee:

1. noted the submission of the application for outline planning permission for new retail development at Sprucefield Park, Lisburn and the holding letter of concern which had been submitted by the Strategic Director for Place and Economy; and
2. agreed that the Party Group Leaders from the Council should meet with their counterparts in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to discuss the issues at the earliest opportunity.

**Physical Programme – Challenges and Implications**

The Committee was reminded that the Council managed a substantial physical programme under a range of funding streams. In this regard, a report was submitted to the Committee which provided an update on the current status of the Programme and the emerging implications for future investment decisions, particularly the potential impact on the rate.

It was pointed out that the report required to be considered in conjunction with the paper submitted earlier in the meeting on the rate-setting process.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

The Committee:

***General***

- noted the proposal that a further tour of physical projects for Members be organised;

***Rates Impact***

- noted that to deliver the agreed projects on the Capital Programme (including all the Stage 2 – Uncommitted projects and the required Stage 1- Emerging projects) and the Destination Hub - Belfast Story under City Deal would necessitate a phased rates increase of 0.66% per annum from next year;
- noted that the emerging ‘wish list’ of projects would require a substantial rates increase to deliver and that that did not allow for any financing to support future neighbourhood projects;

***Next Steps***

- noted that there were sufficient projects already agreed on the current programme to guarantee delivery for at least the next three years and that, given this, and in light of the affordability issues, agreed the proposed next steps as set out in paragraph 3.16 of the report.

**City and Neighbourhood Services  
Change Programme Update**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd June, 2017, it had been provided with an update report which summarised the work that had been ongoing in relation to the City and Neighbourhood Services Change Programme, together with the proposed approach regarding next steps. The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee’s consideration a further progress update, which focused on work and activities that were currently being prioritised.

The Committee:

- noted the contents of the report and the significant progress achieved in relation to the City and Neighbourhood Services Change Programme; and the continuing of Business as usual during this transition;
- noted the appointment of Rose Crozier to the post of Interim Programme Director – Customer Focus and agreed that Alderman Rodgers, Councillor Carson and Councillor Graham be appointed to the selection panel to recruit her replacement post of Operational Director in the City and Neighbourhood Services Department; and

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

- agreed to advertise this post externally, potentially with the assistance of executive search, for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of extension and/or permanency at the end of that period.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

**Motion: “On the Ball” Campaign**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the motion to allow the proposer (Councillor O’Neill) to be in attendance.

**Motion: “No Grey Zone” Campaign**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the motion to allow the proposer (Councillor Nicholl) to be in attendance.

**Motion: Definition of Antisemitism**

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

*“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on how the wording of the motion would impact on the Good Relations Strategy and associated policies.

It was pointed out that the Good Relations Strategy was scheduled to be considered later in the meeting under the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership and accordingly, given the decision in relation to the motion, it was agreed that that part of the minutes be deferred until a future meeting.

**Governance**

**Council Meeting Dates January to May, 2019**

The Committee was reminded that the Council’s Standing Order 1 stated that:

“Monthly meetings of the Council would be held on the first working day of each month except in August. Monthly meetings shall not, however, take place on a Bank or Public Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, but shall be held on the next following weekday instead.”

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

It was reported that, in previous years, Members had often commented that the dates scheduled for the monthly meetings of the Council around the New Year holiday period meant that some cannot attend due to holiday commitments. The same could be said for officers, some of whom were also on holiday around those times.

In 2019 the January meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 2nd January, the first working day following the New Year public holidays. There would not be any difficulty in moving this meeting to Monday, 7th January at 6.00 p.m. as no other meetings were scheduled for that date.

Subsequent to that, the May meeting of the Council was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 1st May, which was the day before the Local Government Election 2019 Polling Day. The Members would be aware that this was a very busy period for both Members undertaking canvassing duties and for Council officers responsible for election duties, in particular, the organisation of the verification process, which would take place immediately after the close of polls, and the Counting of Votes which would commence the day after Polling Day.

It was therefore proposed that the May meeting of the Council be brought forward by 1 week and held on Monday, 29th April at 6.00 p.m.

That would mean that the Schedule of Council meetings for January to May, would be as follows:

Monday, 7th January at 6.00 p.m.  
Monday, 4th February at 6.00 p.m.  
Monday, 4th March at 6.00 p.m.  
Monday, 1st April at 6.00 p.m.  
Monday, 29th April at 6.00 p.m.

The Committee approved the schedule of dates for meetings of the Council from January to May, 2019.

**Schedule of Meetings 2019**

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for January to April 2019, which would commence at 9.30 a.m:

Friday, 11th January – Special meeting (if required) to discuss the District Rate for 2019/20  
Friday, 25th January  
Friday, 22nd February  
Friday, 8th March – Special Quarterly meeting: Belfast Agenda  
Friday, 22nd March  
Friday, 12th April

**Nomination of a Person for Consideration for  
Appointment as High Sheriff of Belfast for 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, it agreed to apply the D'hondt method of proportionality to identify which Parties would be entitled to nominate persons for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff over a Council Term.

The Committee had decided also, as it was half way through a Council Term, to take account of the Parties that had already held the position in 2016 (UUP) and 2017 (DUP). Therefore, the D'hondt order of Parties for the next 2 years was as follows:

1. Sinn Fein
2. Sinn Fein
3. Alliance
4. SDLP
5. DUP

The Committee was reminded also that, at its meeting on 24th November 2017, it had established deadlines by which Parties entitled to nominate must do so or the choice would pass to the next Party on the D'hondt table.

The next choice fell to the Democratic Unionist Party and it has decided to nominate Alderman Tommy Sandford for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff for 2019. It was pointed out that the decision on the appointment was taken by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

The Committee noted that Alderman Tommy Sandford had been nominated for consideration for the appointment as High Sheriff for 2019.

**Initial Arrangements for the Local Elections in 2019**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider initial arrangements for the Local Elections in May 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is recommended to:**

- **Note the information on the Local Election timetable;**
- **Agree that the Election Count venue will be the City Hall; and**
- **Agree the dates upon which each count will be held, as set out in paragraph 3.3.3 of the report**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

**3.1.1** The Local Elections will be held on 2nd May 2019, with the counts being held on 3rd and 4th May 2019. The election timetable is attached at Appendix 1 for information

**3.1.2** There are some early decisions which the Council is required to take to allow officers to make early preparations.

**3.2 Count Venue**

**3.2.1** The counts for the 10 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) in the Belfast District will take place on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May. The suggestion is that 5 counts will take place on each day and it is recommended that the Committee agree that the venue for all of the counts will be the City Hall. This would require 3 counts to take place in the Great Hall and 1 each in the Banqueting Hall and the Reception Room.

**3.3 Order of Counts**

**3.3.1** It is recognised that most Members would prefer the count for the DEA in which they are standing to take place on the Friday rather than the Saturday. In deciding which 5 DEAs should be counted on the Friday, there are some logistical matters which need to be taken into account:

- The Reception Room is being used as a count venue and it is significantly smaller than the other count venues in the City Hall. The Banqueting Hall is the largest of the venues being used.
- The 10 DEAs do not all elect the same number of councillors. Black Mountain and Ormiston DEAs elect 7 members each; Balmoral and Botanic DEAs elect 5 members each; and Castle, Oldpark, Court, Collin, Lisnasharragh and Titanic DEAs each elect 6 members.

**3.3.2** It is accepted that the number of members to be elected to a DEA does not necessarily mean that the count will take less time to complete but that is the only variable which can reasonably be used to assess which counts should be held in which venue. Accordingly it is suggested that the following breakdown is agreed:

Reception Room – Balmoral and Botanic DEAs (5 members each)

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

**Banqueting Hall – Black Mountain and Ormiston DEAs  
(7 members each)**

**Great Hall (1) – Castle and Oldpark DEAs (6 members each)**

**Great Hall (2) – Court and Colin DEAs (6 members each)**

**Great Hall (3) – Lisnasharragh and Titanic DEAs (6 members  
each)**

- 3.3.3 When the Committee agreed in 2014 which counts would be held on which day it was agreed also that the counts held on the Saturday in 2014 would be held on the Friday in 2019. Therefore, it is recommended that the counts should be held as follows:**

**Friday 3rd May, 2019**

**Reception Room – Botanic DEA**

**Banqueting Hall – Ormiston DEA**

**Great Hall 1 – Oldpark DEA**

**Great Hall 2 – Colin DEA**

**Great Hall 3 – Titanic DEA**

**Saturday 4th May, 2019**

**Reception Room – Balmoral DEA**

**Banqueting Hall – Black Mountain DEA**

**Great Hall 1 – Castle DEA**

**Great Hall 2 – Court DEA**

**Great Hall 3 – Lisnasharragh DEA**

**3.4 Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.4.1 The costs of the Local Elections in May 2019 will be met out of the existing elections budget.**

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

- 3.5.1 None associated with this report.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation –  
Role of the Licensing Committee**

The Committee was advised that the Licensing Committee, at its meeting on 20th November, had considered a report on The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016, due to commence on 1st April 2019. This would transfer the responsibility for the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) registration scheme from the Northern Ireland House Executive to local district councils. It also created a new licensing system

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

which required landlords to demonstrate that they were a fit and proper person to be a HMO landlord.

Following the decision of the Licensing Committee, the Committee :

- agreed to amend Standing Order 37 (d) Duties of Committees – Licensing Committee to give effect to the Licensing Committee having delegated authority as set out:

**37. Duties of Committees**

**(d) Licensing Committee**

(vii) The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016

The Licensing Committee assumes responsibility for determining those applications for a house in multiple occupation and should only consider objections to an application in instances where the objector would be materially affected by the existence of a House in Multiple Occupation; where variation of a licence is required, in the determination of a fit and proper person check, and in the revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately; and

- agreed to the amendment to the Scheme of Delegation, as follows:

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue, but not refusal, of HMO Licences, excluding provisions relating to:

- applications for the grant, renewal, transfer or variation of licences where objections are received;
- applications where officers believe there may be an issue in relation to the fitness of the applicant to hold a licence;
- approving any guidance documents;
- setting of licence fees;
- revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately.



**Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

**Transport Hub Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of the proposals for the Transport Hub and to confirm the Council’s corporate support for the Transport Hub development.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to note the update in relation to the planning application for the proposed Transport Hub and its strategic importance in the regeneration and growth of the city. In light of its strategic and economic significance, Members are asked to provide their support to the proposed development and to note that this is in the context of the comments already made from a planning perspective, as agreed by the Planning Committee on 11 September 2018 and 17 October 2017.**

**Members are also asked to note that the future proposals for the wider Weavers Cross regeneration will be brought to both the City Growth & Regeneration Committee and to the Planning Committee in due course. This will of course consider neighboring communities.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 The proposed Belfast Transport Hub and wider Weavers Cross regeneration is a transport-led regeneration project which will ultimately involve the redevelopment of the Europa Bus Centre, Great Victoria Street Railway Station and surrounding NI Transport Holding Company (NITHC) land. It is proposed that this 20 acre mixed-use development site will comprise a multi-modal transport hub alongside commercial, leisure and residential facilities.**

**3.2 NITHC served a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on the Council in October 2016 in respect of both the Transport Hub (PAN deemed acceptable) and the wider Weavers Cross Regeneration proposal (PAN deemed not acceptable and**

expected to be re-submitted). Subsequently a planning application was received for the new integrated Transport Interchange element only on 16th June 2017. This was called in by the Department for Infrastructure on 26th June 2017 due to its regional significance and it is still under consideration. Consequently, the proposed development now consists of two separate elements:

- Transport Hub; and
- Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross)

*Transport Hub*

3.3 As noted above, in June 2017 NITHC submitted a full planning application ([LA04/2017/1388/F](#)) for a new integrated transport interchange comprising:

- station concourse;
- 26 bus stands;
- 8 railway platforms;
- bus maintenance and parking;
- track and signalling enhancements;
- bus access bridge;
- cycle and taxi provision;
- car parking;
- new public square and public realm improvements;
- highway and infrastructure improvements; and
- temporary structures and compounds for bus operations during construction.

3.4 The application is currently being considered by DfI and a decision is expected before the end of 2018. The Council, as the local planning authority, responded formally to the consultation supporting the application, following meetings of the Planning Committee on 17th October 2017 and 11 September 2018.

Key Issues.

3.5 By way of policy background, the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) sets out the Council's collective ambition for the continuing growth and regeneration of the city core and its surrounding area and includes a road map of policies and projects to underpin this growth, with the Transport Hub highlighted as a key strategic project in this overall regeneration. The Strategy was shaped by extensive engagement with city stakeholders from all sectors.

- 3.6** Transport and connectivity will play a key role in the economic growth and regeneration of Belfast by enhancing access and serving as one of the key elements to catalyse growth and support Belfast as a successful modern city. BCCRIS underscores the importance of this in terms of city wide regeneration.
- 3.7** The proposed Transport Hub is located in one of the identified signature areas of the BCCRIS i.e. the South Centre and the significance of the Transport Hub becoming the gateway to the city centre and its immediate vicinity is emphasised in this. It highlights that the proposal for a new Transport Hub at this location is to be welcomed as a major improvement in convenience and connectivity of the regional rail system and associated transport links, with significant increases in passenger traffic anticipated. It also emphasises that the opportunity is not just one of transport engineering but is a chance to redefine the gateway to Belfast's city centre and act as a major regeneration opportunity for the entire city centre and neighbouring areas.
- 3.8** The Transport Hub is also identified in the Belfast Agenda as a key element of the City Development growth ambitions. It highlights the importance of improved connectivity and that we will seek to maximise the opportunities of the Transport Hub and provide the development of sustainable transport.
- 3.9** The Council's Planning Committee responded to the planning application as consultee and the response was agreed by the Planning Committee on 27th October 2017 and again on 11 September 2018. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.10** With regard to community engagement, Translink has consulted and engaged with a range of stakeholders prior to and as part of the submission of the full planning application. A dedicated Engagement Manager has also been appointed by Translink to provide communication and engagement support specifically for the development. Translink is also liaising with Council to bring forward various aspects of the development. There has been ongoing liaison on the Buy Social clauses and a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and will be finalised upon planning approval and appointment of the contractor. A Construction Employment Academy is also proposed to support jobs around enabling works and Transport Hub build.
- 3.11** It is clear that the Transport Hub will bring about significant regeneration, economic and environmental benefits to the city

and aligns with the Council's ambitions within the Belfast Agenda and the Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The Council will however continue to work with Translink to ensure that delivery of the Transport Hub generates the greatest possible regeneration benefits to local residents in terms of jobs, training and economic impact.

*Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross)*

- 3.12 The full application for the wider regeneration scheme has not yet been submitted to the Council. The site sits within the wider context of a regeneration masterplan, referred to collectively as Weavers Cross, which will be submitted in outline planning application form. The proposed regeneration masterplan for this wider area is expected to consist of a mix of commercial and residential development. Initially both the outline and full applications were to be submitted in tandem but the outline application for the wider site is yet to be submitted pending planning approval for the Transport Hub.
- 3.13 Further reports on the wider Weavers Cross regeneration proposals will be brought back to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee in due course and officers are continuing to engage with Translink on this. In addition, it is expected that the outline application for the wider site will be processed and determined by the Council. Prior to the submission of an outline application for the wider development, the applicant will be required to undertake pre-application community consultation as the proposal will be for Major development.
- 3.14 Given the strategic and economic significance of the proposed Transport Hub, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee is being asked to note the update in relation to planning and to provide its support to the proposed development of the Transport Hub. This is in the context of the comments already made from a planning perspective and agreed by the Planning Committee on 17 October 2017 and 11 September 2018.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

No direct resource implications associated this report.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

No specific equality or good relations implications at this time."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Belfast Region City Deal – update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To update Committee on the £850m investment Programme agreed for Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and to outline next steps including the signing of the Heads of Term document and the arrangements that need to be put in place to deliver the Programme.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note;**

- **The successful BRCD bid which has secured at least £850m investment programme for the region.**
- **Next steps including the signing of the Heads of Term and the need to establish resources to further develop and deliver the investment programme.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), resulted in the submission of the BRCD proposition document to NIO and UK government on 30th September 2018.**

**3.2 A number of weeks negotiation and engagement took place including a successful event in Westminster where all the partners came together to present the proposed programme and projects to political and business representatives.**

**3.3 In his budget on 29th October 2018 the Chancellor announced a commitment of £350m from UK government to the (BRCD), leveraging at least £350m from NI regional government, £100m from the BRCD councils and £50m from the two universities. This provides a starting funding package of £850m which will be further enhanced by at least £150m private sector investment, providing the BRCD with a 10 year £1billion Programme of Investment.**

**Programme Update**

- 3.4 The BRCD comprises of approximately 22 projects across the investment pillars of Digital / Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism led Regeneration underpinned by a significant employability and skills programme. Each of the capital projects will require significant resources in their own right but the benefits of the deal can only be realised when managed and delivered at an overall programme level. It is anticipated that BCC will be expected to act as the lead authority and accountable body, and therefore will now be required to work with the BRCD partners to put in place the appropriate management structures to manage and deliver this £1billion Investment programme in areas including;
- Governance and Decision Making
  - Financial Planning and Management
  - Programme and Project Management
  - Performance Monitoring and Assurance
  - Communication and Engagement
- 3.5 All of these strands will not only need to build on the partnership arrangements already established at programme level but will have to be tailored at investment pillar level given the size and complexities of the projects and to ensure synergies at pillar and programme level.
- 3.6 In addition specific city region structures will need to be established to develop the Digital strand of the programme, given that this is not owned by a specific partner, the specialist nature of the projects and the potential for significant private sector investment. Specialist technical support will also have to be procured to support this strand.
- 3.7 Learning from other deals suggests it can take up to a year to develop the programme structures and develop an implementation plan. It is envisaged that work will continue in developing individual business cases which will also feed into the delivery plan and financial strategy.
- 3.8 Given the scale of the Programme it will be necessary to allocate resources to support the development and delivery of the BRCD. Officers are liaising with other authorities who are delivering similar city deals to help inform the possible structures and resources required to deliver the BRCD. Following this a further report will be brought to committee with proposals including the likely resources required to deliver the BRCD Investment Programme.

Next Steps

3.9 Heads of Terms

Officers are liaising with the NIO and MHCLG who are now drawing up the Heads of Term document which details the funding commitments outlined in the report and will then be signed by both UK and Regional governments, the six councils and the two universities.

It is envisaged that this process will be completed in advance of Christmas allowing the BRCD partners to move ahead with the further development of individual projects. This Heads of Term will be brought to committee and council for formal approval.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Finance for the further development and implementation of the Belfast City Region Deal is being considered as part of the 2019 / 20 rates setting process.

Additional costs associated with the development of the BRCD will be allocated across the BRCD partners.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that;

*BRCD is inherently inclusive, affording an opportunity for the region to grow in a way that will benefit the economy of Northern Ireland as a whole, thereby enhancing the lives and well-being of its citizens. If during further development of the programme it becomes apparent that there may be an adverse impact on certain groups or communities then the partnership commits to carrying out further Section 75 work and including screening and EQIAs as and when appropriate."*

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted the possibility to the holding of a special Council meeting before Christmas to sign off the Heads of Terms.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Physical Programme Update Project Updates**

The Committee considered the following report :

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

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

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to–**

***Project Updates***

- **Kerbside Collection Scheme – Pilot - agree that the Council submits an application for funding to DAERA for 100% of the funding for the infrastructure required to support a kerbside collection scheme pilot. Further details on the proposed pilot will be brought back to Members in due course (see 3.2 & 3.3)**
- **New cleansing vehicle – City Centre – agree that up to £140,000 from non-recurrent is ring-fenced for the acquisition of a new cleansing vehicle for the city centre. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council (see 3.4 & 3.5)**
- **Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) for both projects above be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.**
- **Hammer Playground Development – agree that this is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme (3.7)**
- **Connswater Community Greenway - agree to the Council entering into a legal agreement for a period of 10 years with CCGT for the delivery of an annual animation programme funded by Big Lottery, subject to a legal agreement being drawn up by the City Solicitor**



in agreement with the Strategic Director of CNS (3.8-3.9).

- External Funding - note that a number of letters of offer for projects have been received from DEARA/Urban Villages/DfC and that Council officers are now progressing these (see 3.11)

### 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 which makes it not only a significant programme from a Council perspective but also one of the biggest regeneration programmes in the city.

#### Project Updates

- 3.2 *Kerbside Collection Scheme – capital infrastructure to support a pilot* - The project involves the purchase of the equipment necessary to pilot the proposed kerbside collection scheme for dry recyclables and food waste across the city including two vehicles and associated bins. This scheme is necessary to deliver the Council's Waste Framework document and is aimed at cost-effectively maximising diversion of waste from landfill and boosting recycling rates to meet the challenging legislative targets. This follows on from the recent consultation on waste which has been undertaken by C&NS.
- 3.3 Members are asked to note that the that the Council has been advised by DEARA that capital funding is available this financial year to help purchase equipment and infrastructure to support a pilot for the proposed new kerbside collection scheme. All monies are however require to be committed this financial year. Members are asked to agree that the Council submits an application for funding to DEARA and to note that there are no financial implications for the Council as 100% of funding is anticipated from DEARA. Further details on the proposed pilot will be brought back to Members in due course.
- 3.4 *City Centre – New cleansing vehicle* - Following the impact of the fire at Bank Buildings on 28th August and the subsequent

placement of the cordon in the city centre, C&NS have undertaken investigations into options on the cost of purchase of an effective street washing machine to enhance the area. Members are asked to note that the purchase of such a machine will help underpin the aims of the Belfast City Centre Streetscape Strategy and Action Plan in that it will contribute to

- Attractive, inviting, clean and safe public places and spaces for all
- Improved aesthetic quality of city centre environment
- Enhanced overall quality of life
- Increased civic pride and positive city centre image

3.5 Committee is asked to approve the purchase of an additional cleansing vehicle for the city centre. It is proposed that a budget of up to a maximum of £140,000 under non-recurrent is ring-fenced for the purchase of the new vehicle. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Discussions are underway with the City Centre Team to ascertain if there is any match funding from other sources (central gvt etc.) however there is no commitment to this yet.

3.6 Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) for both projects above be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

3.7 *Hammer Playground Development* - Members will recall that they were previously notified that a financial settlement of the NIHE had been received in relation to the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and it was agreed that this would be ring-fenced for the provision of a new playground at the Hammer. DfC have now committed match funding to this project and it is therefore recommended that this is moved to stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. Members are asked to note that there are no financial implications for the Council as the funding has been secured from NIHE and DfC.

3.8 *Connswater Community Greenway* - Members will be aware that Phase 2 of the CCG programme finished in September 2017 with further smaller works continuing in Phase 3 to complete the programme. Members will also be aware that funding to deliver the programme was from a number of sources including £20 million from the Big Lottery Fund. Discussions with Big Lottery have taken place about the

sustainability of CCG and how we can maximise the benefits of the investment to continue to deliver positive health and wellbeing outcomes for those living, working and visiting East Belfast as well as realising Big Lottery's vision of CCG becoming a 'Living Landmark'.

- 3.9 Big Lottery have agreed that £1m of the balance remaining from their capital funding will be allocated as an endowment to Connswater Community Greenway Trust (CCGT) for the delivery of an annually agreed animation programme for the greenway. This will be effective from April 2019 and will be subject to a legal agreement between BCC and CCGT which will be for a period of 10 years. Members are advised that since the completion of Phase 1 of the programme, animation of CCG has been delivered in partnership with CCGT, funded from Big Lottery revenue with a programme agreed annually by the People and Communities Committee. Members are asked to agree to the Council entering into a legal agreement for a period of 10 years with CCGT for the delivery of an annual animation programme funded by Big Lottery, subject to a legal agreement being drawn up by the City Solicitor in agreement with the Strategic Director of CNS.

#### External funding

- 3.10 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.

In addition the Council actively seeks external funding to help support projects which are on its agreed lists which can free up financing to be used on other projects.

- 3.11 Letters of offer – Members are asked to note that the following letters of offer have been received and that work is now underway on these projects –

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

Project Title	Total Award	Funder
Rev. Robert Bradford Memorial Park	£602,582	Urban Villages - £474,678 DFC - £127,904
White Rise	£156,412	DFC
Grace Family Centre	£698,000	Urban Villages - £145,000 DFC - £553,000
Glenbryn Playground (revised LOO received)	£594,094	Urban Villages - £474,192 DFC - £119,902
Colin Glen – Alpine Toboggan	£500,000	DEARA
Colin Glen – Driving Range	£401,968	DEARA

**In addition Members are asked to note that DFC are providing 100% funding towards the provision of temporary changing facilities at Whiterock and Girdwood. The delivery of this is also being undertaken by DFC. There are therefore no capital financial implications for the Council.**

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

***Financial – City Centre – New cleansing vehicle – Up to a maximum of £140,000. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Council officers are exploring whether any match funding can be obtained from partners in respect of this project.***

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

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Impact Assessment**

**There are no direct implications.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Local Investment Fund – Programme Outcomes and Post Event Feedback**

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committees consideration the undernoted report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to highlight the overall LIF programme outcomes to date and the feedback on the LIF Event which was held to mark the extent of the projects delivered under the Council’s highly successful £9m Local Investment Fund (LIF) Programme.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- **note the update on the current status of the £9m LIF programme as at 3.2 below which has provided support to 132 projects across the city with 97 projects already completed and another 22 either on the ground or at tender preparation stage**
- **note the significant impacts and outcomes that have resulted from the LIF programme for local neighbourhoods across the city (see 3.4 and 3.5 below)**
- **note that the LIF Event which was held at City Hall on 25th October 2018 was highly successful and has received extremely positive feedback from both local community groups and Members**
- **note some of the LIF communication and engagement initiatives and video/ testimonials from groups who have received LIF funding**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 LIF Overview**

**In April 2012, the Council launched a £5m LIF programme designed to support neighbourhood projects to help regenerate local areas. The LIF was part of the Council £150m Investment Programme to counter the effects of the economic downturn and the key aims of the initiative included boosting the local economy, supporting business, creating employment and training opportunities and supporting capital projects across the city. Following the success of the LIF1, the Council in 2015 agreed to extend the LIF programme with a further £4m allocated to LIF2 making the overall investment of £9m to local areas.**

**3.2 Members are also asked to note that LIF represented a new way of working for the Council both at a Councillor level and internally at officer level.**

- **Councillors – the Councillors have played a key role in bringing forward LIF proposals and making recommendations to SP&R on investment decisions for local areas through the LIF. This underlined the important role of local councillors and their ability to deliver for the local communities. At its heart, the establishment of the LIF allowed Members the opportunity to fund a wide range of diverse schemes across the city with the common purpose of improving lives in local areas.**
- **Officers – Members will be aware that a thorough due diligence process was put in place around LIF projects which was supported by a cross-departmental due-diligence group. This Group has represented real collaborative working at its best across the Council**

**3.3 LIF- Current Status**

**To date 132 projects have received in principle support under LIF through LIF1 and LIF2. A summary of the current status of the LIF programme is outlined below;**

<b>Stage/ Description</b>	<b>LIF 1</b>		<b>LIF 2</b>	
	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount/ Value (£)</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount/ Value (£)</b>
Number of Projects Completed	61 (86%)	£4,159,728	36 (59%)	£2,440,596
Number of Projects On-going Delivery	5 (7%)	£345,372	6 (10%)	£729,181
Number of Projects in Pre-construction	2 (3%)	£106,000	9 (15%)	£422,134
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	3 (4%)	£345,000	10 (16%)	£363,879
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>£4,956,100</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>£3,955,790</b>

**Headline figures are;**

- **Over 90 projects worth £6.6m have been completed across the city**
- **22 projects worth £1m are currently on the ground or at tender preparation stage**
- **13 projects due diligence stage/ initial stage**
- **Awards under LIF ranged from the minimum threshold of £15,000 to a maximum investment of £250,000**
- **The average investment per project was £67,514**

### 3.4 Monitoring and evaluation

Members are asked to note that each LIF project is required to undertake a monitoring and evaluation visit as part of its funding agreement. In line with the LIF governance, completed projects must undergo a post monitoring exercise to evaluate the project outputs and outcomes, verify the special conditions per funding agreement have been met and measure initial successes/ impacts of the project. Council officers have now undertaken an analysis piece of the monitoring and evaluation forms and have collated some of the key facts and figures which have emerged across the Programme.

