

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 16th February, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

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

Apologies

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

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

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

Restricted Items

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

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

Local Full Fibre Networks Programme

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

The Committee agreed to:

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

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion - Transparency of Council Funding

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

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

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

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

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

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

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

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

Motion - Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

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

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

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

Motion – Room of Reflection in the City Hall

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

Motion - Inter-Faith

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

Motion - Audio Recording of Council Working Groups

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

Motion – Leisure Transformation Programme

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

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

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

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

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Customer Focus

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

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

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to agree:

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

3.0 Main Report

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

Figure 1: Overview of Blueprint for Customer Focus

Overview of the Blueprint for customer focus

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

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

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

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.6 N/A.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Update on Capital Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers 205 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation

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

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to;

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

Project Updates and Movements

2.2

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

Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2018/2019

2.3

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

Procurement

2.4

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

3.0

Main Report

Key Issues

3.1

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

Completed Projects

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

Projects currently underway

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

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

Project Updates and proposed movements

- 3.3 King George V Playing Fields: Proposed new 3G pitch – Replacement with a new 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields – Members will recall that the redevelopment of both the Ulidia Playing fields and KGV Playing Fields were moved to Stage 2-Uncommitted on the Capital Programme in May last year. At this stage, discussions between Glentoran and the Council in respect of KGV had been to develop the facility in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Oval which was due to receive funding under the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme. However, it was highlighted to Members that the ongoing impasse at Stormont meant there had been no movements on this funding which made it extremely unlikely that the Oval would be redeveloped in the short to medium term. Members therefore agreed that given the huge demand and lack of 3G pitch facilities in East Belfast that KGV was de-coupled from the Oval proposal and was taken forward in its own right.

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

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

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

Project Movements – Ulidia and Blanchflower

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

Capital Programme and Capital Financing – Impact of Members decisions

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

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

Capital Financing 2018/2019

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

Table 1 – Existing Capital Financing Budget 2018/2019

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

- 312 Members will however be aware that the Capital Programme also includes a number of Stage 1- Emerging Projects. A small number of the emerging proposals are historic proposals which have been on the Programme for some time and which have now been superseded by other projects/programmes which have been agreed and/or will no longer happen as they were originally proposed and it is timely now to update the Emerging list to reflect these changes. Members are asked to agree the Stage 1 – Emerging Projects as outlined in Appendix 3. Members are

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

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

Social Outcomes Fund

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

Approval to Procure

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

- 3.16 **Financial and Resource Implications**

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

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

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion, the Committee:

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

Update on Assets/Estates Management

Gloucester Street Offices – Proposed Disposal

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

Land at Cregagh Park – Proposed Disposal

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

62 Antrim Road – Residential Letting

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

Update on Area Working

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

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

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2018/2019

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

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

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

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

3.0 Main Report

Current and Forecast Financial Position 2017/2018

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

Rates Finalisation

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

Capital Projects

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

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

Capital Financing

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

Forecast Reserves Position

3.9 The balance of general reserves is forecast to increase from £13.4m to £14.6m.

3.10 The movements in specified reserves is forecast to reduce the specified reserve balances to £6.7m at the year end.

Financial Resources

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

Equality or Good Relation Implications

3.12 None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council’s electronic procurement system; and
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by monthly extensions where contracts were under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2:

Appendix 1

Schedule of Tenders for Consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and delivery of Bottled and Mains Fed Water	Gerry Millar	3 years

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

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

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

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

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

Operational Issues

Northern Ireland Local Government Association – Forward Work Plan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

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

3.0 Main Report

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

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

Forward Work Plan 2018-2019

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

3.4

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

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

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

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

10. Corporate Planning and Performance Management e.g.

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

3.5 Annual Subscription

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

It was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

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

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

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

ICT Infrastructure Relocation

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

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

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues”

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

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

3.0 Main Report

Background

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

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

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

Requirement to consult

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

2017 Consultation

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

Key findings

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

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

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

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

3.8 With regards to the second question in the consultation –

What area should the designation apply to?

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

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

3.9 The third question in the consultation asked –

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

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

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

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

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

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

Potential Benefits

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

Next Steps

3.16 **Six-week Consultation**

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

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

Making the Designation

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

How would the Exemption be applied?

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

A co-ordinated approach

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

the city and providing the option for both small and large retail stores to avail of the additional visitors into the city whilst the event is taking place.

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

Employment provisions

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

Review

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

Financial and Resource Implications

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

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

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

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

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

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel

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

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

The Committee:

- approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to January, 2018 as set out in Appendix 1 below; and

- approved the waiving of the standard room/hire charge in respect of the Science Festival event.

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
National Human Rights Commission	6th March 2018	Launch of NIHRC's "Travelers Accommodation in NI" Report - Launch event of report in regard to adequate standard of living into Travelers accommodation. Numbers attending – 80-100	B	Yes - £115	No – government body	Director Delegated approval given due to date Approve Charge £115 No Hospitality
European Commission Office Northern Ireland	6th March 2018	Opportunity Europe Euro-quiz