### 3.5 Project outputs and outcomes

With over 90 projects completed, the LIF programme and its projects has delivered some very real outputs and benefits to local communities right across the city as outlined below. Members will be aware that when it was established in 2012 LIF provided an opportunity for community groups across the city to access an invaluable funding stream for small capital works which had never been previously available to them. It is therefore worth noting that many of these projects would not have happened without LIF funding. Although the amounts under LIF could be considered to be minor compared to traditional capital schemes (under £250,000) the impact to the groups and to local areas has been significant and cannot be under-estimated.

- ***New build community facilities-*** Ten new community facilities have been built solely with LIF funding or in partnership with external organisations. New built projects include the new community centre at Annadale (LIF award - £103k), the Eastside Visitor Centre (LIF - £250k); the new Glor Na Mona (LIF- £112k) building in West and the new Workforce Training Services (LIF - £30k) facility in North Belfast.
- ***Refurbished community facilities-*** the majority of projects funded under LIF have been for small scale renovations and improvement works of the existing community assets. 54 community facilities have been refurbished including St Malachy's Youth Centre (LIF - £70k), Ballynafeigh Orange Hall (LIF -£60k) in South; Short Strand Community Centre (LIF - £101k); Mountpottinger Methodists Church (LIF - £112k) in East; Benview Community Centre (LIF - £35k) and Church of the Nazarene (LIF -£50k) in North; Saints

Youth Club (LIF - £15k), Relatives for Justice, Glen Rd (LIF -£34k) and West Belfast Orange Hall (LIF - £50k) in West of the city.

- **Childcare places-** 75 additional childcare places have been supported through LIF from the two Surestart projects in Markets (LIF award - £240k) and Belvoir (LIF -£108k), and through the expanded activities of Mornington Community Association (LIF - £200k) and Falls Women's Centre.
- **Skills/ training facilities** – Six skills/training facilities were supported through under LIF. Through the funding, the refurbished Greater Village Regeneration Trust (T.R.E.E.) training facility was able to offer enhanced youth training facilities with 90 NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) places supported through the organisation. Rosemount House (LIF - £46k) in North Belfast has not just transformed a derelict site into a therapeutic garden but also enhances the horticulture skills for both staff and volunteers.
- **Open spaces-** Twenty projects across the city have received funding which has focused on enhancing the open spaces for the local community that include pitches, floodlighting, playpark and community spaces. LIF funding has helped to support 10 new pitches facilities across the city including - 4G/3G pitch at Springfield Star (LIF -£152k), Sarsfields GAC (LIF - £120k) and O'Donovan Rossa GAC (LIF -£80k), Gort na Mona GAC (LIF - £140k), and Malone Rugby FC (LIF - £208k); hockey pitch with Belfast Harlequins (LIF- £30k); bowling greens at Cavehill Bowling Club (LIF - £100k) and Belmont Bowling Club (LIF -£200k); playpark at Hannahstown (LIF -£20k) and St Luke's Nursery School (LIF -£15k); as well as the outdoor environmental improvements with Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIF - £20k).
- **Community/ sensory gardens-** the development of 7 community/ sensory gardens have been supported through LIF. These spaces provided a safe and healthy environment for residents and the local community. The brownfield lands at Donegall Pass (LIF - £44k) and St Mary's Nursery School (LIF -£33k) were transformed into community gardens where local people can grow their fruits and vegetables and kids can enjoy the beautiful outdoor space, respectively. *The Garden of Eatin' at Donegall Pass received an accolade from The Guardian regarding urban farmers: community food growing.* Also, sensory and therapeutic gardens were developed at Towell House (LIF -£95k) and Palmerston



Residential Care Home (LIF - £36k). The Palmerston garden received a Dementia Friendly Awards.

- **Jobs created-** Members are asked to note that 6 local jobs have been created by organisations which has been directly related to their LIF funding and the success that this has subsequently brought - i.e. Sarsfields GAC have taken on a full-time dedicated worker for the management of the widely used facility while both St. Malachy's Youth Centre and Falls Women's Centre have had to take on additional resources due to being able to expand their community programme/activities due to their LIF funding
- **Leverage -** LIF funding has also been instrumental in helping 36 projects/ groups to secure additional funding for their projects which has been worth over £14million. For example funding under LIF helped Annadale and Haywood Resident's Association to secure £425k funding from the Space and Place programme and NIHE towards their new community centre project; An Cumann Chluain Árd received £800k of additional funding from Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge towards the modernisation of its existing facilities. Additional funding has been levered in/ secured from other organisations including Tourism NI, Ulster Garden Villages, SIF, Groundworks/ Alpha Programme and SportNI.

### 3.6 Outcomes of the LIF Programme

The LIF programme has already demonstrated positive results for the local community. As with any programme the outcomes will take longer to realise however the outcomes will be consistent with the city's strategic objectives under the Belfast Agenda including –

- **Improved local neighbourhoods-** the capital projects, both the new build and the refurbished community facilities, have helped strengthen the vibrant community and voluntary sectors across the city. With the improved facilities, groups' have enhanced the delivery of programmes to the local the people and neighbourhoods. A number of the groups supported have reported that projects have helped to increase community programmes, increase community capacity, improve cohesion in the area, reduce anti-social behaviour and promote access to services.
- **Physical regeneration of the local area-** LIF has delivered £23m (£9m LIF core funding and £14m leverage funding) of physical investment in

neighbourhoods across the city. This investment has helped the physical regeneration of the local areas. There are also a number of brownfield sites and derelict buildings which have been transformed into vibrant and liveable community assets, which benefited many sectors of the community. – e.g. Clonard Boxing Club (£80k) refurbished the former NIE substation into a fit-for-purpose boxing training base which bring regeneration and benefits to local kids and community. Clonard has increased its membership and service users to approximately 74 boxers/ boxing enthusiasts across all age groups, welcoming boys and girls in through its doors each week.

- *Enhanced health and well-being-* With the number of open spaces, pitches, playgrounds, community and sensory gardens, these projects will help enhance the health and well-being of the local community. The various pitches promotes a healthier and active lifestyle in the wider community i.e. youth clubs, schools, sporting organisations, etc. In addition, these gardens are use as venue for horticulture trainings for staff and volunteers.
- *Improved skills and employment opportunities-* LIF has also contributed in improving skills to the local community. With funding provided to social enterprises that promote skills training like GVRT T.R.E.E. (£25.5k) and Workforce Training Services (£30k), LIF enhanced the learning and teaching environment for the current and new users thereby improving their skills and employment opportunities.

### 3.7 Community Groups supported – beneficiaries

LIF programme has supported a wide range of community groups across the city. These groups include community organisations, faith groups/ churches, youth groups, sports groups/ boxing clubs, groups that promote Irish language, Orange halls, support groups, women’s groups and residents associations. The local community groups are vital in the success of the LIF programme.

- 3.8 At the start of LIF, it was recognised that there are many community groups that had little or no capacity in delivering the projects. The Programme has assisted in the development of community groups enhanced the capability and capacity of others. In addition it should also be noted that it has helped with the creation of groups where none previously existed which are still thriving. Many of the groups who received LIF funding have gone onto obtain additional funding and to date

all have proved sustainable. Increased in community capacity and experience in progressing capital schemes is one of the key legacy point of the programme.

**LIF Event – October 2018**

- 3.9** Recognising all of the above Members will recall that SP&R Committee agreed on April 2018 to host LIF celebration event in the City Hall to mark the impact of LIF. The event was held on 25th October 2018 to showcase projects which received funding under LIF, the invaluable role that Members have played in LIF which reflects their civic leadership role and recognise the efforts and hard work of staff from across the organisation.
- 3.10** Members are asked to note that the event was extremely well attended with more than 230 Councillors, representatives from community groups and staff who worked on LIF attending. The feedback from the event has been overwhelmingly positive with both Councillors and officers receiving emails and texts commending the Council on the event. A selection of the tweets received on the event is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.11** Throughout the evening, representatives from a number of funded groups from across the city were featured and spoke of how their experience of LIF has impacted on them and their service users. It was agreed that this really brought LIF to life and demonstrated by feedback from the groups themselves the transformational impact that LIF funding really had on small community groups.
- 3.12** Members are asked to note that the event was supported by a full communication plan – see Appendix one. Media releases were also issued to both local community titles and regionally, In addition a range of videos were produced to tell the stories of the people behind the projects, were created and shared through social media in the run up to the event. In the first two weeks of promotion, the videos achieved over 7,900 views. Projects featured were:
- **Cumann Chluain Árd** – received £150k towards building renovations and creation of state of the art classrooms
  - **Springfield Star** – received £152k funding to redevelop former a bonfire site into new secure 3G pitch facility for the club and local community

- Workforce Training – received £30k towards building improvements and IT equipment at their Antrim Road premises
- T.R.E.E. – received £25.5k for essential building repairs at their training facility on Donegall Road
- Towell House – received £95k towards the creation of a sensory garden in the grounds of this residential care home.

All Members are encouraged to view these and they can be accessed through the website at - <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/physical-investment/investmentfundlocal.aspx>

### 3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

*Financial* – As previously agreed the budget for the LIF event was covered by minor underspends secured from a number of completed LIF projects. The event was all organised in-house.

*Resources* – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments are utilised at the event

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

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## Stained Glass Windows

The Committee considered the following report:

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

1.1 To obtain agreement on a way forward in regard to various motions regarding celebratory and /or commemorative stained glass windows in City Hall.

### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- decide which windows, if any, it wishes to go forward with,
- agree to establish the relevant subject matter working groups as required; and

- decide on location and budget.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

#### **3.1 The current situation in regard to stained glass celebratory / commemorative windows in City Hall and original historic windows is as follows:**

- On the ground floor, there are 12 ‘themed’ stained glass windows. All but one of these are in areas of the City Hall considered as public areas. The ‘Women’s History’ window is just beyond the doors and the point where security ask visitors to register before going to BDM (North West corridor).
- On the first floor, there are 3 themed windows on the Rotunda and then a further 46 historic windows original to the building across the Chamber, Function Rooms and 2 main staircases. There is also a number in non-accessible areas such as Whispering Gallery, kitchens, parlour etc.

#### **3.2 The various themed categories of the 15 windows installed since the building opened in 1906 can be categorised as follows:**

##### **Celebratory;**

- City Hall Centenary 2006
- Celtic Myths & Legends 2012
- Women’s History 2016

##### **Commemorative;**

- Pathways 2005
- Famine 1999
- Dockers Strike 2007
- Spanish Civil War 2015
- Sir Crawford McCullagh 1951
- Lady McCullagh 1951

##### **Military/ Security Forces**

- North Irish Horse WW1 1925
- North Irish Horse WW2 1962
- King’s Tribute 1920
- RUC 1999

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

- **British Army 1993**
  - **UDR 1992**
- 3.3** There is no particular order to the display of windows but on the ground floor working from East to West the unveiling years were [2006, 2005, 1999, 2007, 2012, 2015, 1925, 1962, 1992, 1993, 1999, 2016] with colours relating to themes in paragraph 3.2.
- 3.4** There have been four notices of motion regarding stained glass windows in recent years a number of which are outstanding primarily due to a lack of focus in terms of the groups following these up or lack of referral to a specific officer. PGL has since tasked me with drafting this paper to resolve outstanding issues.
- 3.5** In essence a summary of the four proposed windows is set out below:
- **Recognition of the Health Service in Belfast was referred to the Diversity Working Group in May 2016. The Group made no specific proposals for this window but agreed it should be part of a discussion on City Hall grounds. It was discussed at a Review of City Hall Grounds meeting on 30 September 2016 but no definitive action was agreed at that time. The Diversity Group was abolished after its last meeting in September 2016 and no specific political discussion has taken place since regarding this matter.**
  - **The concept of a window to celebrate the contribution that sport has made to Belfast and to Northern Ireland was referred to Diversity Working Group in June 2015 but deferred due to the development of sports heroes section in the City Hall memorabilia exhibition.**
  - **The acknowledgement of the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our city....etc does not seem to have been picked up by any particular section or group.**
  - **The 321 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company is another outstanding notice of motion on which it has been difficult to implement.**
- 3.6** In addition there is an outstanding proposal for some form of memorial to the Fire Brigades Union and although a window has not been specified it may be useful to also address this matter at this particular point.
- 3.7** In terms of availability of windows there is only one window in areas normally accessible to the public which is in the corner

previously occupied by the reception desk. The 'window' in question is quite large equivalent in size to the North Irish Horse window on the opposite side of the grand staircase.

3.8 There are also a number of windows available on the ground floor opposite the elevator and along the West corridor opposite the various Party Rooms. There are also 16 clear windows at first floor level some of which are on the route of the guided tours of the building.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* – No budget has been agreed for any proposed works on stained glass windows

*Resources* – Officer time as required to work up proposals

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

None at present.”

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Campbell,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to proceed with the stained glass window to acknowledge the positive role that the LGBT community played in this city.

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Graham,  
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees that an options paper be prepared in relation to the projects outlined in the report and that it be considered in the first instance by the Party Group Leaders

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

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor Beattie was put to the meeting when eight Members voted for and four against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that an all-Party working group be established to progress the LGBT stained glass window.

It was agreed also that an options paper be prepared in relation to the remaining projects outlined in the report to be developed in line with the ongoing work in relation to the City Hall grounds.

**Public Realm/Developer Contributions: Pilot Projects**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 This report sets out a proposal to bring forward a pilot public realm project in partnership with DfC utilising a proportion of developer contribution monies that were specifically identified for public realm purposes arising from developments at College Street/Queen Street and College Avenue. The Council has granted planning permission for two Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation schemes at No. 41-49 and 24-30 College Street Queen Street; and No. 78 College Avenue. Both permissions were subject to legal agreements between the Council and the developer that secure developer agreement monies that is specifically to be utilised towards public realm improvements in the vicinity of these two developments. There is also an identified timeframe within which these monies must be spent.**

**1.2 Developer contributions are a planning tool used to mitigate the impacts of new development and ensure that development is supported by the right level of infrastructure. They can only be required where they are necessary to make the development acceptable and, once secured, are ring-fenced for the purpose to which they were sought. In most cases to date, the developer contributions have taken the form of financial contributions for the enhancement of public realm in the city centre to mitigate the impacts of increased footfall and to improve connectivity. The Council has recently completed consultation on its draft Developer Contributions Framework which may widen the scope of developer contributions in the future. However, the legal agreements that are currently in place in respect of previous developer contributions set out the specific purposes that these monies must be used for and in the current proposed pilot project this is specifically for public realm in the vicinity of the two developments.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to**



1. Grant approval for the utilisation of £475,650 secured as developer contributions from two Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA) schemes at No. 41-49 and 24-30 College Street Queen Street (Student Roost, Swanston House) (LA04/2015/1252/F); and No. 78 College Avenue (LA04/2015/0419/F) to part-fund a pilot 'catalyst' project of public realm improvements in the areas around the sites at College Court, College Street and College Avenue;
2. Note that the Council intends to commission DfC to employ the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to design, project manage and procure a works contractor to deliver the project in partnership with the Council, subject to detailed terms to be agreed by the Council.
3. Note that a governance model for overseeing the spending of developer contributions is currently under development and will be brought back to Committee for approval. The current pilot project at College St / College Court is being brought forward now, in order to develop a proposal to the extent that it would be able to avail of additional DfC funding, which may become available.
4. Note that there may also be an opportunity to bring forward a programme of further small, public realm 'Catalyst Projects' in conjunction with DfC and further details of these will be brought back to Committee.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 Since the transfer of planning powers in April 2015, the Council has routinely secured developer contributions to mitigate and manage the impact of new development on the city. Developer contributions can only be required where they are necessary to make the development acceptable and, once secured, are ring-fenced for the purpose to which they were sought. In most cases, the developer contributions have taken the form of financial contributions for the enhancement of public realm in the city centre to mitigate the impacts of increased footfall and to improve connectivity. Approximately £3 million has been secured to date for this purpose although payment of financial contributions is however dependent on occupation or commencement of development and the Council has received £1.4 million so far. Further details are set out in the report to Planning Committee on 13th November 2018 -which is attached as Appendix 1

- 3.2 The Council has recently completed consultation on its draft Developer Contributions Framework which may widen the scope of developer contributions in the future. However, the legal agreements that are currently in place in respect of previous developer contributions set out the specific purposes that these monies must be used for. In addition a governance model for overseeing the spending of developer contributions is currently under development and will be brought back to Committee for approval. However, pending this and in order to develop a proposal to the extent that it would be able to avail of additional DfC funding which may become available in the near future, this Committee is being asked for approval to the use of identified developer contributions collected to date.

Key Issues

*Pilot Project: College Court/College Street*

- 3.3 The Council has granted planning permission for two PBMSA schemes at No. 41-49 and 24-30 College Street Queen Street (Student Roost, Swanston House) (LA04/2015/1252/F); and No. 78 College Avenue (LA04/2015/0419/F). Both permissions were subject to planning agreements that secure a combined £475,650 that is specifically to be utilised towards public realm improvements in and around the area of the application sites. Public realm improvements at this location would be directly beneficial to the residents of these developments.
- 3.4 With the planning agreements in mind, developers and property owners, including Queens University Belfast (owners of student housing at College Court), have asked when they might expect the public realm around their completed developments to be improved. Since the Council is not a transport authority and does not control the roads or streets, officers have been liaising with the Department for Communities (DfC) Belfast Streets Ahead Team about a number of potential public realm 'Catalyst Projects'.
- 3.5 Officers have identified College Court and College Street as an appropriate pilot for spending the financial developer contributions on a public realm scheme. DfC has indicated that they would support the College Court/College Street project as a pilot in partnership with the Council, with DfC providing the gap funding to deliver the proposed project.
- 3.6 With the exception of a short stretch of pavement adjacent to No. 78 College Avenue, the pilot area is not included in the Department's current Streets Ahead programme and will not

therefore benefit from planned DfC public realm investment. The indicative geographical scope of the project is illustrated at Appendix 2. An initial estimate of costs by DfC suggests a total in the region of £600,000 for the design and construction of the scheme. The developer contributions available amount to £475,650 and DfC has indicated they will fund the remainder subject to approval of their departmental budget by the Under-Secretary/Permanent Secretary. The Council would provide a maximum of £475,650 from developer contributions funding towards the project and would only release it once the project is committed to by DfC with the necessary permissions and consents in place. DfC are keen to commence with this project as soon as possible in order to benefit from in-year funding, in the event that it becomes available.

- 3.7 Following discussions with DfC, it is proposed that the most appropriate delivery model would be for the Council to commission DfC to employ the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to design, project manage and procure a works contractor to deliver the project in partnership with the Council. The Council's funding agreement for the £475,650 will include a condition that the amount of funding is finite and that any liability (including additional costs) must be paid for by DfC.
- 3.8 A joint Belfast City Council and DfC public realm Catalyst Project at this location would contribute to the delivery of several regeneration policies and projects including the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), the Inner West Special Action Area (in BCCRIS), Inner North West Masterplan and the ongoing Restore Revitalise Animation Proposals for the city centre in the aftermath of the Bank Buildings fire. The development of this public realm project, which is in close proximity to the Castle Street area, could act as a catalyst for further improved public realm and other improvements in the area.

#### *Design Workshops*

- 3.9 It is proposed that the process for the College Court/College Street pilot project should follow that previously agreed for the Streets Ahead 3 proposals for the Council's land at Cathedral Gardens and that it would be overseen by the Belfast Streets Ahead Project Board, upon which the Council is represented.
- 3.10 There will be an opportunity for Members and local stakeholders, including traders and residents, to engage in the development of proposals for College Court/College Street

through design workshops which will be arranged by the Council and DfC.

*Potential Future Catalyst Projects*

- 3.11 There is also an opportunity to bring forward a programme of small, public realm 'Catalyst Projects', which could be used to ensure developer contributions (which specify spend on public realm) are appropriately utilised. For example, there may be opportunity to utilise some of this spend in conjunction with larger projects such as *Belfast Streets Ahead 5* (BSA 5), such as in the area of Blackstaff Square, ahead of the implementation of BSA 5. The Council will continue to work with DfC on developing this programme and will report back to Members on this and progress of the College Court/College Street pilot at a future meeting (subject to agreement on progressing the pilot project)

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

An initial estimate of costs by DfC for the pilot project at College Court/College Street suggests a total in the region of £600,000 for the design and construction of the scheme. Funding for the project will be provided in part from developer contributions secured in respect of planning applications LA04/2015/1252/F and LA04/2015/0419/F. The Council would provide a maximum of £475,650 from these developer contributions funding towards the project and would only release it once the project is committed to by DfC with the necessary permissions and consents in place. The Council's funding agreement will include a condition that the amount of funding for the public realm is finite and that any liability (including additional costs) must be paid for by DfC.

- 3.13 DfC have advised that they expect to be able to fund the remainder of the project based on their initial estimate of total costs of £600,000 subject to approval of their departmental budget by the Under-Secretary/Permanent Secretary. The total cost of the scheme will be subject to a tender process and based on a design to be agreed. In order to commit this funding DfC require to begin the process now, within the 2018/19 financial year.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications at this stage. Equality and Good Relations

**implications will be assessed at design stage to meet the specific requirements of the project.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Assets/Estates Update**

- i) Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd**  
The Committee agreed that the Council gift the buoys at Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter Ltd.
- ii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens**  
The Committee approved the grant of a licence to St Michael’s Boxing Club to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens, subject to the Boxing Club supplying the container and terms to be agreed with Legal Services and the Estates Team Leader.
- iii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen’s Cabin at Waterworks**  
The Committee approved the grant of a licence to Families at the Waterworks for the purpose of additional storage to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the fishermen’s cabin, subject to the Families at Waterworks supplying the container and subject to terms to be agreed with Legal Services and the Estates Team Leader.
- iv) Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities**  
The Committee noted the update in respect of the transfer of assets and liabilities for the Urban Village and Building Successful Communities projects and granted approval to the Council taking licences from the relevant landowner i.e Department for Communities (DFC)/NIHE for the new park in Colin, Springfield Dam, Glenbryn and Brittanic Terrace in the Sandy Row to allow the Council’s contractor to carry out the redevelopment of these sites which was being funded by Urban Villages and DFC
- v) Proposed acquisition of land to rear of Robinson Centre**  
The Committee approved the acquisition of land at Clonduff Drive for a consideration of £2,000, subject to the land being abandoned by the vendor Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and on terms to be agreed by the Estates Team Leader and Legal Services.

**vi) Grosvenor Recreation Centre – Licence Agreement to Bravo Outdoor Ltd**

The Committee agreed to enter into a new 2 year licence agreement with Bravo Outdoor Ltd for advertising hoardings at Grosvenor Recreation Centre.

**Area Working Group Update**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the South Area Working Group of 22nd October and the North Area Group of 30th October.

**Finance, Resources and Procurement**

**Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2018/19**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 This report presents the Quarter 2 financial position for the Council including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack with a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to note the report and agree that, given the forecast shortfall in available balances arising from the Rates Clawback and Primark Recovery commitments, no further in year budget reallocations should be considered until the year end position is presented to Committee in June 2019.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Current and Forecast Financial Position 2018/19**

**3.1 The Departmental year end forecast is a net under spend of £1,225k which represents a variance of 0.9% of the annual net expenditure budget. The capital financing budget is forecast to be underspent by £1m and a specified reserves balance of £135k is forecast to be available at the year end. The total forecast of available balances is therefore £2,359k.**

- 3.2 The District Rate forecast by the Land and Property Service (LPS) is a clawback of £1,201k and the Council has committed £1,250k of Primark Recovery Expenditure, excluding the £790k cash flow from general reserves, giving a total expenditure commitment of £2,450k. This would result in a funding shortfall of £90k.
- 3.3 The Quarter 2 forecast position is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Quarter 2 2018/19 Forecast

<u>Available Balances</u>	Qtr 2 Forecast (£)
Departmental Forecast	-1,224,500
Capital Financing Forecast	-1,000,000
Specified Reserves Forecast	-135,000
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>2,359,500</b>
<u>To be Funded</u>	
LPS Rates Clawback	1,200,000
Primark	1,250,000
<b>Total to be Funded</b>	<b>2,450,000</b>
<b>Shortfall</b>	<b>90,500</b>
<b>General Reserves</b>	<b>14,694,748</b>
<b>Less Primark Cash Flow £790,000</b>	<b>13,904,748</b>

#### Rates Finalisation

- 3.4 The Quarter 2 forecast from LPS is a clawback of £1.201k. This includes an estimated rates clawback of £1.074k and de-rating grant clawback of £127k. This clawback position is largely due to movements in the non-domestic rate base and the loss of rate income from businesses affected by the Primark fire.

#### Capital Projects

- 3.5 Planned capital expenditure for 2018/19 approved as part of the capital programme is £51.16m with forecast expenditure for the year of £41.10m.

- 3.6 The Summary Dashboard on Page 2 of the attached performance report summarises forecast expenditure on other capital programme including Non-Recurring Projects (£1,867k), Feasibility Fund (£250k) and projects in the new boundary areas (£135k).
- 3.7 Committed expenditure approved by the Committee on Belfast Investment Fund projects is £21.90m, with a further £4.95m committed on LIF 1 projects and £3.92m on LIF 2 projects.

**Capital Financing**

- 3.8 The summary dashboard has also been updated to provide analysis of the annual capital financing budget. Actual capital financing expenditure is forecast to be £1m underspent by the year end.

**Forecast Reserves Position**

- 3.9 The balance of general reserves is forecast to be £13.90m, after providing for the agreed cash flow funding of £790k.
- 3.10 Specified reserves are forecast to be underspent by £135k by the year end and this has been included in the available balance in Table 1 above.

**Treasury Management Report**

- 3.11 The Quarter 2 treasury management report is included as Appendix 2.

3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The Departmental position at Quarter 2 together with the forecast year end Council position is detailed within the report. Given the shortfall in available balances to meet the rates clawback and Primark commitments, it is recommended that no further reallocations are considered until the year end position is considered by the Committee in June 2019.

Members are also asked to note that there will be further non-recurrent financing requirements in relation to holiday pay back payments and resources for the customer focus programme. Further reports will be brought to the Committee when the requirements have been determined.



**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

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

**None.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also that no further cash flow requests be considered until after the current financial year.

**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.
- grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to accept the most economically advantageous tender.
- allowed month by month extensions where contracts are under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2
- agreed to accede to Standing order 55(a) exceptions in relations to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officers that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts laid out in 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 3

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

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Gamechanger – Sports Element Sports Equipment and Uniforms	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger - Sports Element Sports Coaching	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger -Sports Element Training Provider	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger – Sports Element Cross Border Programming	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Gamechanger – Personal Change Element	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Belfast and the World Decade of Centenaries EU Study Visits	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Transform for Change (Leadership Project) Consultancy/Facilitation/Training Provision	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Transform for Change (Leadership Project) Development of Website and App	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Transform for Change (Leadership Project) External Evaluation	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
BPR Communications Cinematography Project – Film and Digital Media Services	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Supply and Delivery of Wheelie-boxes	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to extend for a further year
Tender for the provision of Postal Services (T1876)	Ronan Cregan	One year with option to renew for a further year
Tender for the provision of a Social Care Employment Academy	John Greer	1 year with option to renew for annually for a further three years
City Centre Animation Event Management and Programming	Suzanne Wylie	6 months

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

Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension
T1584 Supply and Delivery of Grounds Maintenance Plant and Equipment.	Nigel Grimshaw	Ext to 31 January 2019 and monthly thereafter until new tender is in place.

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

System / Product	Supplier	Estimate
City Centre Animation Event Management and Programming	Cathedral Quarter Trust	£400,000
City Centre Animation Event Management and Programming	Market Place Europe	£400,000

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Language Strategy 2018-23 Update and Action Plan 2018-20**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues**

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to submit for approval of a Language Strategy Action Plan (October 2018 to March 2020) and to provide an update on developments including a Film Project.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1** The SP&R Committee is asked to:

- Approve the Language Strategy Action Plan October 2018 - March 2020.
- Note the development of a film project;
- Discuss the secondment of the NI Assembly’s Irish language translator to the Council which would be reviewed on a monthly basis

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background to Language Strategy progress**

Following the consultation, a Language Strategy Action Plan which outlines the objectives for implementation of the strategy during the period from October 2018 to March 2020 is attached at Appendix 1. Each of the objectives contributes to at least one aim of the agreed Language Strategy.

The Committee is asked to approve the Language Strategy Action Plan for October 2018 to March 2020.

The SP&R Committee will be aware that a Language Strategy 2018-23 was launched on Monday 14 May 2018. Keynote speaker was Professor Janice Carruthers of Queens’s University Belfast, where she works in partnership with both Stormont and Westminster to provide advice on linguistic issues, including language policy; education, social inclusion and identity.

Professor’s Carruthers message focused on the challenges and opportunities which linguistic diversity brings in achieving the Belfast Agenda outcomes. Press comments included positive reference to the strategic approach to linguistic diversity.

Resourcing the delivery of the Language Strategy was the first step towards its implementation and two new Officers are now in post within the Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU):

- Irish Language Officer - Colm McGuigan
- Language Officer - Michael Johnston

**3.2 Other Key Issues - Film Project**

As part of this plan, the Equality and Diversity Unit has commenced planning for a film project in line with the aims of the Language Strategy. Both Language Officers will work with QUB film placement students to produce material which provides an insight to different languages and those people who use it. The format and content of the production/s is still under design, but will include screening to all those who participated and plans for dissemination of the material. Marketing and Corporate Communications will be kept informed of the progress of this.

**3.3 Other Key Issues – Tom Clarke**

Tom Clarke, the NI Assembly’s Irish language translator has contacted the Council to discuss a secondment to the Council. Mr Clarke’s salary would continue to be paid during his secondment with reasonable out of pocket expenses reimbursed. The SP&R Committee is asked to discuss whether to agree to this secondment.

**Other Key Issues**

**3.4 Financial & Resource Implications**

The action plan delivered within the 18/19 financial is covered by current budgets. The budget required for 19/20 will be included in the estimates.

**3.5 Equality, good relations or rural needs implications**

The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are key principles within which the Language Strategy is delivered. The original screening document was included as part of the public consultation from which the Strategy was developed and an updated screening for equality, good relations and rural needs is underway.”

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor O’Donnell,

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

That the Committee agrees to the secondment of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Irish language translator to the Council, to be reviewed on a monthly basis.

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

The Committee noted the development of the film project and approved the Language Strategy Action Plan from October 2018 to March 2020.

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

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 5th November 2018 including:

- To agree the draft response to the Local Development Plan Draft Strategy, and the associated preamble from Professor Candle, noting that the response has been submitted in draft form by the deadline of 15th November, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- To note the list of 52 organisations as set out in the minutes, which had been approved for funding totalling £33,519.75 through the St Patrick's Day Celebration Grants Scheme under the delegated authority of the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
- To note the contribution of up to £500 for a maximum of eight local interface groups to be awarded under the scheme of delegated authority, through the District Council Good Relations Programme;
- To note the proposed good relations programme of activity in the Greater Whitewell area as specified in the DCGRP under the Key Priority of Our Safe Community and the allocation of £10,000 budget to cover the recruitment of an artist/facilitator;
- The omission of the minute agreeing to the draft Good Relations Strategy to go out to consultation in December 2018, which was deferred in light of the decision taken earlier in the meeting regarding the motion on antisemitism .

**Operational Issues**

**Illuminate request to mark UN International Day of  
Human Rights/Irish Language**

The Committee was reminded that there were governance arrangements which it had previously approved for the use of the ILLUMINATE LED lighting at the City Hall. Where a request did not meet the subsisting governance arrangements, the organisers were informed of this. However, in circumstances where the organisers still wished to pursue an application the request might be placed before the Committee for approval.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

The City Solicitor reported that a request had been received recently from Councillor Beattie on behalf of Conradh na Gaelige to have the City Hall illuminated in red on 10th December, which was the UN International Day of Human Rights. Conradh na Gaelige wanted also to use the special illuminate to help raise awareness of the Irish Language which they had stated was a basic Human Right for large sections of the community in Belfast and further afield.

He reported that, due to the Christmas Lights, it was not possible to do a special illuminate on 10th December and they had now asked that a special illuminate be allowed on a date to be decided in January, 2019.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to accede to the request.

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

**Review of Council Smoking at Work Code of Practice**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 23 March 2018, the Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council of 5th March, the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Reynolds and Seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred to the Committee for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 13(f):**

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

**1.2 The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the Council’s Code of Practice on Smoking at Work and the use of e-cigarettes.**

**1.3 This report provides information to the Committee on the Public Health England advice, the findings of a recent staff survey on vaping and proposes a new Smoking Policy for the Committee’s consideration.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is recommended to;**

- Approve in principle the revised draft Smoking Policy at Appendix One. This policy acknowledges the use of e-cigarettes as an aid to reducing tobacco smoking and permits their use in designated areas of Council buildings.
- On approval in principle by the Committee, the draft policy will be subject to the established staff health and safety consultation arrangements. At the end of this process, the policy will be returned to the Committee for final consideration.

### 3.0 Main report

#### 3.1 New Public Health England research

##### 3.1.1 On 6 February 2018, Public Health England published a new e cigarette evidence review

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-publishes-independent-expert-e-cigarettes-evidence-review>).

##### 3.1.2 In the press release which publicised the release of this report, Professor John Newton, Director for Health Improvement at PHE said:

‘Our new review reinforces the finding that vaping is a fraction of the risk of smoking, at least 95% less harmful, and of negligible risk to bystanders. Yet over half of smokers either falsely believe that vaping is as harmful as smoking or just don’t know. It would be tragic if thousands of smokers who could quit with the help of an e-cigarette are being put off due to false fears about their safety’.

##### 3.1.3 With regards specifically to vaping in work and public places, the report referred back to an earlier 2016 Public Health England guide for organisations on policy making in relation to the use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-e-cigarettes-in-public-places-and-workplaces> . This advice was based around five principles - covering the need to make a clear distinction between vaping and tobacco cigarette smoking; ensuring policies are informed by the evidence on risks to bystanders; identifying and managing risks of uptake by children and young people; supporting smokers to stop smoking and stay stopped; and supporting compliance with the smokefree law and policies. The advice is acknowledged as being non-prescriptive in recognition of the fact that settings differ and there is no ‘one size fits all solution’.

**3.2 Vaping etiquette and considerations**

**3.2.1** The July 2016 Public Health England guidance regarding the use of e-cigarettes within workplaces, identifies there may be a number of considerations when developing policies.

**3.2.2** These include:

- there may be reasons other than health risk to bystanders which exist for prohibiting e-cigarette use in all or part of a public place or workplace, such as commercial considerations and professional etiquette
- people with asthma and other respiratory conditions can be sensitive to a range of environmental irritants which could include e-cigarette vapour. The interests of such individuals should be taken into account when developing policies and adjustments made when necessary
- vaping can in certain circumstances be a nuisance or distraction for people nearby. Where a decision is taken to allow vaping in an enclosed place, policies could consider some simple etiquette guidelines for vapers, such as minimising the production of visible vapour

**3.2.3** There is also the potential for e-cigarette vapours to interfere with the Council's fire alarm systems and result in false alarms.

**3.3 Existing Code of Practice on Smoking at Work**

**3.3.1** The Council's current Smoking Code of Practice has been in place since the introduction of the national smokefree legislation in 2007. Due to the age of this document, it does not include any references to e-cigarettes which have increased in prevalence in the intervening years.

**3.3.2** In 2014, in light of increasing public interest and advice from a number of public health organisations regarding the potential health risks from e-cigarettes, a proposal was brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to prohibit their use within Council workplaces. This proposal was deferred by the Committee until such times as further information became available on the health risks.

**3.3.3** As advised above, the new Public Health England research now reports that there is negligible risk to bystanders from these devices.



**3.4 E-cigarette usage within the Council**

- 3.4.1** There are currently no restrictions placed on the use of e-cigarettes within Council buildings with the exception of 9 Adelaide where the building usage protocols prohibit the use of e-cigarettes due to the possibility of the vapours interfering with the building's fire alarm system. There is no data on the prevalence of e-cigarette usage within Council buildings.
- 3.4.2** A staff survey was conducted during August 2018 on vaping at work which received 400 responses. The key findings from this survey are included in Appendix Two.
- 3.4.3** The staff who responded to this survey have strongly indicated that they believe that e-cigarettes should not be allowed in Council buildings or vehicles; or should only be permitted with restrictions, for example, no vaping in the presence of children, customers or members of the public; and no vaping at workstations or in meetings, training etc.
- 3.4.4** The survey also included a section for staff to provide general comments. The majority of these comments related to the risk of potentially unknown health effects from inhaling the vapour; the nuisance impact of vapour 'clouds' and their smell; and that their use does not portray a professional image in the workplace.

**3.5 Proposed Council Policy**

- 3.5.1** In light of this notice of motion, the new Public Health England research and associated workplace guidance and the findings of the staff survey, the existing Code of Practice has been reviewed and a new Smoking Policy proposed (Appendix One).
- 3.5.2** This policy formally acknowledges the potential benefits of e-cigarettes and their low risk of harm. In accordance with the Public Health England guidance, it also makes clear the distinction between vaping and tobacco smoking and for this reason, permits the use of e-cigarettes within designated areas of Council buildings.
- 3.5.3** The provision of designated areas is recommended to avoid any accidental triggering of fire alarm systems and any other nuisance impacts arising from the vapours.

**3.5.4 Any changes to health and safety policies and procedures within the Council are subject to staff consultation. This consultation is managed through the Corporate and Departmental Health and Safety Committees, the Council's JNCC and the Corporate Management Team. At the end of this staff consultation process, the proposed policy will be brought back to the Committee for consideration.**

**3.6 Financial & Resource Implications**

**3.6.1 No financial or resource implications are anticipated from this review.**

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

**3.7.1 Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Assessment Screening are underway.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Public Policy Forum NI**

The Committee was advised that a public policy think tank was currently being developed in Northern Ireland with the aim of launching in March 2019. The think tank would follow similar models that existed throughout the UK and Europe. The Chief Executive had been requested to sit on the Reference Group of the Forum and accordingly the Committee's approval was being sought in this regard. It was pointed out that, should the Committee be minded to agree to the request, an agreement would be drawn up with the Forum where the Chief Executive would avoid participating in any potential conflicts of interest relating to Council policy or political issues.

Moved by Councillor Attwood,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to accede to the request from Public Policy Forum NI for the Chief Executive to sit on its reference group.

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

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

The Committee considered the following applications for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality which had been received up to 13th November, 2018:

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 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>
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
Refugees Welcome Northern Ireland	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	<b>Refugees Welcome N. Ireland Launch</b> – Panel discussion as part of a launch event.  Numbers attending – 100	B, C & D	No (Community)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
4 Corners Festival	5 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	<b>Four Corners Festival Dinner</b> – Cross community annual event, this year to celebrate organ donation with both recipients and donors invited.  Numbers attending – 80	D	No (Community)	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
British Council Northern Ireland	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	<b>*Mock Council for the European Union</b> – Schools event to encourage debating skills and participation in democracy now in 14 <sup>th</sup> year.	B & D	No (Charity)	No	Recommend to approve, No charge, No hospitality  <i>Recommend to approve use of Council Chamber and function rooms</i>

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		Numbers attending – 130  *Request for use of Council Chamber and Function room				
Chinese Welfare Association Northern Ireland	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2019	<b>Chinese New Year in the City</b> – Most important festivity in the local Chinese community's calendar marked at City Hall with an inclusive celebration event.  Numbers attending – 350-500 approx.	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
Department for the Economy	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	<b>EU Network Dinner</b> – Dinner linked to EU Network meeting taking place in Belfast over 3 days.  Numbers attending – 90	A & B	Yes - £300	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality
Energia on behalf on GENCOMM	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	<b>GENCOMM Interreg Project Hydrogen Powered Bus Launch</b> – Launch	A & C	Yes £115	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		<p>event as part of 3 day conference to mark Hydrogen powered buses launching in Belfast.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 200</p>				
Fáilte Feirste Thiar	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	<p><b>Celebrating Labour</b> – Dinner and celebration event to mark the official opening of the James Connolly Visitor Centre* in West Belfast.</p> <p>*part funded by Belfast City Council</p> <p>Numbers attending – 300</p>	A, B, C & D	No (Community )	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	<p><b>Presidents Annual Lunch 2019</b> – Annual networking lunch for NI business leaders.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 400</p>	B	Yes £300	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 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>
Ardmonagh Family Centre	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019	<b>Good Morning West Belfast Celebration</b> – Lunch and entertainment in form of tea dance as part of 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.  Numbers attending 250-300	C&D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea, Coffee, Biscuit Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Tea, Coffee, Biscuit Reception
Belfast Harbour	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	<b>British Port's Association Conference Closing Gala Dinner</b> - Dinner with speeches and entertainment to end conference  Numbers attending – 250	A&B	No <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
British Paediatric Neurology Association	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	<b>British Paediatric Neurology Association Drinks Reception</b> – Welcome event for 3-day scientific conference at Assembly Buildings.	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMENDED
		Numbers attending – 300				
St Dominic's Grammar School Past Pupils Union	8 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	<b>150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls</b> – Dinner to celebrate 150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of school.  Numbers attending – 100 - 150	C	No	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
Odyssey International on behalf of Lennox Heating & Cooling System	16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020	<b>Welcome to Ireland Dinner Lennox Heating &amp; Cooling Systems</b> – Dinner and entertainment for incentive dinner and showcase of Northern Ireland.  Numbers attending – 400	B	Yes £825	No	Recommend to approve, Room Charge, No hospitality

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of the applications received up to 13th November, 2018, subject to the application submitted by Ardmonagh Family Centre being amended to provide for a wine reception and to the

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,  
Friday, 23rd November, 2018**

deferral of the application submitted by Odyssey International on behalf of Lennox Heating and Cooling System to allow further information to be obtained.

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 15th November, 2018.



**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**First Aid Training for Members - Councillor Boyle to raise**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Boyle requested that the Committee consider the provision of First Aid Training for elected Members.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that First Aid Training be included as an option in the Elected Members Training Programme following the Local Government Elections in May, 2019.

**Visit to Brussels**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Beattie referred to the upcoming visit to be undertaken by a deputation from the Council 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 out future participation in EU funding programmes. He pointed out that the EU Parliament would be meeting in Strasbourg on the date of the visit and accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees, as the EU Parliament would meet in Strasbourg during the period when the deputation from the Council was scheduled to visit Brussels, that the deputation be authorised to visit Strasbourg instead.

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

Chairperson

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## People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 6th November, 2018

### MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Baker, Canavan, Corr, Heading, Lyons,  
Magee, Magennis, McCusker, McReynolds, Newton and  
O'Donnell.

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

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Copeland and McCoubrey and  
Councillors McAllister and Pankhurst.

#### **Minutes**

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

#### **Declarations of Interest**

#### **Meetings Schedule 2019**

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the People and  
Communities Committee between January and April, 2019:

- Tuesday, 8th January;
- Monday, 21st January - Special Meeting (To hear presentations);
- Tuesday, 5th February - Special Meeting (Housing Issues, to which  
all Members are invited);
- Tuesday, 12th February;
- Tuesday, 5th March;
- March 2019 - Special Meeting (To hear presentations, date to be  
confirmed with the Chairperson); and
- Tuesday, 2nd April.

All meetings would commence at 4.30 p.m.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

**Household Recycling**

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

*“This Council is committed to increasing household recycling across the city of Belfast; notes the colossal impact waste is having on our oceans, cities and countrysides; welcomes the recent waste consultation; and will commit to introducing glass recycling in households across the city of Belfast as soon as possible.”*

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would take into consideration any statistical information available in respect of recycling.

**Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following three 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 on these items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Events at Ormeau Park to Host Belsonic Concerts**

The Committee granted authority for Belsonic to hold a maximum of ten concerts at Ormeau Park in June of each year for a three year period (2019 – 2021), subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

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

The Committee also granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee annually for the use of Ormeau Park taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

on the immediate area and the potential wider benefit to the City economy; and

- to write to the promoters of Belsonic to advise that the Council reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into annual legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

The Committee further agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting (before the Local Government Election in May) which would outline the options for the possible inclusion of a type of 'social clause' in the legal agreements between the Council and all event promoters for events taking place on Council land.

**Request for the use of Botanic Gardens**

The Committee granted authority to Aiken Promotions for the use and hire of the facilities at Botanic Gardens from 3rd June to 5th July 2019, which would include set up and take down, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

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

The Committee also granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area and taking into consideration the potential wider benefit to the City economy;
- to write to the promoters and advise that the Council reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

The Committee agreed that future reports would include detail in respect of any previous working experience that the Council had with the Event Management Company/Organiser making the request.

**Request for the use of Boucher Road Playing Fields**

The Committee granted authority to UK Live Ltd for the use and hire of the facilities at Boucher Road Playing Fields for a two day music festival "Lets Rock Belfast" on 3rd and 4th August, 2019, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

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

The Committee also granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to:

- negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of Boucher Road Playing Fields taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy; and
- to write to the promoters and advise that the Council reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Combined Report**

- i. **Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd**
- ii. **Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens**
- iii. **Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen's Cabin at the Waterworks**
- iv. **Proposed Community Art Project at Falls Park Pavilion**
- v. **Building Successful Communities – Westlink Divis Back Path**
- vi. **Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1**

- i) **Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd**  
**Members are asked to agree to recommend to the SP&R Committee that the Council gift the buoys at Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter Ltd.**

2.2

ii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens

It is recommended that Members approve the grant of a licence to St Michael's Boxing Club to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens subject to the Boxing Club supplying the container and approval by SP&R.

2.3

iii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen's Cabin at Waterworks

It is recommended that Members approve the grant of a licence to Families at the Waterworks for the purpose of additional storage to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the fishermen's cabin subject to the Families at Waterworks supplying the container and approval by SP&R.

2.4

iv) Proposed Community Art Project at Falls Park Pavilion

It is recommended that Council supports a John Muir 'Explorer' Award programme working with young people from St Gall's GAA Club in West Belfast. The aim of the programme is to reconnect participants with the surrounding countryside, to get outdoors and explore the Belfast Hills and our parks, as well as learning about biodiversity, conservation and their place in local environment. As part of this programme young people will create a symbolic piece of public art, to artistically represent their journey, as well as conveying a strong environmental message to their local community. The location for the decorative art piece is on the side of the community sports space in Falls Park, which is owned by Council.

2.5

v) Building Successful Communities – Westlink Divis Back Path

It is recommended that Members consider the report and agree in principle to the proposal from community representatives to enter into a bespoke management arrangement to protect and optimise the proposed regeneration project at Westlink Divis Back Path; this will primarily take the form of a key holding agreement to control access to the facility to support the development of a programme of use for both organised groups and clubs as well as casual use.

2.6

vi) Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities

The Committee is asked to note the update in respect of the transfer of assets and liabilities for the Urban Village and Building Successful Communities projects and grant approval to the Council taking licences from the relevant landowner i.e Department for Communities (DFC)/NIHE for the new park in Colin, Springfield Dam, Glenbryn and Brittanic Terrace in the Sandy Row to allow the Council's contractor to carry out the redevelopment of these sites which is being funded by Urban Villages and DFC

3.0 Main report

3.1

i) Proposed gifting of Navigation Buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd

Key Issues

At its meeting on 10th May 2016 the People and Communities Committee noted the redevelopment plans for Cathedral Gardens, as part of the wider DFC Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 public realm, and agreed to:

- a) the relocation of the three large navigation buoys currently in Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter area of the city, as suggested by the Commissioner for Irish Lights, subject to feasibility and affordability assessments; and
- b) recommend to the SP&R Committee that the Council gift the buoys to the Titanic Foundation Ltd

3.2 At its meeting on 20th May 2016 the SP&R Committee adopted the P&C Committee's recommendations and agreed to the relocation of the buoys to the Titanic Quarter and the gifting of the buoys to Titanic Quarter Ltd.

3.3 While the Streets Ahead Phase 3 public realm project has stalled due to the Assembly no longer meeting, officers have continued to work with the Titanic Foundation Ltd, the Titanic Quarter Ltd and the Commissioner for Irish Lights with a view to having the buoys moved to the Titanic Quarter. The buoys were gifted to the Council by the Commissioner for Irish Lights in the early 1980's in recognition of the sea port and maritime tradition of the city. Since the matter of relocation of the buoys



was first mooted, the Commissioner's office have been supportive of the proposed relocation to Titanic Quarter given the proximity to water and the relevance of the buoys as navigation aids; links to maritime heritage of the city; and potential to maximise the impact of other efforts to promote this area of the city.

- 3.4 While the May 2016 Committee reports sought approval to transfer the buoys to Titanic Foundation Ltd it is now considered that it would be more appropriate to transfer the buoys to the Titanic Quarter Ltd as they own the land at the existing open green space along the waterfront at the rear of the SSE Arena on which the buoys will be relocated. The Titanic Foundation Ltd and Titanic Quarter Ltd are working closely with Council officers on the relocation of the buoys.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost to relocate the buoys is £140,000. The Council will provide £51,000 from the capital programme, DFC will contribute £69,000, Titanic Foundation Ltd £10,000 and Titanic Quarter Ltd £10,000.

Legal Services and Estates will write formally to Titanic Quarter Ltd offering the buoys as an outright gift and seeking TQL's acceptance to that proposal; there will be no land transfer.

3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

No specific equality or good relations implications. No specific rural needs impact.

3.7

- ii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens
- iii) Proposed container on land adjacent to the Fishermen's Cabin at Waterworks

Key Issues

St Michael's Boxing Club have requested permission to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens and the Friends of the Waterworks have requested permission to site a container adjacent to the Fisherman's Hut at the Waterworks. The clubs will be responsible for achieving planning and any other statutory approvals. The provision of a boxing facility at this location will enhance the existing facilities namely the 3G pitch and pavilion, the community centre and the playground. The provision of additional storage at the

Fisherman's Cabin will enhance the programming capability of the club and increase usage of the facility.

**3.8 Financial & Resource Implications**

The Clubs will be responsible for all costs associated with the siting and ongoing use of the container and for a ground rent which will be assessed by the Estates Unit.

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

No specific equality or good relations implications.

**3.10**

**iv) Proposed Community Art Project at Falls Park Pavilion**

The council has been working with the Belfast Hills Partnership to facilitate the delivery of an eight day John Muir 'Explorer' Award programme with young people from St Gall's GAA Club in West Belfast. The aim of the programme is to reconnect participants with the surrounding countryside, to get outdoors and explore the Belfast Hills and our parks, as well as learning about biodiversity, conservation and their place in local environment.

**3.11** As part of this award, young people have to identify an opportunity to 'Share' their programme experiences with others and develop an awareness campaign. The young people involved have decided to create a symbolic piece of public art, to artistically represent their journey, as well as conveying a strong environmental message to their local community.

**3.12** The location for the decorative art piece is on the side of the community sports space in Falls Park, which is owned by Council and which is a location you can see the connection between the Falls Park and the Belfast Hills.

**3.13** The funding for the decorative art piece is being met by the Belfast Hills Partnership, including appointing an artist to help the young people bring their message to life.

**3.14 Financial & Resource Implications**

The financial costs of the decorative art piece will be met by the Belfast Hills Partnership. Outreach Officers from the Parks Service will be involved in educating, informing and challenging the participants as part of programme delivery.

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

The decorative art piece will convey a strong environmental message to the local community and there are no known equality and good relations implications or rural needs assessment.

**3.16**

**v) Building Successful Communities – Westlink Divis Back Path**

**Key Issues**

Members are reminded that at its meeting in November 2017 it received a report on the proposal to regenerate an area known as the Westlink Divis Back Path, to transform a derelict piece of land which runs adjacent to the West Link and which witnesses anti-social behaviour and criminality. Members will recall that it had previously agreed that Officers engage with the Community and other partners regarding the resourcing of the facility post completion within the context of the ongoing work into Area Planning.

**3.17** While the work on area planning remains on-going representatives from the local community around Divis have met. They welcome the investment of £770K from Department for Communities who have also agreed to cover the cost of the maintenance of the facility for a period of three years post completion, as previously agreed by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee (SP&R) in October 2016.

**3.18** This is a site which has experienced difficulties in the past. Community representatives wish to see the investment well used and respected and wish to contribute to its success. It has therefore been suggested that a local ‘management oversight committee’ be formed comprising local elected representatives and representatives from sporting bodies in the area; namely Sinn Fein, Davitts GAC, Falls Residents Association and Immaculata Football Club This group would work, in conjunction with Officers from Council to populate the facility with casual and programmed use. They would work with BCC to open and the close the facility and enter into a key holding agreement; so for example agreement would be reached on ‘normal opening hours’ with any additional use outside of these hours being determined in line with a programme of use comprising the main sporting bodies in the area.

**3.19 The main benefits of this approach would be:**

- a) The assumption of local ownership of the asset;
- b) Deterring anti-social behaviour and criminality by encourage positive casual and programmed use;
- c) Deterring anti-social behaviour and criminality by restricting access to the asset outside of daylight hours;
- d) Providing the community with a free to use facility to encourage a healthier lifestyle through physical exercise

Members are therefore asked at this time to consider the principle as outlined and agreed to the approach as set out above.

**3.20 Financial & Resource Implications**

There will be no payment for keyholding. Programming will be required by CNS outreach officers and sports development in order to deliver community capacity building.

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

There are no implications at this time.

**3.22**

- vi) Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to BCC: Urban Villages/Department for Communities/Building Successful Communities

**Key Issues**

At its meeting on 21st October 2016 the SP&R Committee agreed in principle to the transfer of land and property assets from the Department for Communities, or other central government bodies as appropriate, upon completion of identified capital projects, subject to the conditions of transfer as set out in the report and specifically on agreement on revenue budgets at the time of transfer, with up to three years agreed maintenance costs being provided as a minimum, depending on the nature of the asset.

**3.23 Officers have been working in partnership with Urban Villages Initiative to:**

- a) Develop a new district park in the Colin area on vacant green space owned by DFC and NIHE. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept, public consultation has

been carried out and a planning application has been submitted. A design team is currently being procured and works are due to start early 2019, subject to funding and planning permission. The new park will be comparable in size to Victoria Park and will feature a destination play park, outdoor classroom, active plaza and running routes. Urban Villages are the sole funder and the business case for £5m funding is currently going through central government approvals. A Letter of Offer will follow which will require the Council to take ownership of the site on completion of the works and enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 25 years.

3.24

- b) Upgrade an area of DFC land at Glenbryn Park to provide a playground, path network and green space which has been designed with CNS Dept. At its meeting on 15th December 2017 the SP&R Committee approved the acquisition of the land at Glenbryn from DFC at nil value. Planning permission has been secured together with approval from DFC to transfer the land to Council at nil value. The Letter of Offer has been accepted by the Council; it requires the council to enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 10 years. Work will commence early 2019.

3.25

- c) Upgrade a play park on a site currently owned by NIHE at Brittanic Terrace, Sandy Row. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept and works are due to start on site in early 2019, subject to funding. The proposed plans include replacement of the MUGA, upgrades to both the hard and soft landscape, a new playground facility and an outdoor gym. Capital funding is to be provided by Urban Villages and DFC, and a business case for £248,508 is currently awaiting central government approval. A Letter of Offer will follow which will require the Council to enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 10 years.

3.26

- d) Upgrade the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park which is an existing Council asset. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept. Works are due to start early in 2019, subject to funding. The proposed plans include an upgraded multi-use games area with new surfacing, improved fencing and lighting. The Letter of Offer which has been accepted by the Council requires the

**Council to enter into a Deed of Dedication to use the land for the Project for 10 years.**

**3.27 Officers have been working in partnership with DFC to:**

- e) Upgrade the DFC owned site at Springfield Dam. Design work has been undertaken with CNS Dept, public consultation has been carried out and a design team have been procured. DFC are the sole funder and a letter of offer for £498,346 has been accepted by Council and subject to planning, works will commence in summer 2019. The proposed plans include new paths to provide circulation between the Dam site and Springfield Park, new recreation facilities including a modular building to facilitate nature learning, water safety training and local activity groups, fishing stands and an activity trail.**

**3.28 Officers have been working in partnership with DFC Building Successful Communities to:**

- f) Regenerate the piece of wasteland known as the Backpath, which is located between the rear of Cullington Road and the Westlink, to create an Activity Park, including outdoor gym/exercise equipment, sprint track and kickaround area. BSC have allocated £770,000 for the refurbishment. The land is owned by Dfl and NIHE; DFC are working with the landowners in order to secure a transfer to the Council at nil value. Planning approval has been secured and DFC, who are delivering the £770k project, hope to have a contractor on site by March 2019.**

**3.29 The Council's Property and Projects Department will deliver capital projects at Colin, Glenbryn, Brittanic Terrace and Springfield Dam and upon completion the land will be transferred to Council at nil cost. As ownership of these four of the sites remains with DFC and NIHE until the projects are completed, the Council will require a licence to allow their contractor on to the sites to complete the work.**

**3.30 There will be separate licences for each of the four sites and the term of the licences will be for the period required by the contractor, all of which are expected to be in excess of 6 months.**

**3.31 Financial & Resource Implications**

**DFC have agreed to transfer the land required for these projects to the Council at nil value. NIHE are seeking to transfer the land**

in their ownership at the proposed new park in Colin and the land at Brittanic Terrace, Sandy Row to the Council at nil value but if this is not approved Urban Villages have agreed to cover the costs so either way the Council will acquire the land at nil cost.

DFC and NIHE have agreed to provide licences to allow the Council's contractor access to the sites at nil cost.

DFC and Urban Villages have agreed to cover the majority of the maintenance costs for the new park in Colin for a period of three years post completion with the deficit being absorbed from existing city and neighbourhood budgets.

CNS have agreed to absorb the maintenance costs for Glenbryn, Brittanic Terrace and the Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park from within existing budgets.

DFC have agreed to cover the maintenance costs for Springfield Dam for a period of three years post completion.

DFC BSC have agreed to cover the cost of maintenance for the Westlink Divis Back path for a period of three years post completion.

DFC and NIHE have agreed to grant the licences at nil cost to the Council. Estates and Legal Services will agree terms and conditions with DFC and NIHE.

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

**No implications."**

The Committee:

- agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council gift the buoys at Cathedral Gardens to the Titanic Quarter Ltd;
- agreed to grant a licence to St Michael's Boxing Club to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the playground at Sally Gardens, subject to the Boxing Club supplying the container and the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- approved the grant of a licence to Families at the Waterworks for the purpose of additional storage to allow the club to site a container on land adjacent to the fishermen's cabin, subject to the Families at Waterworks supplying the container and the approval of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

- agreed to support a John Muir 'Explorer' Award programme, working with young people from St Gall's GAA Club in West Belfast;
- agreed, in principle, to the proposal from community representatives to enter into a bespoke management arrangement to protect and optimise the proposed regeneration project at the Westlink Divis Back Path. This would primarily take the form of a key holding agreement to control access to the facility to support the development of a programme of use for both organised groups and clubs as well as casual use;
- granted approval for the Council to take licences from the relevant landowner, that is, Department for Communities (DFC)/Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for the new park in Colin, Springfield Dam, Glenbryn and Brittanica Terrace in Sandy Row to allow the Council's contractor to carry out the redevelopment of these sites which were being funded by Urban Villages and the DfC.

**Renaming of Flora Street Walkway Play Park**

The Committee was reminded that a request had been received from the Eastside Partnership seeking permission to rename Flora Street Walkway Play Park to Friendship Play Park.

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

The Committee, at its meeting on 8th May, 2018, had agreed that the necessary community consultation on the proposed name change be undertaken and this had now been completed. The Eastside Partnership had consulted with a number of community groups in the area and they had all expressed support for the proposed name.

The Committee approved the request to rename Flora Street Walkway Play Park to Friendship Play Park.

**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 July – September 2018.



**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

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 September 2018.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**Operational Issues**

**Street Naming**

The Committee approved the naming in respect of:

- Mount Gilbert, off Lyndhurst View Park, BT13;
- Loughside Chase, off Shore Road, BT15;
- Mill Valley Road, off Ligoniel Road, BT14; and
- Mill Valley Way, off Mill Valley Road, BT14:

**Dual Language**

The Committee approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Ponsonby Avenue, Dart Hill, Ballaghbeg, Churchill Street and Lagmore View.

**Dual Language - Rose Street**

(Miss N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor, attended in connection with the following two items).

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider an application for the erection of dual language street signs for a new street under construction within the City.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to make a decision regarding an application for a dual language street sign for Rose Street as it is not**

covered by the existing Street Naming policy given that no residents can be surveyed as the development is still under construction. Members are reminded that following an unsuccessful legal challenge in respect of the current policy the Court of Appeal affirmed the existence of discretion for the Council to deal with applications notwithstanding that the policy tests were not met and/or in cases in which there were exceptional circumstances.

Members can chose to:

1. Approve the application accepting Radius Housing as the occupier, subject to assessing equality and good relations impacts or
2. Refuse the application and carry out a survey of residents once the development is completed and occupied as per the Street Naming and Numbering policy

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.
- 3.2 Members are asked to consider an application to erect a second street nameplate for Rose Street, located off Springfield Road in BT12, showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.
- 3.3 The original street naming application for Rose Street was approved by the People and Communities Committee on 10th April 2018 and confirmed by the City Council on 1st May 2018.
- 3.4 Following the approval of Rose Street an application for a dual language Irish Street sign has been received from Radius Housing Association. Their request is outside the normal policy as Rose Street is currently under construction, the dwellings are not complete and there are no occupiers in the street.

### **3.5 Background**

The Dual Language Street Naming policy was adopted by the Council on 1st September 1998 and since the policy was

adopted 82% of 212 dual language applications have been approved by the Council with a further 37 applications pending.

- 3.6** In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs the Council is required to take account of the views of the occupiers of premises in the street. For the purposes of the policy occupiers shall be taken to be any person whose name appears in the current electoral register plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises but not employees in such premises.
- 3.7** The procedures for seeking and assessing the views of occupiers and the criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a street sign in a language other than English are as follows:
- (i)** Only applications supported by a petition representing not less than one third of the people appearing on the Electoral Register of the street for which the application is made will be progressed.
  - (ii)** Where the foregoing requirements have been met, the Council will canvass by post all people appearing on the Electoral Register of that street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specified language. This letter is designed to make the expression of views as simple as possible. Reply will be by way of a pre-paid envelope and should be returned within one month of receipt.
  - (iii)** Where two thirds or more of the occupiers appearing on the Electoral Register have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, then such a sign will be erected. People not returning a reply will be deemed not to be in favour of the application.
- 3.8** The translation for Rose Street has been requested from Queens University, the approved translator for dual language Irish street signs in Belfast City Council.
- 3.9** The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least two thirds (66.6%) of the people surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English. The first properties in the street were completed in October. Our understanding from Radius Housing is that the first 10 will be occupied on Thursday 25th October and that the remainder of the properties will complete and be occupied by 6th December. Therefore, to date, Building control have not been able to follow the normal procedure of surveying occupants.

**3.10** The current application falls outside the context of the policy as the request has been made by a housing association for a development that is yet to be completed and for which properties are just beginning to be occupied. In strict legal terms the housing association may be construed as an occupier but not in the same sense as is understood by the policy which is concerned with ascertaining the views of persons residing in the street.

**3.11** There are competing and difficult legal arguments concerning either outcome as per the recommendations. On the one hand there is the desire of the landowner and current legal occupier to erect a second nameplate in Irish. On the other there is the issue as to whether in this particular case, given that occupation is imminent, it is appropriate to defer the application and request it be processed in accordance with the current policy when the street is fully occupied. What is clear is there needs to be a case by case approach to such applications in respect of streets for which there is a landowner (and therefore a legal occupier) but in which there are no residents.

**3.12** Financial & Resource Implications

There is a cost of approximately £300 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.

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

The Equality and Diversity Unit have contributed to the report and will advise on the equality and good relations processes and implications in the event that a decision is taken to approve. In the event that negative impacts are identified, the application will be referred back to committee for further consideration.”

The Council’s Solicitor advised the Committee that, as had been highlighted within paragraphs 3.4 and 3.9 of the report, should it be minded to agree to erect a dual language street sign at this location without surveying those on the electoral register, it would be contrary to the Council’s Street Naming Policy and it would be subject to equality screening.

Moved by Councillor Canavan,  
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

That the Committee agrees that dual language signs be erected at Rose Street, subject to an equality assessment, as an exception to the Council’s Street Naming Policy, on the basis that, surrounding and adjacent streets had dual language signs erected, the street was located in the Gaeltacht Quarter and it viewed the Housing Association, who had made the application and owned the houses, as the occupier of the land given the street was not fully occupied.

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

### **Dual Language - Mountforde Park**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To consider an application for the erection of a dual language street sign for an existing street within the City.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to make a decision on the proposal to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at Mountforde Park. This request is outside the Street Naming Policy as there are no properties within the street, therefore no survey had been carried out.**

**2.2 Members are reminded that following an unsuccessful legal challenge in respect of the current policy the Court of Appeal affirmed the existence of discretion for the Council to deal with applications notwithstanding that the policy tests were not met and/or in cases in which there were exceptional circumstances.**

**2.3 Committee is therefore asked to consider whether it wishes to exercise its discretion in these circumstances.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Key Issues**

**The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.**

**3.2 The legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to take account of the views of the occupiers of the premises in the street. The Council will normally canvass all people appearing on the electoral register of the street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second language. Members are reminded that following an unsuccessful legal challenge in respect of the current policy the Court of Appeal affirmed the existence of discretion for the Council to deal with applications notwithstanding that the policy tests were not met and/or in cases in which there were exceptional circumstances.**

- 3.3 Councillor Mairéad O'Donnell has made a request for an Irish dual language sign at Mountforde Park. There are no properties, and therefore no residents in Mountforde Park to survey as it is a small street, which facilitates access to four streets which have already had dual language street signs erected by Belfast City Council.
- 3.4 Members are asked to consider this application for Mountforde Park to erect a second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.
- 3.5 In support of the application for a dual language Irish sign at Mountforde Park, Councillor O'Donnell has advised that this is a small street located off Mountforde Road in the Short Strand area of BT5. Mountforde Park has no residents and there is no opportunity to develop or continue this street. The four streets accessed from and located off Mountforde Park are: Comber Court, Bryson Court, Bryson Gardens and Comber Gardens and all have approved dual language Irish street signs erected by Belfast City Council. The first three being approved in 2002 and Comber Gardens was surveyed in May 2018 with 89% of residents responding in favour of an Irish dual language sign. The application was subsequently approved at the People and Communities Committee on 7th August 2018 and Council on 3rd September 2018.
- 3.6 The three streets surrounding Mountforde Park, Bryson street, Beechfield street and Mountforde Road have also been previously surveyed by Belfast City Council and have dual language Irish signs erected.
- 3.7 Councillor O'Donnell has advised that the residents in these surrounding and adjacent streets are supportive of dual language signs at Mountforde Park.
- 3.8 Belfast City Council has written to QUB for the translation for Mountforde Park and we are awaiting a response.
- 3.9 The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least two thirds (66.6%) of the people surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English. Given that there are no properties or residents in the street a survey has not been carried out and the request is brought before members to determine if the dual language street sign should be erected.
- 3.10 Financial & Resource Implications
- There is a cost of approximately £150 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs.

**The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.**

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

**There are no direct equality/rural needs implications.”**

Moved by Councillor Canavan,  
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

That the Committee agrees that dual language sign be erected at Mountforde Park as an exception to the Council’s Street Naming Policy as the street had no residents, there would be no opportunity to develop the street and the surrounding and adjacent streets had dual language street signs erected.

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

**Request for the use of Ulidia Playing Fields**

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from SÓLÁS, a special needs charity that supported children and young people, seeking permission for access from its special needs facility at the adjacent Parkmore building to Ulidia Playing Fields.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that, with £100k support from the Council’s Local Investment Fund, SÓLÁS had recently acquired the Parkmore Building from the Belfast Met and had been operating from that facility since September 2017. He explained that the new site was adjacent to Ulidia Playing Fields and, whilst the building provided a much needed base for SÓLÁS, it was restricted by its size. SÓLÁS had asked the Council to install a pedestrian access to Ulidia Playing Fields from their site, this would provide the children and young people with disabilities with safe access to the playing fields, enabling it to be used for a range of outdoor activities.

The Committee noted that Rosario YFC currently held a partnership agreement for Ulidia Playing Fields and were fully supportive of the request.

The Committee granted permission for a pedestrian access arrangement with SÓLÁS, which would provide safer access for children and young people with disabilities. It agreed further, in principle, to the use of the facilities by SÓLÁS, subject to agreement with the local site manager and Rosario YFC who held a partnership agreement for Ulidia Playing Fields.

**Update on Green Flag Parks**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee of the successful achievement of the nineteen Green Flag awards across the City of Belfast in 2018 for the City and Neighbourhood Services Department’s parks and open spaces.

The Committee noted that this was a tremendous achievement and that the staff had been thanked for their hard work and effort.

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

The Director then detailed that the cost for submitting the proposed Green Flag applications and assessment for 2019 would be approximately £10,000 and confirmed that this had had been included in the department's budget.

The Committee:

- noted the achievement of the nineteen Green Flag Awards across the City of Belfast in 2018; and
- granted permission to nominate Drumglass Park to apply for Green Flag accreditation in 2019, along with the resubmission of the existing Green Flag sites.

**Waste Agenda - update on consultation findings**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 This report is primarily to provide Members with an update on the Waste Framework and the results of the recent public consultation on the preferred, kerbside waste collection arrangements.**

**1.2 To highlight opportunities to work with neighbouring councils, to submit an application for funding from DAERA and to consider additional steps for Members to familiarise themselves with the revised preferred waste collection option.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are requested to:**

- 1. Note the results of the public consultation exercise and agree the approach in principle for kerbside collections outlined in the report, subject to the successful conclusion of the project through the Council's capital works programme ;**
- 2. Prepare a business case for funding for a preferred kerbside waste collection options trial from DAERA and present this to the SP&R Committee for consideration and explore opportunities to collaborate in a pilot with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) on waste collection arrangements;**
- 3. Propose a Members/Officers study visit to councils in Wales in order to improve understanding of how the preferred waste collection option could work, following Welsh successes in improving the quality of collected materials, and**
- 4. Agree to a study visit for Members/Officers to local businesses and organisations which are demonstrating how waste and resources is actively contributing to the Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.**



### 3.0 Main report

#### Background

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the Waste Framework document was approved by the People & Communities Committee in June 2017. This provided an overview of options regarding how waste could be collected, treated and in general managed within the city over the next decade, including what steps we (the Council) would have to take to engage with householders and some of the new approaches and equipment which are now being used in this process. The framework outlined issues around legislative requirements, changes in the local marketplace, and the need to bring about significant behavioural change to achieve challenging recycling and landfill diversion targets. To future-proof the document, the Waste Framework was developed to align with the Belfast Agenda by recognising the value inherent in waste and how this could contribute to the Circular Economy, support jobs and boost the economy. This latter point has become even more relevant in the intervening months.
- 3.2 The Waste Framework outlined four areas namely: collection arrangements, infrastructure, behaviour change and technology. This report focused on potential waste collection arrangements and outlined a proposal for a uniform, kerbside collection scheme throughout Belfast. This option, as outlined in the document, involves transitioning from fortnightly collected blue recycling bins – to a weekly, segregated collection of dry recyclables and food waste, combined with a three weekly collection of residual waste.

## Collections - Potential Approach



- 3.3 This weekly/three weekly approach was based on the WRAP NI Recycling Gap analysis carried out for DAERA for Northern Ireland in 2017. This approach was re-enforced for Belfast by a bespoke options appraisal, conducted by Resource Futures using the Council's Collaborative Agreement with WRAP (see

Appendix 1 for summary – the full document is available on request).

- 3.4 The advantages identified of rolling out such a scheme included;
1. A city wide, standardised approach which would assist with consistent communications and reduce confusion around different kerbside collection schemes;
  2. Decreased contamination of recyclables which would result in higher quality materials<sup>1</sup> supporting local jobs and improved income streams;
  3. Greater range of materials collected at the kerbside, including glass;
  4. Recyclables used as feedstock for local re-processors which would support the local economy;
  5. Increased frequency of collection (weekly) which would be of particular benefit to householders in relation to the collection of food waste;
  6. Legislative compliance with regard to the need for separate collections.

**Preliminary Engagement**

- 3.5 In order to gauge the suitability of the Resource Futures options appraisal, late last year the Consultation Institute and Social Market Research (SMR) were commissioned to undertake phase one of a consultation exercise on options, including the weekly/three weekly approach. The consultation comprised three elements: 6 x focus groups, 400 x doorstep surveys and 10 x stakeholder interviews.
- 3.6 In summary, the exercise indicated that when the benefits were clearly articulated, the level of positivity and acceptance of the potential scheme increased markedly. Support for the introduction of a smaller 180-litre grey/black bin or reduced frequency collections (3 weekly) was marginally in favour, with responses from larger households pointing out the challenges with implementing such a scheme.
- 3.7 The stakeholders group<sup>2</sup> voiced strong support for the proposals. This group were particularly aware of the Chinese Government's *Operation National Sword* which is being applied as a means to reduce the impact of low-quality (i.e. contaminated) imported waste which has resulted in trade restrictions on waste imports in order to protect its environment

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<sup>1</sup> This issue is increasing in importance as markets for low grade recycle are rapidly reaching capacity

<sup>2</sup> This was made up of representative of the statutory, business and non-governmental organisations (NGO) sectors

and support Chinese jobs. The most relevant import restrictions, affecting councils across the developed world, are (i) banning post-consumer plastics and mixed/unsorted paper (ii) setting a 0.5% tolerance level for sorted paper and (iii) restricting the number of import waste licences to China.

- 3.8 Historically, the UK has been heavily reliant on exporting large quantities of paper and plastics to China. With the restriction/cessation of this export market, alternatives are being considered but, in the process, the income for these lower quality paper recyclables has fallen sharply. In the past month, the popular press has highlighted that some councils' costs have risen by £500k to manage their (low grade) plastics and that with several countries reaching capacity for what they can process, concerns are increasing that some materials being exported are simply being dumped.
- 3.9 Locally, the Council's materials are currently finding markets but the ongoing focus on improving the quality of recyclables is gaining momentum rapidly. Top grade paper, collected at the kerbside, continues to command good prices from local re-processors such as Huhtamaki. On the other hand, the mixed materials from the co-mingled (blue bin) collections have fallen in value resulting in increased gate fees for these materials. Taking a strategic view, the Council needs to shift its focus from simply delivering ever-increasing weight based goals to generating high-quality recyclables for use by local re-processors. This approach, in line with the Belfast Agenda, will mitigate the risk of market volatility, optimise income from the sale of recyclables and support local jobs.
- 3.10 The results of the preliminary exercise were used to inform the development of a full consultation, and SMR were commissioned to assist in this process.

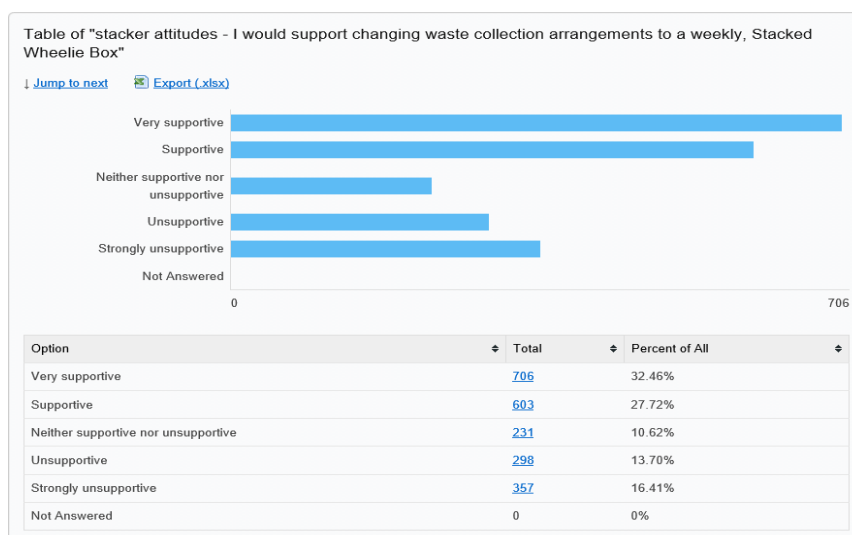
**Public Consultation – Citizen Space & Independent Survey**

- 3.11 The full public consultation exercise involved the use of the Council's online Citizen Space portal, supported by roadshows (19 in total). As online campaigns can be skewed, in order to capture a representative sample of householders citywide, SMR conducted a statistically relevant survey (circa 1,100 respondents) and also provided a quantitative and qualitative evaluation of all the consultation responses.
- 3.12 The consultation consisted of questions on potential kerbside waste collection options and in particular the weekly/three weekly approach outlined above. Other questions were included to gather householders' attitudes to recycling, and to gather information on how changes could impact in ways not

already identified within the existing polices (e.g. assisted lifts, family size, &c – see Appendix 2).

- 3.13 The 10 week online consultation period (30 July – 7 Oct) attracted considerable media coverage and a total of 2,175 responses were submitted which will inform future communication campaigns.
- 3.14 Analysis of the data demonstrated strong support for the proposed kerbside collection system for dry recyclables<sup>3</sup> with just over 60% either supportive or very supportive of the proposed change, 10% were neither for nor against and 30% were not supportive (see Table 1).

**Table 1 : Attitudes to the Wheelie-box**

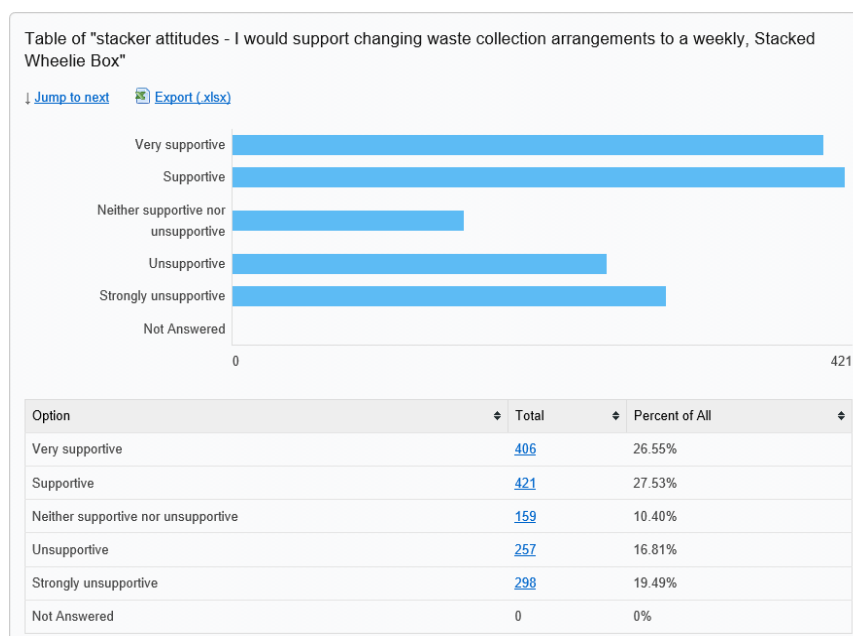


- 3.15 The independent survey by SMR was more definitive with 77% of interviewees supporting a shift to the proposed kerbside collection system for dry recyclables. Drilling into the online results to specifically consider the views of households on the blue bin collection scheme shows a majority of respondents either supportive or very supportive of changing to the wheelie-box (54% – see Table 2).

<sup>3</sup> A weekly, segregated collection of dry recyclables in a wheelie-box

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

**Table 2: Attitudes of Residents on the Co-mingled, Blue Bin Scheme.**



**3.16** Considering the question of bin size and frequency of collection, both the online campaign and independent survey showed marked support for a 180 litre bin collected on a fortnightly basis as opposed to any other collection frequency (see Table 3). This is not in keeping with the weekly/three weekly approach recommended within the Resource Futures study.

**Table 3 : Attitudes in Relation to Residual Bin Capacity**

Behaviour Change Option	Citizen Space %	Independent Survey %
180 litres residual bin collected fortnightly	75	81
240 litre residual bins collected every 3 weeks	18	16
240 litre residual bins collected every 4 weeks	7	3

**3.17 Other information was gathered and responses worth highlighting include (a) strong support for kerbside glass collections, and weekly food waste collections (a feature of the proposed scheme) (b) a desire to increase re-use, recycling and re-processing capacity in NI versus exporting these materials and (c) an understanding that these materials could further support the local economy (a summary of these issues has been produced, see Table 4).**

**3.18 The consultation also sought the views to potential participation barriers in the proposed kerbside collection scheme; there were 1,711 comments which SMR categorised to highlight the most important:**

- **Space limitations within respondents' houses**
- **Positive changes (e.g. easier to recycle, better range of materials, &c.)**
- **Preference for the current arrangements (blue bin)**
- **Kerbside collection of glass recycling**
- **Concerns over weight of new bins**

***Table 4: Miscellaneous issues – Glass, Food & the Circular Economy***

Question	Citizen Space %	Independent Survey %
supportive of everyone receiving a weekly glass collection	61	77
supportive of everyone receiving a weekly food waste collection	67	82
agree that they would recycle more if they knew that recycling was creating more jobs	45	81
residents agree that each piece of waste should be collected and, as far as possible, treated in Northern Ireland for recycling, repair and reuse here	82	89
are supportive of accepting a different waste collection system if it created quality employment and boosted the local economy	67	82

- 3.19 Subject to Member approval for the kerbside waste collection arrangements, these responses will help inform interventions and assist in developing targeted communications campaigns which would accompany any roll-out (see Appendix 3 for the Executive Summary, the full report is available on request).
- 3.20 Nineteen roadshows were also held across the city (see Appendix 4) where householders were able to read supporting information and pose questions directly to staff. At these events, it was possible to complete the questionnaire either electronically or in paper format.

**DAERA Funding**

- 3.21 Currently, Government is restricted in discharging many of its duties due to the Buick decision, and this has disrupted potential financial support for councils in proposing new waste collection and treatment arrangements. Recently, DAERA has indicated that limited amounts of grant aid may be available in the current (2018/19) financial year which could be used to pilot certain recycling schemes.
- 3.22 Currently, to ensure that the preferred kerbside waste collection arrangements is included within the Council's potential programme of works, a project proposal has been submitted and approved through the capital works programme and is currently listed as Stage 2 – Uncommitted. An Outline Business Case (OBC) is being developed. In order to apply for DAERA support, an OBC must be made outlining within a tight financial envelope what is being proposed. Currently, an application is being prepared and, subject to Members approving in principle these kerbside waste collection arrangements, this would be submitted to the SP&R Committee for consideration.

**Collaboration**

- 3.23 Several neighbouring councils are also considering their future waste collection arrangements and, in line with Belfast, have recognised that there is a flight to quality concerning recyclates. As a result, they are developing (or implementing) similar kerbside proposals and, having already worked in the arc21 partnership for many years, are now enquiring if there is scope for greater collaboration going forward. Initial discussions have shown a willingness to explore how this could be achieved, including procurement exercises which could lead to economies of scale and improved consistency across the councils' areas. Members are asked to endorse this approach.

**Site Visits**

- 3.24 In order to improve understanding of how the proposed kerbside waste collection arrangements could work, it is recommended that a Members/Officers study visit should be undertaken to councils in Wales which have already implemented similar collection schemes. Over the past decade, this has resulted in considerable improvements in the Welsh recycling rates while simultaneously improving the quality of materials collected and could be facilitated by WRAP under the Circular Economy Collaborative Agreement with the Council.
- 3.25 In addition, once the materials have been collected, they can be fed into local supply chains – which is already happening with the inner-city box scheme. As there are existing arrangements in place, it is also recommended that Members agree to a study visit to local businesses and organisations which are currently using several material streams in order to be able to see how waste and resources are actively contributing to the Circular Economy in NI and supporting local jobs, and to hear the scope for increasing this supply.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.26 Currently, the proposed kerbside waste collection scheme project is at Stage 2 – Uncommitted of the Council's capital programme and an Outline Business Case (OBC) is being developed. DAERA has indicated that grant funding of around £500k may be available for the Council in the current financial year to pilot the proposed scheme.
- 3.27 The Service is preparing a report for submission to the SP&R Committee regarding an application for this interim DAERA funding. Should the application be successful, it is envisaged that a procurement exercise would be initiated for the purchase of capital items (vehicles and containers) with the implementation of an in-house trial of the proposed scheme in late summer 2019. There may be benefits in collaborating with neighbouring councils as part of any procurement exercise.
- 3.28 Also, to inform this proposed kerbside waste collection arrangements, it is recommended that a study visit be arranged to a number of councils in Wales subject to available budget, to see first-hand how to introduce such a scheme, avoid the pitfalls and ensure householder buy-in. It is proposed to work with WRAP to develop a programme of visits.



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

**3.29 The equality and rural needs assessments have been completed for the proposed scheme.”**

The Committee agreed:

- to defer further consideration of the results of the public consultation exercise to enable Party Group Briefings to be held during January 2019;
- that officers prepare a business case for funding for a preferred kerbside waste collection options trial from DAERA and present this to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for its consideration, it further agreed to explore opportunities to collaborate in a pilot with Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council in respect of waste collection arrangements. Should the collaboration approach not be possible, Belfast City Council would progress with the pilot on its own;
- that an all-Party delegation visit, to include the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson and relevant officers, to Councils in Wales in order to improve understating of how the preferred waste collection option could work; and
- a study visit for Members of the Committee and relevant officers to local businesses and organisations which were demonstrating how waste and resources was actively contributing to the Circular Economy in Northern Ireland.

**Environmental Noise Directive - Third Round**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 The Committee is advised that the Environmental Noise Directive (END) and the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 place a duty on the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to periodically undertake noise mapping for noise sources within their respective areas of responsibility in order to identify locations where members of the public are predicted to be exposed to excessive noise levels.**
- 1.2 Based upon the noise mapping results, competent authorities are required to develop and adopt Noise Action Plans in order to prevent and reduce environmental noise where exposure levels can induce harmful human health effects. The Noise**

Action Plans also seek to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.

- 1.3 Accordingly, DfI, GBBCA and DAERA are presently consulting on their draft third round Noise Action Plans for road sources, aircraft noise and industrial noise sources respectively. The plans cover the 5-year period 2019–2024 and are available to download via the following weblinks:

- <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/environmental-noise-directive-road-noise-action-plan-2018-2023>
- <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/Round3IndustryNoiseActionPlan>
- <http://www.belfastcityairport.com/Community/Environment/Aircraft-Noise/Noise-Action-Plan-2019-2024>

- 1.4 This report serves to provide an overview of the draft Noise Action Plans to Committee and to seek the Committee's assent to provide the attached consultation responses to DfI and GBBCA in respect of their draft Noise Action Plans.

- 1.5 The Committee is advised that the closing date for receipt of consultation responses to the Department for Infrastructure Roads, Environmental Noise Directive Round Three Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 is 16th November 2018, whereas the closing date for receipt of consultation responses to the George Best Belfast City Airport Environmental Noise Directive Round Three - Draft Noise Action Plan 2019-2024 was 26th October 2018. An extension to the submission date has been granted by GBBCA.

## 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report;

- on draft third round Noise Action Plans for DfI Roads, George Best Belfast City Airport and DAERA industry noise sources.

- 2.2 Members are asked to consider the;

- draft consultation responses in respect of the DfI Roads and George Best Belfast City Airport Draft Noise Action Plans, attached as Appendices 1 and 2 to this report, and to recommend that these responses be forwarded to DfI Roads and to George Best Belfast City Airport.

2.3 Members are advised that the consultation responses will be marked as being in draft format and subject to ratification by Council at its next scheduled meeting of 3rd December 2018.

3.0 Main report

Department for Infrastructure Roads - Noise Action Plan 2018-023.

3.1 Dfi has advised that 3rd round noise mapping has taken account of all major roads across Northern Ireland with more than 3 million vehicle passages per year and all roads within the Belfast Agglomeration. Dfi has further advised that whilst the legislation does not include noise limit values, Dfi has been recommended to identify those locations where the top 1% of the population are affected by the highest noise levels.

3.2 As a consequence of the roads noise modelling, Dfi has identified a series of approximately 19 Candidate Noise Management Areas (CNMAs) across Belfast. Accordingly, CNMAs within the Belfast City Council area include at road locations such as the A12 Westlink, M2 Motorway at Glasgow Street and at the Whitewell Road, Ballygomartin Road, Shore Road, Beersbridge Road, Carrick Hill, Upper Dunmurry Lane, Parkgate Avenue, My Lady's Road and at Broadway.

3.3 For those CNMAs located around the A12 Westlink corridor and the M2 Motorway, it is noted that some of the proposed mitigation measures, such as noise barriers and low noise surfacing, were identified during previous round of noise mapping but have not yet been implemented. These measures have therefore been carried forward into the draft third round Noise Action Plan with a planned revised delivery date of 2023. For other areas of the city, mitigation measures include the introduction of initiatives such as car pools, cycle to work schemes and a greater use of public transport. Dfi has also identified that some of the CNMAs could benefit from their proximity to the new Belfast Rapid Transit. All of these softer measures that rely on 'modal shift' also have a delivery date of 2023.

3.4 It is considered however, that where residential properties have been determined by Dfi to be subject to excessive road noise levels, more affirmative mitigation measures should be considered by the Department, as opposed to relying upon the introduction of initiatives such as car pools, cycling to work schemes and encouraging the use of public transport. Furthermore, it is unclear who would be responsible for introducing specific measures such as car pools and cycle to

work schemes for the various CNMAs and how their implementation and impact could be monitored in order that road transport noise levels are reduced to acceptable levels by 2023.

- 3.5 Moreover, it is noted that some of the mitigation measures proposed for the A12 Westlink at Little Georges Street form part of the York Street Interchange upgrade and that acoustic barriers and low noise surfacing proposed for the M2 Motorway, adjacent to the Whitewell Road, have been carried over from previous Noise Action Plans. All of these engineering solutions will require significant financial resources to be secured.

George Best Belfast City Airport Draft Noise Action Plan 2019-024.

- 3.6 GBBCA has advised that the Airport's strategic noise maps have been based on aircraft movements during the calendar year of 2016. Noise maps have been presented as noise contours for several indicators relating to the average noise level in decibels (dB) over specific periods of time.
- 3.7 In referring to the various noise maps, it is noted that the number of dwellings exposed to more than 50 dB LAeq, 16-hour has reduced from 25,326 in the second round of noise mapping (2011 data) to 15,475 dwellings in the third round of noise mapping (2016 data), with a corresponding drop in population exposure from 51,955 to 34,348. Furthermore, there has also been a reduction in the size of all END indicators in round 3 as compared to round 2, with the exception of the 65 – 69 dB L<sub>night</sub> contour band, which does not include any residential or sensitive receptors.
- 3.8 It is also noted that the reduction in the size of the mapped contours and subsequently the reduction in the number of dwellings and population exposed to the higher noise bands appears largely due to a change in the fleet mix at the airport, with a drop in the number of jet aircraft movements and an increase in the number of quieter turbo propeller aircraft. The Dash 8 Q400 is considered to be a relatively quiet aircraft and presently makes up a large proportion of aircraft movements at GBBCA.
- 3.9 GBBCA has highlighted that for round 3 of the noise mapping, the top 1% of the population exposed to the highest noise levels equates to 343 people or approximately 155 dwellings as compared to 520 people and 250 dwellings in round 2. These dwellings are located next to the Sydenham Bypass in the areas of Sydenham and Ballymacarrett.

- 3.10** Accordingly, the Airport, on consideration of the noise reduction measures already in place, including those contained within the 2008 Planning Agreement and the existing voluntary measures detailed in the round 2 noise action plan, the community attitudes survey and the regulatory and policy framework has determined that it is not appropriate to designate any Candidate Noise Management Areas as part of its 3rd round Noise Action Plan.
- 3.11** Government has recognised however, that the onset of annoyance or nuisance can occur in lower noise contour bands and has highlighted that the Environmental Noise Directive does not preclude competent authorities from considering the impact of noise beyond the top 1% of the population affected. On this basis, the Council would recommend that GBBCA should consider actions that might be taken to reduce exposure to aircraft noise in these lower noise level contour bands.
- 3.12** Additionally, the Council notes that there is a reduction in the number of schools and colleges exposed to more than 50 dB LAeq 16-hour and that no hospitals or hospices are exposed to noise at or above this level. Whilst none of these premises qualify for noise insulation, the committee is reminded that GBBCA does support a range of local educational institutions through its Community Fund /Corporate Responsibility Programme.
- 3.13** It is noted that no residential or 'sensitive premises' qualify for a Noise Insulation Grant at this time. Whilst the Environmental Noise Directive does not specify what constitutes 'sensitive premises', GBBCA has referred to the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) guidance for airport operators in England. Accordingly, GBBCA has considered schools, colleges, hospitals and hospices. The Council would recommend however, that residential or nursing homes should also be considered as sensitive premises within the Airport's noise insulation qualification criteria. In advancing this recommendation, the Council recognises that GBBCA will have to consider the economic costs of any proposed actions and balance them against the likely health improvements that could be achieved.

**DAERA Industry Noise Action Plan Round 3.**

- 3.14** DAERA has advised that for the 3rd round of noise mapping and action planning, 130 industrial sites were mapped, of which 108 are located within the Belfast agglomeration. Of these, 62 are located within the Port area of Belfast. The noise mapping

involves an assessment of the area, the number of dwellings and the number of people exposed to industrial noise.

- 3.15** A comparison between round 2 and 3 results reveals that whilst a slightly greater total area is affected by noise levels greater than 50dB LAeq 16 hour, the number of dwellings and the population affected have reduced to approximately one-third of what they were in round 2.
- 3.16** DAERA has reported that the round 3 noise mapping results are very positive, particularly given that only six individuals and four properties were affected by the top 1% of industrial noise in Round 2. These properties were investigated and found to be non-residential and thus no further action was deemed necessary.
- 3.17** DAERA has additionally reported that based on the round 3 noise mapping results, 246 people within the Belfast agglomeration experience industry noise levels of 50dB LAeq 16-hour or more. 1% of this number is 2.4 people (rounded to 2 people) equating to 2 properties. Analysis of the available data has shown that 7 properties fall within the 60-64 dB LAeq 16-hour range. The two residential buildings with the highest exposure in this range are located near an industrial IPPC site located on the eastern edge of the Belfast Agglomeration, near Knock/Dundonald, outside the Belfast City Council boundary. DAERA has stated that if the modelled noise levels at this location are found to be realistic of ambient conditions, then consideration will be given to noise reduction measures already in place and what further action can be taken before the location is considered for identification as a CNMA.
- 3.18** On this basis, DAERA has advised that noise from Part A PPC installations are controlled by conditions in Part A PPC permits, (including noise management plans where appropriate), which are assessed as part of periodic routine site inspections. DAERA has further advised that noise emissions from Part B and C industrial installations are controlled by District Councils using Statutory Nuisance provisions under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Where the top 1% of properties are affected by noise from either part B or C processes, the Department will liaise with the relevant District Council to determine whether or not complaints have been received. However, DAERA has stated that noise from Part B and C PPC installations is not thought to be a significant issue within the Belfast Agglomeration, nor a significant contributor to the combined impact from other sources of noise.

- 3.19 Accordingly, it is considered that no consultation response is required in respect of the DAERA Industry Noise Action Plan Round 3.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.20 No financial or resource implications have been identified.

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

- 3.21 No Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs implications.”

The Committee endorsed the draft consultation responses, available on the Council’s website [here](#) and [here](#) in respect of the Department for Infrastructure Roads and George Best Belfast City Airport Environmental Draft Noise Action Plans. It was noted that, in order to meet the deadlines, the responses would be submitted in draft form which would be subject to ratification by the Council.

**Stadia Community Benefits Initiative**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and update on the action plan.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the content of the report.

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.

- 3.2 The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits, and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative (‘the Project’) to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting

equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.

- 3.3** In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it is anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in gaelic games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. It is anticipated that gaelic games programmes will be fully incorporated into the action plan in the next financial year and that GAA representatives will join the governance structure at Delivery Board and Policy and Performance Board level.
- 3.4** The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary. Formal review of the agreement will be carried out in years 5 and 10.
- 3.5** The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:
- Number of coaching sessions provided
  - Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching
  - Number of sessions improving club governance
  - Number of volunteering opportunities
  - Participation opportunities for under 16s
  - Female participation rates
  - Number of people completing skills development programme
  - Number of sessions for under-represented groups
  - Number of sessions for school and youth groups
  - Community group usage of stadia
  - Number of clubs attaining club-mark
  - Educational opportunities
  - Number of programmes targeting ASB
  - Improved collaborative working



**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

- **Number of disabled participants**
  - **Number of older people participating**
- 3.6** Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, an annual work-plan was developed for year 1(17-18), with programme delivery commencing in April 2017. The annual plan for year 1 featured 19 projects ranging from volunteer conferences to setting up new disability sections within existing clubs. The 2017-2018 programme created participation opportunities for under-presented groups: 2267(U16's), 421(females), 263(older people) and 86(people with disabilities). This included the delivery of: 132 coaching sessions, education/skill development programmes (884 educational opportunities and 52 skill development opportunities) and 23 community events/tours at the Stadium.
- 3.7** Programme delivery for year 2(18-19) is currently under-way including similar programmes as last year, with additional support this year given to female development and street soccer. This has demonstrated an increase in female participation opportunities 648 (18-19, quarter 2 update) compared to annual figure of 421 female participation opportunities in year 17-18. The inclusion of the street soccer programme has helped to enhance our collaborative working and engage in the delivery of more ASB programmes compared to last year, including more ASB programmes targeting females.
- 3.8** At the end of quarter 2, the performance report for 2018-19 indicates that the majority of intermediate benefits are on target, with the exception of a small lag against 3 intermediate benefits (number of sessions for under-represented groups, ASB programmes and educational opportunities). The board received satisfactory assurance that these benefits would be caught up in quarter 3 and 4. Quarter 1 & 2 (18-19).
- 3.9** Olympia Leisure Centre (phase C) was officially opened on 21 June 2018. This has enabled the delivery of more community events and coaching programmes at the National Football Stadium. This has demonstrated an increase coaching sessions provided through the programme 182(18-19, quarter 2 update) compared to annual figure of 132 (17-18). Also this new facility has resulted in a noticeable increase in school/community group usage of the stadium, creating 93 community usage opportunities (18-19 quarter 2 update) compared to annual figure of 77 community usage opportunities (17-18).

### 3.10 Finance and Resource Implications

In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project.

Council's contribution has been targeted at football in year 1 and year 2 delivery. As the Partnership develops Council's contribution will be allocated proportionally across the planned programmes according to their respective contributions and outcomes.

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

There are no known implications."

The Committee noted the update.

### Community Centre Closures

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed Community Centre opening hours over the Christmas period 2018.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the majority of user groups took a break from their programmes and meetings over the holiday period and there was usually extremely low footfall and usage. She detailed that the following revised opening times for 2018 were proposed:

Christmas 2018			
Christmas Eve	Monday 24th Dec		
	9-5pm	Open	
	6-10pm	Closed	Annual Leave
Christmas Day	Tuesday 25th Dec	Closed	Statutory Holiday
Boxing Day	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Closed	Statutory Holiday
	Thurs.27 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 28th December	Closed	Annual Leave (2)
New Year's Eve	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Closed	Extra Statutory Holiday
New Year's Day	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Closed	Statutory Holiday

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

The Committee:

- agreed to the closure to the public of Belfast City Council Community Centres for defined seasonal periods at Christmas, subject to staff taking annual leave for any days that were not statutory holidays; and
- noted that any staff wishing to work over these periods on the non-statutory holidays would be facilitated.

**Expression of Interest – Heritage Lottery Fund and National Trust**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that the Future Park Accelerator (FPA) was a new initiative and joint venture between the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the National Trust. It was available to land owners and managers of public parks and green spaces throughout the United Kingdom. The fund was aimed at supporting innovative projects and applicants could apply for financial support of between £250k and £1million pounds.

The Director explained that the Council's proposed enhancement project focused on a City Wide Scale Project to enhance Belfast City Council sites for biodiversity whilst ensuring community involvement buy in. Activities would be undertaken across the City and the Council would not only involve existing park users but also would engage with new groups and communities to shape their local areas. A key focus would be on health and wellbeing, physical activity and participation, for example:

- proposals might include habitat management for pollinators which could include both semi-natural areas and horticultural features;
- horticultural improvements such as scoping alternative means of working for example around pesticide usage;
- restoration of habitats including hedgerows, woodland, wetlands, species rich grasslands etc;
- all proposals would be linked to upskilling staff and community groups in areas such as recording species and habitat management; and
- events programmes that would engage and enthuse Belfast ratepayers.

The Committee noted that this proposal aligned to the Belfast Agenda's Living Here priority to make Belfast a great place to live, it also supported the Future Parks Accelerator aim of promoting a step-change in how people engage with their parks in order to maximise public benefit, local potential and innovation.

The Director advised that, following receipt of the expression of interest, the funders would make an initial judgement on whether the idea demonstrated the potential to meet the FPA funding criteria. It would then decide whether to invite a full application form around the 26th November (to be confirmed).

**People and Communities,  
Tuesday, 6th November, 2018**

The Committee granted authority for officers to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Future Parks Accelerator, by the deadline of 19th November, to seek potential funding for proposed enhancement projects in Council parks and open spaces. If successful, it was agreed further that officers would progress and submit a full funding application (subject to Council ratification and agreement with the Director of Finance and Resources on any budgetary impact).

**Festive Lights in Belvoir Open Space**

The Committee was reminded that it had previously granted approval for the Belvoir Residents Association to erect a living Christmas tree on Belfast City Council land at Belvoir open space.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that Belvoir Area Residents Association had received external funding to purchase and plant the Christmas tree and it had received further external funding to decorate the tree with festive lights.

Approval from the Committee was sought to grant license to connect to a Council owned street light in Belvoir Park, subject to a successful application by the Belvoir Area Residents Association to Northern Ireland Electricity to use the electricity supply.

The Committee granted authority for festive lights to be erected on a living Christmas tree in Belvoir Open Space, subject to Belvoir Area Residents Association receiving the relevant approvals from the Council and Northern Ireland Electricity.

**Location of a Sandbag Container  
at Mount Eagles Playground**

The Committee considered a report seeking permission to locate a sandbag container near Mount Eagles Playground, on ground owned by Belfast City Council. The container would store sandbags and bags of rocksalt for use by the community during flooding and severe winter weather.

The Committee was advised that there had, in the past, been issues with flash flooding in the Lagmore area and the nearest sandbag container was located a considerable distance away at Finaghy Road North. In addition to the potential flooding issues, residents had also raised concern regarding the lack of salt provision for local residents during icy conditions.

The Committee noted that the roads in the areas were unadopted and the Department for Infrastructure was unable to provide grit boxes at this time, therefore, as an interim measure it had agreed to locate a sandbag container in the area which could also be used to store bags of rock salt. The DfI would maintain and replenish the container and Council staff would manage access to it in line with arrangements for other sandbag containers.

The Committee approved the location of a new sandbag container near Mount Eagles Playground for the storage of sandbags and bags of rock salt.

**Temporary Structure at Alderman  
Tommy Patton Memorial Park – Verbal Update**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that, at its meeting held on 7th August, it had agreed not to grant permission to East Belfast Football Club to install a temporary container on the Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park. Accordingly, a letter had been forwarded to the Club instructing it to advise the Council of its proposed arrangements for removal of the structure no later than 2nd November. The Director advised that, an e-mail had been received earlier today, on behalf of East Belfast Football Club Management Committee, seeking permission to extend the deadline until 31st December, to enable it to explore alternative options.

Following discussion, it was,

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

That the Committee agrees not to grant an extension to the East Belfast Club to enable it to explore alternative options regarding the removal of the temporary structure at the Tommy Patton Memorial Park and that officers put the appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure the removal of the structure immediately.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the proposal and none against it was declared carried.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Homelessness - Councillor Heading**

It was agreed that representatives from Building Homes Now would be invited to present to a future special meeting of the Committee, with a date to be agreed with the Chairperson.

**Request to Present – The Belfast Advice Group – Councillor McReynolds**

It was agreed that representatives from the Belfast Advice Group would be invited to present to a future special meeting of the Committee, with a date to be agreed with the Chairperson.

Chairperson

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## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 7th November, 2018

### MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development  
Lead Officer; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

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

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 26th September and 10th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Restricted Items

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

### **Bank Buildings/City Recovery**

The Committee noted an update which had been provided by the Strategic Director of Place and Economy on the Bank Buildings/City Recovery Programme, in the context of planning and building control, city animation, environmental and physical improvements and the allocation of the Primark fund. The Committee noted also that it would, later in the meeting, be informed of proposals to establish a City Centre Regeneration Task Force to facilitate, amongst other things, the delivery of the City centre recovery programme.

### **Belfast Region City Deal**

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

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Committee that £350 million had been allocated within the Autumn Budget to the Belfast Region City Deal. That figure would rise to £850 million with contributions from the Northern Ireland Executive and the six councils and two universities involved in the initiative and would be boosted further by investment from the private sector.

He explained that, over the coming weeks, a Heads of Terms document would be signed off, which would allow for detailed business cases to be formulated for each project and, ultimately, for funding to be released.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

## **Presentations**

### **Enterprise Framework for Belfast**

The Committee agreed to receive at its monthly meeting in December a presentation from Steer Economic Development on the draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast.

## **Growing Business and the Economy**

### **Social Value Procurement and Inclusive Growth**

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on current engagement on social clauses and the emerging outcomes from a new approach aligned to the Leisure Transformation Programme.**



## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the report, including the social clause deliverables under the Leisure Transformation Programme investment; and
- ii. consider how the Council's social clause policy might be reviewed, in order to support delivery of Belfast Agenda commitments, including the focus on inclusive growth.

## **3.0 Main Report**

### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that, for some time, the Council has been engaged in a range of activities to support 'social value'. Social Value means measuring investment by using more than just commercial metrics and considering other impacts that have a more 'social' focus. The Social Value approach aligns with the commitments set out in the Belfast Agenda to support inclusive growth.
- 3.2 A range of work is currently being undertaken across the Council to support the delivery of social value through employability activities, support for the development of the social enterprise sector and the integration of social clauses within relevant procurement processes.
- 3.3 The Council has been integrating social clauses as part of its procurement processes for a number of years. The current policy commits the Council to scope out all upcoming tender opportunities (with a value of at least £250,000) to explore opportunities for securing social value by introducing social clauses.
- 3.4 Social clauses have been used in a number projects, mainly construction-focused, however it is recognised that the current approach is a relatively 'blunt' instrument to support Inclusive Growth. As a result, social value opportunities are often restricted to a 'shopping list' of social clauses (e.g. work placement opportunities, work trials) which are not designed specifically for the nature and circumstances of the contract to be procured. This means that opportunities are often missed to derive longer-term benefits for our communities and neighbourhoods.

- 3.5 Recognising the limitations of the current approach, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed, in November 2016, to trial the integration of social value as an evaluation criterion in the Council’s procurement activity. The key difference was that there was a series of questions asked at the application stage about how the contract would support the Council’s social value agenda, as well as delivering on the supplies and services at the core of the contract. Responses to these questions were then given relevant weighting as part of the tender evaluation process. This approach was undertaken for the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP), recognising the significant opportunity presented from this procurement due to its scale and contract duration.**
- 3.6 This approach allowed contractors to present a plan of activities aligned to the specific nature of the contract (i.e. leisure facilities in local areas) and the broader priorities contained within the Belfast Agenda. The contract has a maximum value of £60 million and has been awarded to Heron Brothers Ltd. It involves the redevelopment of three leisure centres, namely Andersonstown Leisure Centre, The Robinson Centre and Brook Activity Centre.**
- 3.7 The adoption of the social value approach for this contract has delivered a larger-scale and more comprehensive range of economic and social benefits for the Council and local communities than would ever have been achieved through the previous process (i.e. using social clauses as award criteria). Whilst the construction contract is still ongoing, a summary of the social value impacts achieved by the contractor to date includes:**

- Employment Opportunities included ring-fenced opportunities for the unemployed/economically inactive, creation of new apprenticeships and paid work experience opportunities. These translate to 2,340 employment weeks across the duration of this contract. To date the contractor has delivered 61% of this target and is on track to achieve 100% performance. A summary of the outcomes achieved to date are included in the table below:**

	<b>Actual Weeks</b>	<b>Individuals</b>
Employment for economically inactive and long-term unemployed	302	11
Apprenticeships supported	607	15
Paid Placement/Work Experience	509	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>40</b>

- **Supply Chain Opportunities:** the contractor has committed to develop supply chain links with the local supply chain, specifically micro, small businesses and social enterprises. To date, meet the buyer events have been held with local businesses and over 130 local suppliers have applied for supply chain opportunities, resulting in a 50% increase in the number of local suppliers entering the supply chain for the development;
- **Social enterprise development:** to support the social economy sector, Heron Bros. are enhancing the Council's Go Social programme by providing grant funding of £10,000 to help new social enterprises;
- **Community Engagement:** to connect to local communities in the vicinity of the leisure centre developments Heron Bros have sponsored a number of events and festivals, provided plant, labour and materials to support community activities and are undertaking volunteering projects e.g. they are supporting Reconnect NI, a charity located in West Belfast to lay a new patio and undertake ground works;
- **Sports Development:** Heron Bros have entered into a number of sponsorship arrangements e.g sponsoring Clonduff under 14's FC and the 'Run Belfast Hills' in partnership with North Belfast Harriers and National Trust; and
- **Education and Health Initiatives:** Heron Bros. are working in partnership with Groundwork NI to deliver the 'Grow Bus' to four schools in the vicinity of the sites to educate children on the benefits of eating fruit and vegetables.

**3.8** Taking account of the learning and linking in with good practice examples from other locations, there is an opportunity to consider how the Council could develop a more comprehensive approach to social value than is currently the case. This would focus on both the Council's direct investment and activities, as well as its leadership role in encouraging other public sector partners (particularly the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) to assume this approach. This is particularly important given the recent announcements around the City Deal and the significant investment that this will bring.

**3.9 It is recognised there is a range work already being undertaken including:**

- incorporation of social and economic benefits as part of the draft Developer Framework;
- development of an Inclusive Growth Framework, recognising the potential of procurement and developer contributions to support the achievement of the Council’s ambitions around inclusive growth;
- ongoing work to develop a poverty action plan for the City;
- work on the development of the ‘resourceful Belfast’ strategy, focusing on environmental management issues;
- integration of social value approaches in the development of North Foreshore; and
- ongoing engagement on the Innovation Factory contract, ensuring delivery of the ‘social regeneration’ commitments alongside the economic development targets.

**3.10 Given all of this activity and the ongoing push to consider how the Council can deliver on its commitment to ‘inclusive growth’, there is an opportunity to review the current social clause policy. The intention would be to standardise the integration of social value as part of the commissioning process and create a delivery mechanism to achieve social value and inclusive growth through the Council’s procurement processes.**

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

**The Social Clause Policy has undergone equality screening. All supply chain and employability activities will take account of access issues for residents and businesses located in rural areas.**

**3.12 Financial and Resource Implications**

**Any future resource implications associated will be highlighted in subsequent reports.”**

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- i. to note the contents of the report, including the social clause deliverables under the Leisure Transformation Programme investment; and

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

- ii. to adopt the social value approach, as alluded to within the report, to support the delivery of Belfast Agenda commitments, including the focus on inclusive growth, and to extend that approach to the Belfast City Region Deal.

**Update on Smart Belfast Programme**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our local universities, digital SMEs and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges, drive public service transformation, and support wider economic development in growth sectors of the city’s digital economy.**

**1.2 Delivery of the programme is driven by an ongoing ‘pipeline’ of projects specifically chosen for their capacity to contribute to the Urban Innovation Framework agreed by Council in 2017. An update report was presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September, 2018. Given its interest in this area of work, this paper provides the City Growth and Regeneration Committee with an update on the current activities.**

**2.0 Recommendation**

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

**3.0 Main Report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector to tackle urban challenges, drive public service transformation, and support wider economic development in growth sectors of the city’s digital economy. It operate at three levels:**

- (1) City and regional: Working with partners to develop the digital innovation elements of 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; and**
- (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 The team currently consists of four officers temporarily re-assigned but is in the process of recruiting seven full time staff. 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 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 has continued to deliver the smart city project.

3.4 An update was provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September 2018, and the Committee is asked to note a number of current and planned pipeline projects:

**Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) on Last Mile Freight Delivery**

3.5 The team has been working with Smart Dublin, the NI Department for Infrastructure, Belfast Business Improvement Districts, the NI Freight Transport Association, on a €240,000 SBRI competition to encourage SMEs to develop proofs of concepts to address the challenge of increasing numbers of van and lorry deliveries in both Dublin and Belfast city centres.

3.6 Here in Belfast, successful companies will explore the challenge from a number of perspectives including setting up 'micro-consolidation' centres to distribute goods to retail outlets using electric bikes and autonomous vehicles; creating 'virtual' loading bays that managed remotely via a mobile app; and working with freight companies to jointly schedule freight delivery slots into the city centre.

**Amazing Places, Smart Places SBRI challenge**

- 3.7 Working with the NI Department for Justice, the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies, the Council successfully applied to the Northern Ireland SBRI Change programme for £100,000 to work with digital SMEs to develop innovative ways to support the management of public space in the city (particularly in our parks).
- 3.8 The competition closes on 14th November and will provide opportunities for up to six companies to work with the city to explore how data science and digital technologies can support better understanding of issues associated with safe open space.
- 3.9 The competition has attracted substantial local and national interest. For example, the Smart Dublin team may be able to offer complementary funding to allow interested companies to also test their ideas in a number of parks in Dublin city centre.

**Things Connected challenge competition**

- 3.10 Working with Ulster University, the UK Digital Catapult, and other NI local authorities, the Smart Belfast team ran an open competition to encourage local companies to explore ways in which the region's new 'Internet of Things' (IoT) radio network can be used to support city centre services and the citizen's experience of the public realm. (The IoT network was established following a £100,000 joint bid to Digital Catapult by Smart Belfast and Ulster University and is free-to-use by local companies – more than 50 local companies have already registered to use the network.)
- 3.11 'IoT' is expected to be a significant technology for businesses over the next decade, and the competition provides local companies with unique opportunities to build their skills while at the same time working with councils on real-world applications.
- 3.12 Two SMEs have 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
- 3.13 Alongside the competition, the Council also arranged free training for over 60 SMEs in managing cloud-based Internet of Things applications.

**Maritime Mile demonstrator project**

- 3.14 The Smart Belfast team has 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.
- 3.15 Smart Belfast is working with the Titanic Foundation and Tourism NI (who have offered match-funding) and IoT company, 'Hello Lamp Post', to co-invest in a small-scale demonstrator project that will use mobile phone technology to encourage pedestrians to interact with 'Artificial Intelligence chat-bots' along the maritime mile. The learning and data from this demonstrator will then be used to inform the future use of smart technologies in public space and in a future smart district.
- 3.16 Hello Lamp Post are also planning to bid to a €3 million 'SynchroniCity' IoT fund to develop this work further in Belfast and in Eindhoven.

**UK Space Agency Call For Ideas**

- 3.17 Urban air quality and its links to health outcomes is a growing issue at the national and international level. Smart Belfast is currently involved in a UK Space Agency funded project with a consortium of SMEs, the Belfast Health Trust and Department for Health. 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.
- 3.18 Building on this work, the SME consortium is now bidding to the Space Agency for an even more ambitious air quality project.

**Business Rates Maximisation**

- 3.19 Following a £140,000 SBRI competition in 2017 that sought to use big data to identify additional business rates incomes and improve the accuracy of the city's Rates Register (the competition identified over £300,000 of additional Rates income), the Council is now moving to procure a Business Rates data tool.
- 3.20 Two companies that successfully delivered the SBRI have used the experience to develop market-ready products that are being sought by a number of other UK cities. The project



also featured in the UK Government's Industrial Growth strategy.

#### Smart Tourism

- 3.21 Smart Belfast is facilitating a 'collaborative growth' network of twelve SMEs that has come together to develop joint innovations that generate and/or utilize that have come together to develop joint innovations to generate and/or utilize tourism data.
- 3.22 Invest NI is providing £25,000 to each network and if they develop sufficiently robust business cases they will be able to access a further £175,000 each.

#### Data Analytics for Economic Activity

- 3.23 The team has worked with local SME 'Expand Access' to successfully bid to a €1 million EIT Digital Call. This project, which includes partners from Helsinki and University of Madrid and Future Cities Catapult, seeks to bring together a wide range of economic, skills, employment and business data to develop comprehensive analyses to inform decisions by both by individual businesses and public policy makers.

#### Health Analytics

- 3.24 Smart Belfast is facilitating a 'collaborative growth network of local SMEs that has come together to develop joint innovations that generate and/or utilize health data to incentivize local people to take part in healthy activities.
- 3.25 Invest NI is providing £25,000 to the network and if it develops a sufficiently robust business case the SMEs will be able to access a further £175,000.

#### Belfast Bikes R and D project

- 3.26 Over the past twelve months the team has been working with local SME, See,Sense, BT, the Department for Infrastructure, NSL, PSNI and QUB on a joint R and D project that deployed 75 sensors on the Belfast Bikes. The data from this project is being used to better understand usage of the scheme and wider cycling behaviour across the City.

**3.27 Financial and Resource Implications**

The 2018/2019 programme budget for Smart Belfast was agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in November, 2017.

**3.28 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 recommendation.

**Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

**Inner North West Masterplan**

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer 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 the final draft of the Inner North West Masterplan for approval by Members.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to:**

- i. approve the final Inner North West Masterplan;**
- ii. note the supporting documentation for the Masterplan, including the public consultation report, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Rural Needs Assessment and EQIA Screening; and**
- iii. note that further details of a Delivery Plan aligned to the Masterplan will be brought back to Committee in the near future setting out proposed priorities.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**Background**

- 3.1** As per previous reports, Members are aware that, as part of the delivery of the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), a number of more detailed plans were to be commissioned to help support and shape city centre developments. The Inner North West (INW) Masterplan is part of the implementation of BCCRIS and the City Growth and Regeneration Committee gave approval in October 2016 for master planning work to be undertaken. Following a workshop with Members in November, 2017, a draft Masterplan was brought to Committee in January, 2018 and it was agreed to go out for consultation on the basis of the draft Masterplan that was brought to Committee. Details of the subsequent consultation is set out below.

**Location**

- 3.2** The INW area as shown in the Masterplan forms a critical part of the city centre and is bounded by the Millfield/Carrick Hill road to the northwest, College Street to the south, Fountain Street to Fountain Lane to the south and Royal Avenue to the east and covers 17.2 hectares (42 acres). The area is located at the convergence of four different types of land uses: residential to the west and north; retail to the east; education to the north and mixed use to the south, including the new Transport Hub. A location map has been circulated to the Committee.
- 3.3** As outlined to the Committee in October 2017, the purpose of the Masterplan is to guide development in this part of the city. The area is currently underdeveloped and in need of significant investment to ensure coherent proposals come forward as part of wider strategic development of the city. The Inner North West is experiencing significant change, mostly as a result of a number of approved and planned development opportunities in the wider area and will benefit from a more holistic consideration of the key issues associated with these emerging activities such as transport, connectivity, built heritage, mixed-use developments, residential accommodation, and design.

### Engagement and Communication Programme

#### *Public Consultation Programme*

- 3.4 In January 2018, the Committee agreed to a 12-week public consultation and the 12-week formal consultation period began on 13th February 2018 and concluded on 8th May 2018. Effort was made to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including residents, businesses, statutory partners and developers. The detail of the engagement process and responses was reported to Committee in August 2018. In total, 16 different engagement activities took place and these were attended by approximately 225 people. The consultation report has been circulated to Members.

#### *Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment*

- 3.5 The statutory consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment ran between 9th July and 1st October, 2018. The feedback from this consultation, combined with the findings from the INW consultation, has formed the final Masterplan.

#### *Statutory Partners*

- 3.6 Engagement with statutory partners included the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Translink, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Historic Environment Division. The feedback received from them shaped the final document and discussions will continue during the development of the delivery plan. Feedback was also received from Council departments.

#### *Party Group Briefings*

- 3.7 As part of the ongoing engagement with Members, Party Group Briefings were held in October on the final Masterplan. In addition to discussion about content within the Masterplan, the following issues were highlighted by Members:

- City centre living important if Belfast Agenda growth ambitions are to be realised but importance of high quality housing and good management highlighted;
- Represents a significant opportunity in city centre for mixed use development;
- Shared and mixed tenure housing to be considered as part of overall development proposals;

- Alignment of city centre living and licensing requirements /night time economy;
- Significant public sector owned land in the area provides public sector the opportunity to drive and shape development in the area;
- Links and connectivity to surrounding neighbourhoods is critical to development in the area and city centre development should not be inward facing;
- Consultation on the Masterplan represents a point in time but there remains a need to react to changing circumstances – as with the Bank Buildings fire;
- Renewed focus to be given to that area most impacted by the Bank Buildings fire;
- Various views expressed on whether or not pedestrianisation of parts of the study area should be considered as part of future development proposals;
- Impact of the inner ring road on air quality and new developments;
- Role of Section 76 agreements to deal with impacts of development in the area;
- Importance of open and green spaces as an integral part of overall development of the area;
- Importance of heritage in regeneration; and
- The University Ulster should have a pivotal role in ensuring that the impact of their proposed development and increases in student numbers is properly managed and reflects the aspirations of the INW Masterplan for those lands adjoining the UU.

3.8 Many of the comments from the Party Group Briefings are also reflected in the Consultation Report, a copy of which has been circulated.

#### Final draft Inner North West Masterplan

3.9 The final draft Masterplan, as enclosed with this report, reflects the public consultation process on the Masterplan as well as the subsequent Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulation Assessment consultation processes. As set out in the Masterplan, it provides a framework to help shape the emerging opportunities in this part of the city and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development to create a new city centre mixed neighbourhood which:

- incorporates a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm;

- takes into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain;
- reinstates the historically vibrant economy of the Inner North West area;
- promotes 'city centre living', with its social and environmental benefits;
- strengthens the city centre's urban fabric and streetscapes;
- supports and strengthens pedestrian connections within the city centre and to/from adjoining neighbourhoods; and
- delivers the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, in line with the Local Development Plan.

- 3.10 As a result of the feedback to the public consultation and to the subsequent Strategic Environmental Assessment the draft Masterplan has been amended, in particular, the vision has been updated and states:

*'The INW will be transformed to create a vibrant place to live, work, shop and relax across a series of mixed-use, shared neighbourhoods. The existing heritage and community assets alongside new investment including commercial, residential and higher education developments will produce a welcoming quarter embodied by creativity, innovation, quality design, culture and well-being in the heart of the city centre'.*

- 3.11 The following objectives as set out in the final draft Masterplan support this vision and largely remain the same from those in the initial draft (except for the first point, which includes a focus on the environment):

1. **Heritage and Natural Environment**: To reuse and integrate the existing heritage and respect the natural environment
2. **Homes**: To deliver a variety of residential accommodation or tenures
3. **Workspaces**: To provide high quality and distinctive work and employment spaces
4. **Retail**: To support city centre retail activity
5. **Leisure and culture**: To improve and support the existing offer and create links to new and existing create and cultural activity
6. **Public realm**: To provide a high quality public realm to create green, walkabout and cyclable space
7. **Well-Being**: To promote sustainable communities, quality urban design and help create a welcoming and attractive place for everyone

**8. Transport: To upgrade and manage the transport and parking facilities and promote active and sustainable transport**

- 3.12** The Inner North West Masterplan is underpinned by robust urban design principles that will help shape proposals coming forward and has at its heart the intention to create a new city centre, mixed neighbourhood. Whilst a number of these have been reworded and the supporting text amended as a result of the consultation the over-arching focus on reducing severance, creating a mixed and vibrant quarter and creating a strong street hierarchy and integrated parking remain. These principles shape the proposals outlined within the ten character areas highlighted in the Masterplan, which include: Queen Street, Castle Street and King Street, North Street and Carrick Hill/Millfield amongst others.

**Planning policy context and the Local Development Plan**

- 3.13** Members will be aware that the draft LDP Plan Strategy is open for consultation until 15 November. The INW Masterplan is in line with the emerging policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy that supports population growth, sustainable development and the city's ambitions in relation to the inclusive growth agenda. However, it will still be considerable time before we are in a position to bring forward the site specific Local Policies Plan (LPP) setting out details at a more local level and a providing significant element of the spatial articulation to the adopted policy.
- 3.14** The process for the development of the LPP is likely to involve a review of documents and frameworks, such as the INW Masterplan. The LDP Plan Strategy may then provide a container for such documents to be brought forward as a form of Supplementary Planning Guidance and thereby give weight to the principles or elements of the Strategy as a more detailed articulation of LDP policy. This, subject to a consultation and adoption process at that stage, would provide for more weight to be afforded to the document in the decision-making process for planning.
- 3.15** Until the adoption of the Plan Strategy, the INW masterplan and similar documents have limited statutory weight in formal planning decision making. However, it should be recognised that they can, in common with other documents, still be material to and enhance the consideration of development proposals especially where additional or more up to date data informs the context for a decision.

- 3.16 In recognition of the timing of the approval of the INW masterplan in relation to the public consultation process on the LDP Plan Strategy, the 'Planning Context' section of the Masterplan has been amended with the following text:

*'At present the Inner North West Masterplan is a non-statutory document. However, following the adoption of the LDP Plan Strategy, the Council will be in a position to review the INW Masterplan with a view to bringing it forward as a form of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). In order for it to have more weight as a SPG document the Council would have to take it through a formal process involving consultation. Following this, the principles or spatial elements of the Masterplan could then be considered to provide a more detailed articulation of LDP policy.'*

Next Steps/Delivery

- 3.17 Development in the INW will be driven by investment from both the public and private sectors. Whilst private sector investment is essential there is also a significant role for the public sector, working with the private sector and other stakeholders, in helping to shape and deliver regeneration in this part of the city. There is also a significant amount of publicly owned land in the area which provides the opportunity for the public sector to influence and drive development in a co-ordinated manner. The Masterplan has been produced in consultation with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) with a view towards collaboration in delivering the Masterplan's vision.
- 3.18 Following agreement on the Masterplan, it is proposed to bring forward an aligned INW Delivery Plan setting out proposed priorities and projects (in collaboration with others). The draft Masterplan sets out some proposals in the Delivery Section as to how the Council will work with others to help realise the ambitions in the Masterplan. The Delivery Plan elements remain to be agreed in detail and will be brought back to Committee in the near future but the Masterplan notes the following proposals:
- Work with DfC and the private sector to review their land holdings within the Inner North West, and consider which sites may be brought forward for development;
  - Support DfC and DfI to bring forward additional public realm improvements where funding permits;



- Proposed Infrastructure Study to reflect need for improvements to public transport in and around the Inner North West;
- Utilise this document to inform discussions with developers as they come forward with proposals in the area;
- Use Masterplan to inform drafting of the LDP and LPP.
- Engage with private sector landowners to understand barriers to development;
- Bring forward the development of the Belfast Telegraph building;
- Consider targeted business support and economic regeneration initiatives;
- Explore opportunities for meanwhile or interim uses; and
- Focused action plan for those areas most impacted by the Bank Buildings fire.

3.19 As a result of the recent fire at Bank Buildings, it is recognised that there needs to be a renewed focus on that part of the City. As a key part of the proposed Delivery Plan for the Masterplan, it is intended to bring forward a focused action plan for the area surrounding Bank Buildings to address the shorter and longer-term impacts of the recent fire. Further reports will be brought back to Committee on this.

3.20 It is also worth noting that the Council remains involved with a number of other strategic projects such as Streets Ahead, York Street Interchange, Clarendon Masterplan, Clifton Street Gateway and Belfast Region City Deal, all of which will affect the INW and provide opportunities to increase connections, support coherent development and achieve the aspirations of the Masterplan.

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Consultation on the draft EQIA Screening was held as part of the Inner North West Masterplan. The Rural Needs Impact Assessment found that the Masterplan involves the development of an inner city area and will have no direct impact in rural areas.

3.22 Finance and Resource Implications

None directly associated with this report.”

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

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that the Inner Northwest Masterplan and associated documents were available on the Council's website [here](#).

**City Centre Regeneration Task Force**

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reminded the Members that significant effort had been put into responding to and managing the impact of the fire which had destroyed the Bank Buildings.

He reported that the Council had, from a public sector perspective, assumed the lead role in the recovery process, which had involved ongoing liaison with a number of Central Government departments and public sector bodies, such as the Departments for Communities and for Infrastructure, Translink and Visit Belfast. That process had had significant staffing and financial resource implications for the Council and, whilst it had been recognised that it would be likely to continue over the coming months, it was essential that the public sector also adopted a strategic view on how to maximise current efforts to revitalise the City centre in the longer term.

He explained that discussions had taken place recently between senior Council officers, the Head of the Civil Service and Permanent Secretaries around the need to adopt a collaborative approach to City recovery. It had been agreed that a City Centre Regeneration Task Force, comprised of Permanent Secretaries, should be established and be chaired jointly by the Council's Chief Executive and the Head of the Civil Service. It was envisaged that the Task Force would provide the strategic oversight and direction to facilitate the delivery of the ongoing City centre recovery and revitalisation plans in both the short and longer terms and a high level forum for considering cross-cutting issues and proposals for collaborative working and co-investment. Its Terms of Reference would require approval by the participants and it was the intention that the inaugural meeting would be held within the next month. In addition to the proposed Task Force, there would continue to be ongoing liaison with businesses, their representative bodies and other stakeholders.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee note the proposal to establish a City Centre Regeneration Task Force, as outlined, and that it would receive on a quarterly basis an update on the work of the Task Force.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Positioning Belfast to Compete**

**Update on International Relations – Nashville**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 10th October, it had, in receiving an update on the International Relations Action Plan, agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting outlining the rationale behind a decision not to attend the Health:Further conference which had been held in August in Nashville.

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

The Director of Economic Development drew the Members' attention to the fact that the Council had, in May, hosted a cross sectoral delegation from Boston and Nashville, Belfast's two US Sister Cities. He reported that Mr. Marcus Whitney, one of the Nashville delegates, had visited the City for the first time to explore the life and health sciences sector and identify opportunities for future capital funding. Mr. Whitney had been impressed by the quality of the research expertise and business innovation locally and had felt that there were opportunities for collaboration with Nashville-based businesses and investment potential. Upon his return, he had met with representatives of Invest NI's office in Chicago and had invited Northern Ireland-based companies and economic development players to attend the Health:Further conference, to enable them to meet with their counterparts in Nashville. The Committee, at its meeting on 13th June, had approved the attendance at the event of its Chairperson and the Director of Economic Development (or their nominees).

The Director of Economic Development reported further that, during June and July, officers had met with representatives of Catalyst Inc., Invest NI and potential delegates to explore the potential for attending the conference in Nashville. However, there had not been sufficient interest expressed by individual businesses or by the business support organisations to merit the visit proceeding and, as a result, the Council delegation had not travelled to Nashville.

He pointed out that, since then, Council officers had continued to engage with Mr. Whitney and with representatives of Nashville's economic development team and Invest NI's office in Chicago to examine future opportunities for Belfast companies within Nashville's life and health sciences sector. It was felt that additional research was required to identify potential opportunities, with a view to increasing interest amongst local businesses for future initiatives and visits.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

**NI Science Festival 2019**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on a request for sponsorship for the 2019 Northern Ireland Science Festival, based on the success of the 2018 event. This will be the Science Festival's 5th annual event, with activities running from 14th till 24th February, 2019 in venues and locations across Belfast and NI.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is requested to:**

- i. note the contents of this report; and**

- ii. agree to provide sponsorship of £35,000 from existing budgets for the Northern Ireland Science Festival 2019.

### **3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1** The Northern Ireland Science Festival has been taking place annually since 2015. The 2018 Festival which ran for 11 days in February offered a wide range of events focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. During the day, the Festival presented workshops, talks and interactive activities for young people, schools and parents. In the evening, the Festival programme presented an eclectic range of science debates, talks, theatre, comedy, film and music for adult audiences. Overall, the programme held 183 events with local and international input, held across 92 different venues in NI demonstrating a significant increase in outreach from the previous year and exceeding 2018 targets.
- 3.2** The Science Festival is organised by Science Festivals NI and a unique collaboration of major STEM outreach organisations in Northern Ireland. Funding for the event was provided by a number of organisations including the Department for the Economy, Tourism NI, Queen's University, Ulster University, the MCS Group, the Matrix Panel, the British Council, and Belfast City Council.
- 3.3** As cited in previous reports, Science Festivals are a relatively new type of event with global appeal and increasing audience popularity worldwide. New York, Edinburgh, San Francisco and Dubai all host large-scale science events as part of their wider cultural frameworks. In 2015, the inaugural NI Science Festival joined this international group by becoming the largest festival of its kind on the island of Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. Since the first Festival in 2015, the event has continued to go from strength to strength with its increasing reputation allowing it to secure globally significant guests such as the astronaut Chris Hadfield and to host the annual internationally acclaimed Turing Lecture.
- 3.4** The 2018 Festival was considered to be a major success, exceeding agreed targets and competing with other established science festivals. Points of note included:
- 183 events spread across 92 different venues across NI, with the majority of activity taking place in Belfast;

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

- an increase in audience figures from 63,000 people attending in 2017, to 69,000 people attending in 2018;
- 55% of the audience consisted of children and young people under the age of 18, including participating schools;
- 95% satisfaction rate was recorded from Festival attendees, with 73% stating that participation had increased their interest in STEM;
- development of a strategic partnership with Libraries NI which resulted in a dedicated ‘Science Books’ area in all 98 libraries across the region;
- the BBC ran a NI Science Festival Arts Show specially dedicated to examining the links between arts and science;
- according to media monitoring company Nimms, the total PR coverage generated by the Festival was estimated to be in excess of £200,000. Inclusion of the astronaut Chris Hadfield in the programme also received significant media attention from journalists generating over 100 print articles in newspapers alone. The Festival’s growing international reputation has allowed it to secure some of the top names in science, attracting global media attention on the city

**3.5 Proposed 2019 Programme**

The 2019 Festival will take place from 14th till 24th February 2019. The core objective of the Festival continues to be a commitment to reaching a broad and diverse audience to increase the accessibility of science and to promote learning. This is in line with the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda to improve skills and employability, make the city an attractive location for investors and to build cultural vibrancy. This will once again be achieved through a series of events and partnerships that link science into different areas of interest. Some key details from the programme which is due to be launched in January 2019 include:

- Professor Brian Cox’s Universal World Tour in the SSE Arena;
- an international exhibition and VR experience from the Science Museum featuring the Soyuz Capsule which carried Tim Peake in to space;

- a specific focus on women in STEM;
- the annual Turing Lecture;
- an ‘artist in residence’ programme in partnership with the British Council;
- several events focused on key issues in tech such as cyber security, smart cities and the internet of things;
- events with key Belfast City Council initiatives including the Tropical Ravine, parks and Belfast Zoo; and
- Titanic Belfast STEM Quest Final which is aimed at school children throughout Northern Ireland at Key Stage 3 Level.

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

**3.7** A postcode analysis for the Festival continues to indicate that a large proportion of the previous Festivals’ audiences come from outside Belfast. This is reflected in the support from organisations including Tourism NI. It is also in keeping with emerging Council thinking on how events can celebrate the areas for which the city is renowned (engineering, innovation, cyber technology) while, at the same time, driving footfall and spend in the city.

**3.8** **Financial and Resource Implications**

The overall budget for the event is in the region of £270,000. This is made up by commitments from a range of public and private supporters including:

- £83,000 - from the Department for the Economy
- £5,000 from the British Council
- £20,000 from Queen's University
- £20,000 from Ulster University
- £25,000 from Tourism NI
- £10,000 from the Matrix Panel
- £10,000 from Innovate UK
- £17,500 from Derry and Strabane District Council
- £10,000 from Corporate sponsors
- The Festival anticipates ticket sales to generate around £35,000.

3.9 The allocation requested from Belfast City Council is £35,000, in line with the funding allocations made since 2015. This funding is has been set aside within existing Departmental budget estimates.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no specific equality or good relations considerations attached to this report. Activities will take place all across NI, focusing on Belfast.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Committee Plan 2018/2019 – Six Month Update

The Director of Economic Development submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report provides a six month progress report on the key actions contained in the City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan, as agreed by Committee in April, 2018. It provides an update on progress with the key actions, in particular highlighting the work undertaken in terms of jobs growth, skills development, cultural investment and regeneration and development.

1.2 In total, over the last six months, 1,868 jobs have been created directly or indirectly, 1,905 individuals have been supported through employability interventions and 1,243 businesses have been supported to either start-up, grow or develop their international profile.

1.3 The Plan draws together several annual delivery plans; such as city centre development, support for businesses, employability and skills, tourism and the cultural framework. It sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee is overseeing to maximise the Council's contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda that, at its core, has a commitment to inclusive growth.

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

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

## 2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of the report and that officers are continuing to progress the actions within the City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2018-2019, as agreed by the Committee in April, 2018.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Key Issues

3.1 The 2018-2019 Committee Plan was developed in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth and the importance of growing the local economy to improve the quality of life. The Committee contributes to the delivery of all 4 work-streams; however, Growing the Economy, City Development and Working and Learning are the focus of the Committee's responsibilities. The Committee therefore continues to take the lead in ensuring that there is connectivity between the need for economic growth and the purpose of this growth – to connect people to opportunity and reduce inequality.

3.2 Last month, the Committee noted the progress reports for the Growing the Economy, Working and Learning and International Relations annual work programmes. The Committee also receives regular updates on specific



programmes of work identified in the Plan to ensure progress on delivering the Council's investment and commitments to deliver on the Belfast Agenda.

- 3.3 An update against each of the main action areas in the Committee Plan has been circulated to Members. Key programmes of work will continue to feature regularly on the Committee agenda during the remaining period of the plan.
- 3.4 The Committee will note that significant resource and effort has been redirected to respond to, manage and re-vitalise the city centre because of the recent fire at Primark Bank Buildings. This effort will continue for the remainder of the financial year and into the longer term. Our plans and initial efforts in this will shape our future approach, which is likely to result in a reconfiguration of our priorities for city centre development, regeneration and investment. This will refresh the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

**Overview of Progress:**

- 3.5 A critical deliverable over the first six months of 2018/2019 has been the production and submission of the Belfast Region City Deal propositions for Employability and Skills, Regeneration and Tourism and Infrastructure. The Committee will continue to receive updates on the City Deal as work progresses.
- 3.6 Particular highlights for the 2018-2019 Committee Plan include:

***Growing the Economy***

- Created 174 jobs as a result of our engagement with 446 businesses and individuals to encourage them to start new businesses. This includes the creation of 17 jobs in social enterprises / co-operatives.
- Supported 533 indigenous businesses through our initiatives to encourage business to grow and increase their productivity, which has led to 246 new jobs.
- 10 Belfast based high growth start-ups participated in the MassChallenge accelerator bootcamp in Boston
- Launched the Belfast: City for Investment' support service to investors for a 2 year pilot period. 50 enquiries from potential investors are currently being managed.
- Working with Visit Belfast and Tourism Ireland, participated in Belfast's first Tourism Showcase in Shenyang, with 87 attendees from tourism, media and

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

operators sectors. The Lord Mayor also promoted Belfast at the World Cities Winter Conference.

- Delivered two successful Twilight Markets, with each Twilight Market attracting footfall of around 20,000.
- Contributed to the Members Workshop on developing an Inclusive Growth Framework with a draft Framework to be developed by the end of the year.

***City Development***

- Completed the East Bank Development Strategy and the Inner North West Masterplan final draft completed (being reported to this Committee), with aligned Delivery Plans being progressed.
- Ongoing liaison with public sector, developers, housing providers, community groups and key stakeholders to shape and influence key city centre regeneration, development and investment projects. Includes a joint BCC/DfC Regeneration Group; a Developers Forum; and various Project Boards & Reference Groups.
- Proposals progressed (including planning application) for the redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph building as a BCC/Private Sector Joint Venture project.
- City Centre Car Parks Baseline Review of BCC car parks undertaken with a strategic sites assessment of car park sites currently being progressed.
- Destination Hub draft Outline Business Case prepared and incorporated as part of the Belfast Region City Deal proposition
- ‘Meanwhile use’ animation programme commenced for specific areas of the city centre (including Castle Street and North Street) This is now being factored into a wider city centre animation and meanwhile use programme in response to the Bank Buildings Primark fire and city centre recovery efforts.
- Belfast at MIPIM 2019 launched in October 2018. To date, around 20 organisations have signed up to join the Belfast at MIPIM delegation. Work is continuing to build on this and develop the programme.
- Secured agreement to take forward an approach to invest in local areas to support the development of high quality, sustainable local tourism products

***Working and Learning***

- 139 participants have been engaged in the Employment Academy programmes, with 72 securing employment.

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

- Completed significant employer engagement to develop a range of new academies in hospitality, tourism, health and social care.
- Awarded match funding to five European Social Fund (ESF) projects, which has led to engagement with 1,766 participants. This has resulted in 577 achieving qualifications and 375 entering employment.
- In total 1,905 individuals have been supported through employability interventions and 1,554 young people engaged through career support activities.

***Living Here***

- Delivered the City of Music Summer Season animation programme across the city
- Delivered Open Heritage Belfast, a programme of heritage themed activities to coincide with European Heritage Open Days, in partnership with Ulster Architectural Heritage that attracted an audience of approx. 1,500.
- Delivered the City Events programme with attendance levels, to date, reaching approx. 135,000 and an estimated economic impact of £1.9m.
- Awarded a total of £330k small grants which benefitted 58 arts and cultural organisations and commenced the Resilience Programme with 14 large scale arts organisations successfully participating

**Highlights for the Next Six Months**

**3.7** The following provides a summary of some of the key deliverables over the next six months. This is in line with the Committee Plan and the annual work plans agreed by Committee in March and April 2018.

- Confirmation on the Belfast Region City Deal and commence delivery on the resultant outworkings, including the Destination Hub visitor attraction
- Develop the Council's Inclusive Growth Framework including the key contribution of City Growth & Regeneration Committee
- City Centre Business Recovery Programme and enhanced animation programme - ongoing implementation and development to assist businesses to remain resilient in the aftermath of the Bank Buildings fire and to drive footfall.
- Deliver a focused regeneration programme to revitalise and accelerate the city centre economy with a

particular focus on those areas most impacted by the Bank Buildings fire.

- Agree delivery plans (in conjunction with partners) for projects and initiatives aligned to the Inner North West Masterplan, the East Bank Strategy, Greater Clarendon Masterplan, the Strategic Sites Assessments and other strategic policies and plans.
- Launch and deliver a range of new Employment Academies – hospitality, tourism, health and social care; and the ‘Access to Opportunity’ employability programme, targeting under-represented groups
- Deliver the Friendship Four ice hockey tournament and Basket Ball Hall of Fame competition
- Hold the Eastern Economic Corridor Conference in February 2019
- Establish the Belfast Tourism Co-ordination Group to co-ordinate and integrate public and private tourism programmes in Belfast
- Progress with the refresh of the tourism strategy and priorities identified as a result of the mid-term review
- Build on an agreed cultural narrative for Belfast to deliver the Belfast Culture 2023 programme and a new festival and events strategy
- Agree the Belfast Enterprise Framework
- Deliver a successful pitch and programme for Belfast at MIPIM 2019

**3.8** To ensure the continued growth and regeneration of the city centre and to enable the benefits of this growth to be felt by local businesses, people and communities it is essential that the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy remains relevant and continues to provide a cohesive framework for development and regeneration. Refreshing the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy will therefore be a priority. This will harness the commitment and response to the initial recovery efforts in order to revitalise the city centre and connections to the surrounding areas to ensure that it delivers on the Belfast Agenda ambitions..

**3.9** Financial and Resource Implications

Progress is in line with the agreed Committee Plan, annual work plans and associated Departmental budgets.

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

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

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Strategic and Operational Issues**

**Charity Abseiling Events - Belfast Castle**

The Committee was informed that requests had been received from Cancer Focus and the MS Society to hold in 2019 a number of abseiling events at the Belfast Castle to raise funds for charity. The requests related to 24th February, 31st March, 14th April, 12th May, 23rd June, 15th September and 6th October, however, due to the popularity of such events, additional dates might be required.

The Director of Economic Development reported that the venue had been selected on the basis of its unique location and marketing potential and that similar events had been held there previously, which had proven to be very successful. He pointed out that Bryson Lagansports, which had over ten years' experience of facilitating abseils, would be deploying highly qualified instructors and using the highest standard of equipment. The company would be required to provide the necessary risk assessments and documentation, including insurance cover.

The Committee granted approval for abseiling events to be held in 2019 at the Belfast Castle to raise funds for charity, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and to the organisers meeting all operational, health and safety and documentation requirements to the satisfaction of the Council.

**Schedule of Meetings 2019**

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the period from January till April, 2019 and agreed that it should continue to meet at 5.15 p.m. on those dates:

- Wednesday, 9th January;
- Wednesday, 23rd January (Special Meeting, if required);
- Wednesday, 13th February;
- Wednesday, 27th February (Special Meeting, if required);
- Wednesday, 13th March;
- Wednesday, 27th March; (Special Meeting, if required);
- Wednesday, 3rd April; and
- Wednesday, 17th April (Special Meeting, if required).

**Additional Item**

**Annual International Homecoming Conference 2018**

The International Relations Manager reminded the Committee that it had granted approval previously for the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) to attend the Annual International Homecoming Conference taking place in Belfast from 28th till 30th November.

She reported that the Council had since been allocated four additional places for the event.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that nominations be sought from those Political Parties not represented by the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson to attend the event.

Chairperson

## Licensing Committee

Wednesday 20th November, 2018

### MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Copeland, Spence, L. Patterson; and  
Councillors Boyle, Clarke, Craig, Dudgeon,  
Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Magennis, and McConville,

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;  
Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;  
Mr. J. Cunningham, Regulatory Services Manager;  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer, and;  
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and Councillor Nic Biorna.

#### **Minutes**

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

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in relation to Item 2 (a) – Licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO), in that he owned a number of HMO's within the City and left the meeting whilst the matter was under consideration.

#### **Non-Delegated Matters**

#### **Licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation – Role of the licensing Committee**

(Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 is due to commence on 1st April 2019. This will transfer the responsibility for the Houses in Multiple Occupation (‘HMO’) registration scheme from Northern Ireland House Executive to local district councils. It also creates a new licensing system, which requires landlords to demonstrate that they are a fit and proper person to be a HMO landlord.**

**1.2 The purpose of this report is to consider the role of the Licensing Committee in the decision-making process relating to the licensing of HMOs and to consider proposed amendments to Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 It is recommended, upon the advice of Legal Services, as follows :**

- That the Licensing Committee assumes responsibility for determining all matters under the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016, with the exception of those which are proposed to be delegated to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;**
- That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to amend Standing Order 37 (d) Duties of Committees – Licensing Committee to give effect to the Licensing Committee having delegated authority to determine those applications for a house in multiple occupation as set out in paragraph 3.6; and**
- The Licensing Committee agrees to the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation, as outlined in paragraph 3.28; subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1 The new legislative control, the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 (‘the 2016 Act’) completed Final Stage on 15th March 2016 and received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016. On commencement of this Act, HMO regulation will transfer**



responsibility for the HMO registration scheme from Northern Ireland House Executive to councils. It also creates a new licensing system which requires landlords to demonstrate that they are a fit and proper person to be a HMO landlord. This will also be assessed by councils.

**3.2 A copy of the 2016 Act can be found at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2016/22/contents>.**

**3.3 A building or part of a building is a HMO within the meaning of the 2016 Act if the living accommodation is:**

- occupied by three or more unrelated persons from three or more families, and
- occupied by them as their only or main residence, and
- either a house, premises or a group of premises owned by the same person with shared basic amenities.

**3.4 The 2016 Act lists types of building that are not HMOs, and include, for example, those where the property is occupied only by the owners, buildings occupied by students that are managed and controlled by an educational establishment, where the occupants are members of, and fully maintained by, a religious order whose principal occupation is prayer, contemplation, religious education or the relief of suffering, and buildings owned by the crown and occupied by members of the armed forces.**

#### **The Role of Committee in the Decision-Making Process**

**3.5 As Members are aware, the Licensing Committee has delegated authority for determining applications in relation to a variety of matters, such as Entertainments Licences, where objections have been received. In addition, the Committee is also responsible for determining such other matters of a licensing nature, as the Director of Planning and Place, in consultation with the City Solicitor, deems appropriate.**

**3.6 Given the licensing/regulatory nature of the 2016 Act and the expertise gained by the Licensing Committee in terms of assessing similar type issues, it is recommended that the Licensing Committee assumes responsibility for determining those applications for a house in multiple occupation where adverse representations are received, where variation of a licence is required, in the determination of a fit and proper person check, and in the revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately.**

- 3.7** Advice from Legal Services is that Standing Orders must be amended to set out those aspects of the 2016 Act for which the Licensing Committee will have delegated authority from Council to determine.
- 3.8** The Committee should note the legislative requirement to process a licence application within a reasonable time. Authorities should aim to determine applications before the end of the period of three months, beginning with the date on which the Council received a valid application form. Although it is appreciated that in certain cases, e.g. where physical changes to the living accommodation are to be made, an additional time period might be required. A court of summary jurisdiction may extend the period in the case of a particular application.

#### **Outline of the Licensing Regime**

##### **Licence Requirements**

- 3.9** Under the terms of the 2016 Act, a council may only grant the licence is satisfied:
- 1.** The occupation of the property as a HM would not be a breach of planning control;
  - 2.** The owner, and any managing agent, are fit and proper persons;
  - 3.** The proposed management arrangements are satisfactory;
  - 4.** Granting the licence will not result in the over provision of HMOs in the locality; and
  - 5.** The property is fit for human habitation and is suitable for occupation as a HMO.
- 3.10** A HMO licence may include such conditions as the council considers appropriate for the regulation of the management, use and occupation of the HMO and its condition and contents. A licence can be granted for up to 5 years but no less than 6 months.
- 3.11** Under the 2016 Act it is an offence to operate as an unlicensed HMO, to exceed the permitted occupancy or breach the Licence conditions. It is also an offence to claim a property is licensed when it is not and for failure to name a managing agent on the Licence. Councils will also have the power to serve a range of enforcement notices.

- 3.12 Notice of applications must be placed at the property and advertised in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the HMO.**
- 3.13 In determining an application for a HMO licence, a council must give the applicant an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by it, and give any person who has made any such representation, an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the council.**
- 3.14 Feedback from Members will be incorporated into a subsequent report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the proposal for Licensing Committee to be responsible for this function, together with the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation.**

**Refusal, revocation or variation of a licence**

- 3.15 The Council has powers under the Act to refuse an application, revoke or make a variation to a licence in a variety of circumstances.**

**Refusal of a licence**

- 3.16 Before it formally considers an HMO application, the Council has the power to refuse to consider it, if it considers that occupation of the accommodation as a HMO would be a breach of planning control.**
- 3.17 In considering the application, the Council has to satisfy itself that the applicant, and their agent, has signed a self-declaration confirming fit and proper person status to operate an HMO. If the Council is not so satisfied, they must refuse the application.**
- 3.18 The Council must also satisfy itself that the property is suitable for use as an HMO or could be made so by including conditions in the licence. If the Council is not so satisfied, it must refuse the application.**
- 3.19 The Fire and Rescue Service has independent responsibility for enforcing fire safety legislation in HMOs in Northern Ireland through the Fire and Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006. Article 48 of the Fire and Rescue Services Order 2006 restricts the extent to which licensing regimes can deal with fire safety. The Council has a duty during inspection to examine the condition of the living accommodation as well as the safety and security of the persons likely to occupy it. The Council should therefore take into account the level of fire safety in the**

HMO and the extent of its compliance with the Fire and Rescue Services (NI) Order 2006. If a council is of the view that there is a serious fire safety issue which cannot be resolved that will be referred to the Fire and Rescue Service. Such an issue will also go to the fitness of the applicant to hold a licence.

- 3.20 The Council must have regard to any objections to the application.

Revocation of a licence

- 3.21 A Council may revoke a licence at any time. There are a number of possible grounds that may lead to a revocation of a licence. These include that the licence holder or agent is no longer a suitable person, that the accommodation is no longer suitable for occupation as an HMO and cannot be made suitable, or that there has been a serious breach of the licence conditions. The Act also specifies that it does not matter if the Council has taken any other action or criminal proceedings have been commenced, the licence can still be revoked.

Variation of a licence

- 3.22 The Council can vary the terms of the licence at any time, either at their own discretion or if the licence-holder asks them to do so (for example to make a material change to the property). The licence holder must be given notice and an opportunity to be heard before a variation is imposed, and can appeal a decision to vary or refuse to vary a licence.

Appeals process

- 3.23 Any person on whom the council is required to serve notice of a decision has the right to appeal against the decision. The requirements to serve notice will vary depending on the nature of the decision. Generally, this includes the applicant, and anyone who has made a valid written representation. In some cases, occupants of the premises must also be served a notice.
- 3.24 Any appeal must be made to the Magistrates Court within 28 days of receiving notice.

Proposed Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation

- 3.25 In order to deal with the majority of HMO Licence applications in a timely fashion and with the aim of keeping administrative costs to a minimum it is therefore suggested that the following amendment is made to the Scheme of:

**3.26 The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue, but not refusal, of HMO Licences, excluding provisions relating to:**

- applications for the grant, renewal, transfer or variation of licences where objections are received;
- applications where officers believe there may be an issue in relation to the fitness of the applicant to hold a licence;
- approving any guidance documents;
- setting of licence fees;
- revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately.

**3.27 Any amendment to the Scheme of Delegation or Standing Orders must be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Feedback from Members on the proposal for Licensing Committee to be responsible for this function, together with the proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation will be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. .**

**3.28 Any decision of Committee in relation to amendments to Standing Orders or the Scheme of Delegation will also be subject to ratification by full Council.**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

**3.29 The cost of administering the new licensing regime has been included in the estimates for 2019/20.**

**3.30 It is proposed to hold a training workshop in January 2019 and bring proposed amendments to the Committee's Operating Protocol on February 2019.**

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

**3.31 There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report."**

In response to a question from a Member, the City Solicitor confirmed that a process would be developed regarding fee setting, which would be based on a

**Licensing Committee,  
Wednesday, 20th November, 2018**

consultant's report on projected cost, to ensure that the process would be cost neutral. Proposed fees would be presented in due course to the Committee for consideration.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to assume responsibility for determining all matters under the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016, with the exception of those which were proposed to be delegated to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;
- (ii) to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, that it amend Standing Order 37 (d) Duties of Committees – Licensing Committee to give effect to the Licensing Committee having delegated authority to determine those applications for a house in multiple occupation as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report and to include that the Licensing Committee should only consider objections to an application in instances where the objector would be materially affected by the existence of a House in Multiple Occupation.
- (iii) to the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation, as outlined in paragraph 3.28 of the report, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iv) that a report be submitted to the Licensing Committee on a monthly basis providing details of those Houses of Multiple Occupation which had been licenced under delegated authority.

**Road Closures – Review of the Resources and Costs**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To update Committee on road closures and the cost to administer the scheme and to review the appropriate level of fees Belfast City Council may charge for road closures for special events.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to consider the information presented and decide whether:**

- 1. To continue to keep under review for a further 6 months the costs and resources required; or**
- 2. To ask officers to bring forward proposals for revised fees to a future meeting.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

**3.1** Committee will recall that, at your meeting in April 2018, you agreed the fees, classification of events and the newspapers that the Statutory Notice is published in for road closures.

**3.2** Committee are reminded that they agreed to the following:

**Small local event:**

**3.3** The event is a small, local, neighbourhood event where people attending are not from outside the street (e.g. street party) or immediate neighbourhood. To be considered a 'small event' the event should meet the following criteria:

1. It is held on minor residential roads (e.g. cul-de-sacs or side streets);
2. The proposed road to be closed must not have a bus route along it;
3. The proposed road to be closed must not have a car park located on it which is accessed via the road to be closed (other than a car park for residents of the road);
4. The event must not be publicised for the general public and therefore will not draw in people from the wider area;
5. The event should apply to residents of one or two streets only and not to larger areas of the district/borough/city. It is up to the Council to consider factors such as the proposed attendance figures, etc. when making its decision on whether to grant an Order.
6. The event should finish by 11.00 pm and:
  - a) Not have a stage built from which entertainment would be provided
  - b) Not have amplified entertainment which may cause nuisance to the wider area
  - c) Not have fireworks, pyrotechnics or bonfires on the street
  - d) Not have alcohol or food sold at the event.

**3.4** This list was not exhaustive and each application is considered on a case by case basis. The application cost is free.

**Large event:**

- 3.5 If the event does not meet the above criteria, then the event is considered a large event. This includes all filming events. The application cost for a City centre event is £1000 and outside the City centre is £650. (City centre is defined using BMAP)

**Running, triathlon and cycling races:**

- 3.6 1. Commercial events or races that have a substantial impact on the road network or are within the City centre. The application cost is £1000; a reduced fee of £125 for events run by registered charities for fund raising purposes was agreed.
- 3.7 2. Club runs or running races that have minor impact on the road network and are outside the City Centre in a small geographical area. These types of running races are generally organised by voluntary organisations and any profit made from them is used to fund the activities of the club. The application cost is free.

**Publication of a Legal Notice**

- 3.8 It was agreed that City centre applications are advertised in either the Belfast Telegraph, Daily Mirror (Northern Ireland Edition), Irish News or Newsletter (Ulster Edition) on a rotational basis. Where a special event extends beyond the City centre to various areas of the City, such as the Belfast Marathon, then the Notice is also placed in one of the four main newspapers.
- 3.9 When the event is outside the City centre, the Notice is advertised in a local newspaper circulating in that area. This has proven to be problematic, in that some local newspapers are only published on a fortnightly basis and often applications for local events are received at short notice meaning that the advert has had to be placed in a main Newspaper, thus resulting in additional expenditure.
- 3.10 Where it has been possible applications for multiple road closures have been combined into one Notice to help reduce advertising costs.
- 3.11 Since June 2018, the Council has made 26 Orders for 34 events to close or restrict roads. Appendix 1 (attached) has details of the actual events and the cost for each Order. Below is a summary for the events as per the agreed classification.



**Licensing Committee,  
Wednesday, 20th November, 2018**

- Small event: 2
- Large event (City centre): 10
- Large event (Outside City centre): 8
- Commercial runs including triathlon: 3
- Commercial runs reduced fee (charity): 1
- Club runs: 2

**3.12 The following table shows an overview of the total income and expenditure related to processing 26 Road Closure Orders to date resulting in an additional cost to the Council of £14,263.58.**

<b>Fee Income</b>	<b>Notice cost</b>	<b>Officer cost</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Deficit</b>
£18,325.00	£20,562.68	£12,025.90	£32,588.58	-£14,263.58

**Review of fees**

**3.13 The current road closure fees were set at your meeting in April when Committee agreed that a review of the resources and costs associated with administering the Act would be undertaken after 6 months.**

**3.14 In processing the 26 applications we have recorded officer time spent on each application and the cost of the public Notice (which will vary for each application) to provide an accurate reflection of the cost of administering the scheme.**

**3.15 From those figures, we have worked out the average cost of processing each application as set out below compared with the fee the Council receives.**

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Ave. processing cost</b>	<b>Current fee</b>
Large event (City centre)	£1,470.40	£1000
Large event (Outside centre)	£786.86	£650
Large running event	£2,598.95	£1000

**3.16 Committee is asked to note the costs in comparison to fee income. In particular, the high cost of processing large running type events has been due to the complexity of the number of roads to be closed or restricted, which required large notices being placed in the newspapers.**

- 3.17 Committee is asked to decide whether they wish to continue to keep under review, for a further period of time, the costs and resources required to administer Road Closures, or if you wish Officers to bring forward proposals for revised fees based on information gathered to date.**

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.18 There are direct financial costs attached to the administration of the Act by the Council and, whilst fees have been set, the cost to administer the scheme is only partially recovered from applicants based on our information to date.**
- 3.19 As more Road Closure applications are processed, the resources and costs associated with administering the Act will be regularly reviewed to ensure that any suggested adjustments to fees may be brought to Committee for further consideration.**

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

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

The Committee agreed, based upon the information which had been presented regarding the resources and costs associated with road closures, that officers would submit proposals for revised fees for special events to a future meeting.

**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 Committee noted a list of licences and permits which had been issued under the Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

**Application for the Renewal of Seven-Day Annual  
Entertainments Licences – Boyles Bar, 91 Falls Road**

The Committee was reminded that, under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it had a duty, when considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, to take into account any convictions of the applicant relating to an offence under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

**Licensing Committee,  
Wednesday, 20th November, 2018**

Accordingly, the Building Control Manager drew its attention to an application which had been received for the renewal of the Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Boyles Bar, 91 Falls Road, Belfast.

He reported that the licensee had, on 13th December, 2016, been fined £250 and instructed to pay costs of £66, following an inspection by Council officers, which had found that entertainment was being provided without an Entertainments Licence.

He pointed out that an application for the grant of an Entertainments Licence had been approved by the Committee on 18th January, 2017. Over the past year, when the premises had been inspected, officers had found that all management procedures were being implemented effectively.

He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

The Committee agreed to renew the Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Boyles Bar, 91 Falls Road, Belfast.

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

The Committee agreed to defer, until its meeting in December, consideration of its decision of 16th May to revoke a Stationary Street Trading Licence for a designated site in Fountain Lane, to allow officers to obtain further information regarding the licensee's proposal for the repayment of his outstanding licence fees.

**Licensing Committee Protocol and  
Overview of Licensing**

Following the conclusion of the meeting, Ms. Denise Kiley, Barrister-at-Law, delivered a training session for Members, which focused primarily upon the general principles for decision making for quasi-judicial committees.

Chairperson

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## Planning Committee

Tuesday, 13th November, 2018

### MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

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

Also attended: Councillor Heading.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholl.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 16th and 26th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Schedule of Meetings 2019

The Committee agreed to the Schedule of Meetings for January – April 2019, and agreed that Planning Committee meetings would take place on:

- Tuesday, 15th January;
- Thursday, 17th January (if required);
- Tuesday, 19th February;
- Thursday, 21st February (if required);
- Tuesday, 12th March;
- Thursday, 14th March (if required);
- Tuesday, 9th April; and
- Thursday, 11th April (if required).

**Abandonments/Extinguishments of Public Rights of Way**

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposal to abandon the lands at:

- Ballysillan Park/Crumlin Road Junction.

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive which related to:

- the extinguishment of a Public Right of Way at the length of the layby along with grass verge, located to the rear of the layby, extending between the properties numbered 97 and 107 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast;
- the extinguishment of a Public Right of Way at Mountcollyer Gainsborough; and
- the NIHE having submitted a Vesting Order relating to land at the former Hannahstown Hill/Glen Road and which land is situated in the Parish of Shankill and Barony of Belfast Upper and the Townland of Englishtown in the City and County Borough of Antrim.

**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 10th October and 5th November, 2018.

**Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

**Motion – Social Housing**

(Councillor Heading attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st November, had considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Heading, and seconded by Councillor Lyons:

“This Council congratulates the children and families of the Build Homes Now and Homes Now campaign on the production of their film ‘Waiting on a Childhood’, which documents their experiences and campaign to tackle homelessness.

**Planning Committee,  
Tuesday, 13th November, 2018**

The Council recognises that we are in the midst of a housing and homelessness crisis.

The Council recognises the impact of homelessness on the children of Belfast. Recent figures from the Housing Executive show that there are at least 20,950 children on the housing waiting list in total. At least 13,636 of these children are said to be in 'housing stress' and at least 11,372 are full duty housing applicants. On three separate occasions in the last 10 years, the United Nations has intervened, urging the Westminster Government and the devolved Stormont Executive to intensify their efforts to address and overcome persistent religious inequalities in social housing.

The Council calls upon the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to work with the Council to use all available powers, including powers of vesting, zoning and planning, to ensure that housing provision meets current and projected needs in the city of Belfast."

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

Councillor Heading suggested that the Committee should investigate the potential of having a dedicated post within the Planning and Building Control to lead on social housing applications. He also requested that the Roads Service be invited to take part in the Pre- Application Discussion process when dealing with social housing applications.

Moved by Councillor Magee,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - that an additional line be added to the motion as follows:

"The Council further calls on the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to reinstate the ring-fencing of social housing provision in areas which have acute housing stress, a targeted protection of housing delivery to areas with the highest demand."

After discussion, the Committee:

1. endorsed the motion, as amended;
2. agreed to hold a round table discussion with the Build Homes Now and Homes Now campaign group to discuss the issues and requirements relating to social housing across the City, and to hold a screening of the film "Waiting on a Childhood", with all Members invited to attend; and
3. agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting, providing an update on the work which the Council has undertaken on these issues to date, and to investigate the potential of creating a dedicated social housing post within the Planning and Building Control section.

**Miscellaneous Item**

**Public Realm Catalyst Project Pilot**

(Ms. A. McGlone, Regeneration Project Officer, attended in connection with this item)

The Regeneration Project Officer outlined to the Committee that, under Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Council had secured approximately £3 million in developer contributions which were to be used towards enhancing public realm in the city centre.

She outlined to the Members that a governance model for overseeing the spending of the contributions was currently under development but that, in the absence of such arrangements, a catalyst pilot project had been identified in the vicinity of College Avenue, College Street and College Court. She explained that the project had been drawn up in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC).

The Committee was reminded that Student Roost at Swanston House (LA04/2015/1252/F) and No. 78 College Avenue (LA04/2015/0419/F) had both been subject to Section 76 planning agreements which, together, had secured £475,650.

The Members were advised that the DfC had indicated that it would support the project, in partnership with the Council, and provide the gap in funding subject to approval of its departmental budget.

In response to a Member's question, the Regeneration Project Officer confirmed to the Committee that, with the exception of a short stretch of pavement adjacent to 78 College Avenue, the pilot area was not included in the Department's current Streets Ahead programme.

She clarified to the Members that the Council would only release the developer contribution funding once the DfC had committed to the project, and that the necessary permissions and consents were in place.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted that a report would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking its approval for the use of the developer contribution funds for the proposed project.

The Committee further noted that:

1. there might be an opportunity to bring forward a programme of further small, public realm 'Catalyst Projects' in conjunction with DfC, further details of which would be submitted to a future meeting; and
2. a governance model for overseeing the spending of developer contributions was currently under development and would be submitted to a future meeting.



**Withdrawn Item**

The Committee noted that item LA04/2016/2359/F – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 7 storey office building with retail unit on ground floor at 46-52 Upper Queens Street and 11a Wellington Street had been withdrawn from the agenda.

(Councillor Dorrian left the meeting at this point.)

**Planning Applications**

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

**LA04/2018/0040/F - Demolition, refurbishment, creation of new floorspace and change of use from King's Hall venue to primary health care centre and associated works including boundary treatments on the Kings Hall And RUAS Site, South Of Upper Lisburn Road/Balmoral Avenue West Of Harberton Park And North-east Of Balmoral Golf Club;**

**LA04/2018/0047/DCA - Demolition of 29 Balmoral Avenue; and**

**LA04/2018/0048/LBC - Conversion of, alterations to and side extension to King's Hall to accommodate Primary Health Care Centre, demolition of existing extensions to King's Hall and relocation and restoration of existing railings and pillars to the front of King's Hall.**

The Committee agreed to consider the aforementioned applications together.

Before presentation of the applications commenced, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the applications 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 Committee agreed to receive a briefing on the development, on a date to be agreed with the Chairperson, before the next scheduled meeting.

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

**LA04/2016/1915/F Renewal of planning permission Z/2007/2120/F – refurbishment and construction works to an existing listed building to form 18 2-bedroom apartments, retail and commercial office spaces at 2/14 Little Donegall Street.**

The case officer provided the Committee with an overview of the report.

He advised the Committee that there was an error in one section of the case officer's report relating to the location of the site and he confirmed that the site was bounded by Library Street and Little Donegall Street to the sides and Union Street to the rear.

**Planning Committee,  
Tuesday, 13th November, 2018**

The Committee was advised that the application sought renewal of a previously approved scheme from 2011.

He explained to the Members that the main issues which had been considered were:

- the principle of the use in this location;
- impact on the listed building;
- impact on the character of the area;
- impact on residential amenity; and
- traffic and parking; and
- drainage/flooding.

He outlined to the Members that Policy FLD3 of PPS15 required the application to be accompanied by a drainage assessment and that the Committee was requested to delegate authority to resolve this outstanding issue with the Rivers Agency.

The Committee was advised that no consultees had lodged objections to the application, with one representation having been received raising concerns including loss of historic fabric/buildings and insufficient consideration of PPS6 in the design and access statement.

He outlined that there had been no change in policy considerations in relation to Listed Buildings and that the requirements of PPS6, BH7 and BH8 were deemed to be met.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the size of the proposed amenity space, by way of an internal atrium, and the size of the apartments.

In response, the case officer reminded the Committee that, while space standards for accommodation did not apply to city centre applications, the size of the apartments did, in fact, exceed space guidelines for two bedroom/four person apartments.

A number of Members expressed concerns regarding restricted daylight in the six apartments which would be located centrally in the building, and which would have no direct outlook to the public street.

In response to a Member's question, the case officer confirmed that no technical tests had been carried out to determine the amount of light which would be available to the six central apartments.

He explained that, while the amenity space was small, the arrangements had been considered acceptable under the previous application, and, as there had not been a change in policy in relation to those aspects, that, on balance, the history outweighed the concerns stated.

A Member stated that they would have liked to have seen the original Listing description as had been made available to the Special Committee for the Listed Building Consent application for Bank Buildings.

**Planning Committee,  
Tuesday, 13th November, 2018**

The case officer advised that, on balance, the application had been considered acceptable.

The Development Engagement Manager sought to clarify that the Committee's concerns about the proposal related to the substandard level of amenity that would be afforded to the central apartments due to poor outlook and lack of day light, and the substandard level of private amenity space. He also advised the Committee that, as the drainage issues had not been resolved to date, that would be a further potential ground for refusal.

The recommendation to approve the application was then put to the Committee when two Members voted in favour and eight against and it was declared lost.

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Johnston,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved – that the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

**LA04/2018/2281/F - Alteration to existing building comprising removal of existing cladding panels to be replaced by weather protection, The Gas Works, 24 Cromac Place**

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an estate in the land.

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, where the case officer explained that the application related to the removal of existing cladding panels and the erection of weather protection in the form of steel framing system, insulation and Siniat Board.

He explained that the proposal related to Phase 1 of a two-part operation, which was to remove existing cladding and to temporarily re-clad the building. He outlined that the proposed re-cladding of the building was for fire safety reasons, in response to the Grenfell fire.

The Committee was advised that no objections had been received and that the application was considered acceptable on a temporary basis.

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.

**LA04/2018/2201/F - Relocation of 3 shipping buoys from Cathedral Gardens to Titanic Quarter to form part of the envisaged 'Maritime Mile' on the green space lying immediately to the West of the Premier Inn, Titanic Quarter**

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 case officer explained to the Committee that the application related to the relocation of 3 historical shipping buoys from Cathedral Gardens to the green space adjacent to the Arc building in the Titanic Quarter, in order to form part of the 'Maritime Mile'.

The Committee noted, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack, that there had been a minor adjustment to the layout of the buoys due to nearby electric cabling. The case officer explained that the neighbours needed to be notified about this minor change.

The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to issue approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions and to the re-notification of neighbours about the amended layout of the buoys.

Chairperson

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

Monday, 12th November, 2018

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

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Attwood, Carson, Clarke,  
Dorrian, Graham and Johnston.

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
Mr. I. Bell, Business Support Director;  
Ms. L. Doyle, Operations Director; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Copeland and Councillors McConville, Mullan, Nic Biorna and Nicholl.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13th 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 reported.

#### **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.**

#### **BWUH Ltd. Performance Report – Quarter 2**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. L. Doyle to her first Shareholders' Committee meeting and wished her well in her role as Operations Director of BWUH Ltd.

The Business Support Director provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance for the year to date, from April to September 2018 and in particular the Quarter 2 Finance and Performance.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,  
Monday, 12th November, 2018**

The Members were reminded of the company's strategic goals, four of which were to:

- deliver 50,000 annual conference delegate days by 2020;
- deliver 35,000 (of the 50,000) out-of-state conference delegate days by 2020;
- hold 6 National Large Association conferences per annum from 2020; and
- hold 6 International/European Association conferences per annum from 2020;

He provided the Committee with an overview of the operating income, expenses and the sales mix for the period.

The Committee noted that conference room hire income was on target to achieve the stretch goal which had been set for 2018/2019, and that entertainment ticket sales had increased.

The Members were advised that the total sales income was 20% ahead of budget and 17% ahead of the previous year. He pointed out that costs had been higher than planned and, compared with last year, event related costs had been the main driver of the cost overrun. The Members noted that this had been due to a high number of consecutive events which necessitated a quick turnaround in relation to cleaning and set-up.

The Committee was provided with an update on the catering contract and ongoing correspondence with Amadeus.

The Business Support Director highlighted to the Members that the Company had exceeded the targeted number of conferences, delegate days and economic return for the year 2018/2019, but that confirmed bookings for 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 had been slower.

The Members were reminded that the venue had recently repositioned as ICC Belfast. A number of Members stated that the launch of the newly branded ICC Belfast had been a success and paid tribute to all the staff involved.

He outlined that BWUH Ltd. staff had attended a number of significant tradeshow and networking events, and were proactively promoting the ICC Belfast on an international stage. He advised the Members that the Managing Director of BWUH Ltd. was currently attending the ICCA Congress in Dubai.

In respect of customer feedback, the Operations Director outlined that 100% of conference organisers had been satisfied with the venue, as well as 96% of entertainment customers.

The Committee was provided with the accident analysis for the year to date and was advised that the number of accidents had decreased overall.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,  
Monday, 12th November, 2018**

The Committee noted BWUH Ltd.'s ongoing Corporate Social Responsibility campaign. The Operations Director explained that work was progressing to hire an apprentice electrician within the business and that she hoped that this could begin shortly. The Committee was also advised that BWUH had been working closely with Belfast Met to recruit an Events Management student to undertake a six month placement with the Company.

In relation to a previous trade union issue, she advised the Committee that relations between staff and management were good, and that the company had a low staff turnover.

The Members received an update on the governance arrangements for the company, including updates on its Board meetings as well as the Audit and Risk and Strategic Change Committees. The Business Support Director confirmed to the Committee that regular monthly meetings were held with the Director of Economic Development, as Senior Responsible Officer, and provided an update on the Council's Internal Audit, the outcomes of which would be reported at the next meeting.

In response to a number of Members' questions regarding Brexit, the Business Support Director advised the Committee that BWUH Ltd. was in a similar position to other businesses in Northern Ireland, and that it was currently drawing up a pricelist in Euro.

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that the Board Members of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. were limited to a three year term in office under the Company's Articles of Association. He explained that the three year term for four of the six Board of Directors was due to expire on 31st March, 2019. He pointed out that, under the Articles of Association, Directors may be re-appointed for a further three year term.

The Committee was advised that officers were of the view that, given the imminent requirement to refresh the Board Membership, and in line with best governance practice, it would be opportune to review the effectiveness of the Board, and its make-up, together with the remuneration paid by the Company to Directors.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the finance and performance update which had been provided; and
2. agreed the appointment of a consultant to undertake a review of the make-up of the Company's Board and to conduct an independent Board Evaluation.

**Schedule of Meetings 2019**

The Committee considered the Schedule of Meetings for January to April, 2019, and agreed that it would hold meetings at 5.15 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, 14th January; and
- Monday, 11th February.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee,  
Monday, 12th November, 2018**

Chairperson

**G50**

Page 178



## Brexit Committee

Thursday, 8th November, 2018

### MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Kingston and McGimpsey;  
Councillors, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan,  
Carson, Dudgeon, Hutchinson, Lyons, McAteer, Nichol and  
O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Ms G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;  
Ms K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development  
Manager;  
Mr J. Greer, Economic Development;  
Mr D. Connolly, Environmental Health Manager,  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and  
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Spence and  
Councillors Attwood, McAllister, Pankhurst and Reynolds

### Minutes

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

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Meetings of the Brexit Committee - 2019 Dates

The Committee agreed the following proposed dates of the meetings of the  
Brexit Committee for the period between January and April, 2019:

- Thursday 10th January, 2019;
- Thursday 14th February, 2019;
- Thursday 21st March, 2019;
- Thursday 11th April, 2019.

All meetings would commence at 4.30pm.

**Update on Technical Reports relating to Food Controls**

(Mr D. Connolly, Environmental Health Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

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 recently released technical reports relating to food controls including imports and the potential implications on food businesses and the Council’s Food Safety and Port Health Regulatory functions.

**2.0 Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note the update provided.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

To date 13 technical notes relating specifically to areas of the UK’s food industry have been produced by the UK Government. A list of these with links to access them is attached as appendix 1.

**Current food import controls**

**3.2** The current regime for the importation of foods into the UK is regulated by EU legislation. Foods can currently freely move between EU countries without any restrictions or checks being required at national borders.

**3.3** For food imports into the EU from countries outside the EU (3rd country imports), currently all high risk foods, including all animal products and other specified high risk foods not of animal origin, must be notified to the EU using the EU’s database the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES) prior to import. These high risk foods can only enter the UK/EU at approved points of entry, with the necessary facilities and qualified staff to carrying the required checks on foods.

**3.4** Within NI the Council’s Port Health facility is the only approved sea point of entry for high risk foods into the EU. It is approved for the importation of frozen meat, frozen fish,

high risk foods, plastic kitchen ware and organic foods with imported foods destined throughout the Island of Ireland.

- 3.5** There are many goods originating from 3rd countries which enter the EU through another member state and are then transited towards the UK, these foods currently are checked at the first point of entry into the EU and can then move freely into the UK without the need to be rechecked at the UK border.
- 3.6** The majority of 3rd country food imports are however not high risk and whilst they must meet EU standards they can enter at any location, do not have to be pre notified and are not subject to predetermined checks on entry. However, across the EU, food authorities at ports do monitor the low risk foods being imported and carry out sample checks on such foods at points of entry and inland. Non-compliant foods may then be removed from the market and information is shared between member states on an EU data base, the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) to ensure individual states can take follow up action to protect consumer safety.

**Potential food import controls post Brexit**

- 3.7** The UK government is hoping to reach a deal with the EU that will minimise the impact on trade, share EU food safety databases and avoid the need for additional regulatory checks. Depending on the specific agreements reached the impact on Port Health and Food Control may range from none to some changes in legal requirements and the checks required. Whilst the UK government anticipates a good deal for the UK and the EU, it is preparing for what it sees as an unlikely scenario of leaving the EU with 'no deal'. This paper considers the impact of that worst case scenario from a food regulatory perspective and the impact that might have on council's food control services.
- 3.8** The UK government has already through The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 provided for all existing EU legislation to be converted on exit into UK law, so maintaining the current high standards of food safety and ensuring on day one the regulatory alignment likely to be required to negate the need for food safety checks as foods move between the UK and the EU. It is therefore envisaged there will be no additional import controls initially required for imports of food into the UK from the EU. This is highly significant, ensuring no additional resource demand on Council Port Health/Food Safety function. The UK would require importers of high risk foods from the EU to pre-notify the Food Standards Agency. In the longer term this situation may change particularly if future

changes to EU legislation or UK legislation create differences in safety standards.

- 3.9 In a no deal scenario it is likely that high risk foods transiting the EU on way to the UK would not be checked at point of entry into the EU by other member states and therefore will need to be checked as they enter the UK. This could increase the number of consignments requiring import control checks at Belfast Port. A snap survey over a month was recently carried out by Port Health staff working with the FSA and showed few high-risk foods transiting the EU and entering the UK via Belfast Port. This is reassuring, however, we have no data on the volumes of high risk imports from 3rd countries transiting the Republic of Ireland and which could post EU exit be sent to Belfast inspection facility for checking. We are currently working with the FSA to see if some data can be captured to estimate potential quantities. Whilst the need for additional checks cannot be ruled out, at this stage, we do not expect a large increase in workload and are confident that our facilities and trained staff have sufficient capacity to carry out the work. Imported food checks are carried out on a cost recovery basis so the cost of any additional work should be offset with increased income.
- 3.10 It is also likely that some trade currently through the port of Belfast destined for ROI will divert to ROI ports to avoid transiting goods into the EU via the land border.
- 3.11 In the event the UK leaves the EU without a deal in place, the EU will not permit the UK to use TRACES or RASSF systems and so the UK government is currently developing alternative systems for pre-notification of imports and sharing information. It plans to have these systems operational from day one. Council officers will have to be familiar with these new systems and may have to assist businesses in familiarising themselves.
- 3.12 Implications for UK food producers and exporters
- EU exit will also have significant implications for Northern Ireland's food producers/exporters. It is anticipated that in a no deal scenario they may need to meet EU third country import requirements (as outlined above). The council's food control service will if necessary provide information and guidance to food businesses to help them understand changes in requirements.
- 3.13 It is possible that the EU, including the Republic of Ireland, may require some sort of approval of export producers of high

risk foods and potentially require food authorities to certify consignments of foods being exported as meeting EU requirements. This could have a significant impact on some councils who have large numbers of manufacturers regularly exporting high risk foods to the EU, however, few such businesses are located in Belfast and the impact on our service is not expected to be great. We are planning to survey our manufacturing premises to establish export volumes and estimate demand.

- 3.14** Current food labelling requirements will be particularly affected in a no deal scenario and manufacturers will have to change food labels, for example:
- the use of the term ‘EU’ in origin will no longer be correct for food or ingredients from the UK;
  - EU organics logos would need to be removed from packaging; and
  - Currently foods labels must have the name and address of a responsible EU food business, after EU exit products sold in the UK will need to include a UK food businesses details e.g. the UK importer and products being exported to EU will need details of an (non UK) EU food business
  - Health marking of products of animal origin will also be affected
- 3.15** Certain foods/premises also currently undergo specific approvals to be able to be place food on the market across the EU, including meat, fish, egg, cheese and milk products, natural mineral waters, organic products, GM foods etc. In a no deal scenario the EU may require the UK to apply to the EU for the approval of UK establishments to export to the EU. The processing of third country applications takes time and cannot be made until after the UK leaves the EU, therefore this could significantly interrupt trade.
- 3.16** Furthermore, animal products from approved premises must carry an appropriate health and identification mark which the UK would not be entitled to use in a no-deal scenario and the UK would have to design a new replacement health mark. This will require businesses to run down existing stocks of packaging and labelling bearing the health mark and replace with new.
- 3.17** Small and medium sized foods businesses do rely heavily on local authority food officers to provide them with information and advice on legal requirements including labelling. We will

as necessary work to support all our food businesses to ensure compliance, approve premises and certify exports.

It is clear that some additional work may be required in preparation, on exit and in the future. It is impossible at this time to accurately estimate the amount of resources required in the absence of reliable trade data, uncertainty over the type of deal that will be negotiated and the processes that shall be developed by UK government departments as a result. However it is anticipated that EU exit will not have a large impact on required resources and can be delivered within existing departmental budgets.

Officers will continue to work with government departments to share information and day one plans. Officers are represented on the UK Port Health Authorities Border Planning Group which will help to influence decisions and share information. This group is made up of representatives from government, FSA, DEFRA and mainland Port Health Authorities to discuss EU exit arrangements.

**3.18 Financial & Resource Implications**

Some officer time shall be required to prepare for a no deal scenario and potentially to implement additional food safety checks on exit. The extent of additional checks shall depend on what is agreed by the EU and the UK government. It is anticipated that some of the work would be offset by additional income and the work will be adequately resourced within the existing departmental budget allocation.

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

**There are no implications relating to this report.”**

The Environmental Health Manager provided the Members with an update on the potential implications, following the release of the technical reports, on the Council’s Food Safety and Port Health regulatory functions.

Noted.

**Correspondence received from DExEU in response to Letter from Belfast City Council - The People’s Vote**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st October 2018, had agreed 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, where no deal had been negotiated and in both cases remaining in the EU must be an option.

**Brexit Committee,  
Thursday, 8th November, 2018**

In response to the agreed correspondence, a letter dated 25th October 2018, was received from the Department for Exiting the European Union, on behalf of the Prime Minister. The letter outlined the following:

- That the current government would never accept a second referendum;
- The referendum on 23rd June 2016 saw the highest number of votes cast in electoral history, indicative of a clear instruction from the British people, which the Government was committed to deliver;
- Throughout exit negotiations, the UK Government had been clear regarding its unwavering commitment to upholding the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, in all its parts;
- That the UK Government had committed, in paragraph 53 of the December 2017 Joint Report, to ensuring that no diminution of rights is caused by the UK's departure from the European Union;
- Both the UK and the EU share responsibility to reserve the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement;
- That no UK Prime Minister could accept a solution for Northern Ireland that involved an internal customs border separating one part of the UK from the rest; and
- That significant progress had been made regarding the Withdrawal Agreement and negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and EU.

The Committee noted the correspondence received from The Department of Exiting the European Union.

**Correspondence Received -  
Queen's University Expert Panel**

The Committee was advised that the Chief Executive had received a letter dated 9th October from Ms Wendy Galbraith, Registrar and Chief Operating Officer at Queen's University.

In the letter, Ms Galbraith had commended Belfast City Council for establishing a Brexit Committee and highlighted the contribution Queen's University had made to the Brexit debate by holding seminars, workshops and by providing briefings to political representatives.

Ms Galbraith had indicated that her academic colleagues would be eager to act as a resource to the Committee and suggested forming an 'expert panel' to advise the Committee on specific issues that relate to their ongoing work.

The Committee agreed to share the findings of the Brexit Workshop, which had been held on 30th October 2018, with Queen's University and to invite representatives to attend a future meeting of the Brexit Committee to discuss the proposal of forming an expert panel.

**Internal Audit on the Potential Impact of  
Brexit -Day 1 Preparedness**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

The purpose of this report is to outline for Members work that is currently being undertaken in relation to the Council’s Brexit Day 1 preparedness.

**2.0 Recommendations**

The Committee is asked to note this update.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

Members may be aware that officers have recently undertaken an internal audit to identify potential Day 1 service implications in relation to Brexit. This audit has identified that there are several key areas where there may be a potential impact in the event of a no deal Brexit. However further scoping work is required to define the potential Day 1 impacts, risks and possible mitigations. These areas include HR, finance/funding, procurement, waste, port health, product safety, communications and business continuity management.

Officers are currently undertaking this work and it is anticipated that it will be completed by mid-December. It is likely that further work may be required as a result of the findings of this scoping exercise and that it will also be influenced by the wider developments that are taking place in relation to Brexit. An update on this work will be brought to the Committee in the New Year.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial implications relating to this report but the work that is being undertaken to further define potential day 1 impacts, risks and mitigations may have financial and resource implications and these will be reported to Members as required.



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

There are no implications relating to this report.”

Noted.

**Update on External Stakeholder Workshop**

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 workshop that was held to help identify the potential impact of Brexit on external organisations in the City.

**2.0 Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the update.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

Members are reminded that in September the Brexit Committee agreed to the holding of an external workshop regarding the potential impact of Brexit on a range of sectors including businesses and community organisations.

A workshop was held on Tuesday 30th October from 9.30-12.30 in the Banqueting Hall. 24 representatives from various external organisations and six councillors were in attendance. The sectors represented included higher education, health, industry and the community and voluntary sector.

The format of the event was an externally facilitated round table discussion with two discussion topics:

- What are the potential issues, concerns and opportunities from Brexit for your sector?
- What should we be doing as a City to address concerns and maximise opportunities?

Officers took detailed notes at each table and participants were also offered the opportunity to provide feedback through a form or via a mobile app being used on the day.

**This information is currently being collated and it is planned to table a more detailed report at the Committee meeting.**

**At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to submit, via the mobile app, 3 words that summed up their thoughts on Brexit. The words submitted were turned into a word cloud and a copy of this is attached as appendix 1. The larger the word the more it was quoted and Members will see that 'uncertainty' was the most quoted word.**

**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.”**

The Committee noted the contents of the report and, after discussion, agreed that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would bring a report back to the Committee regarding the Inter trade Voucher Scheme, and potential engagement with the Youth Forum in relation to Brexit.

**Update on Visit to Brussels**

The Committee noted the verbal update from the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services who outlined scheduling options available to the delegation to permit the most auspicious itinerary during the visit.

The Committee agreed to the option for the delegation to travel during the week commencing 10th December 2018 and that the Democratic Services Officer would write to the Party Group Leaders to inform them of the decision and to request a nomination for the delegation from each party.

Chairperson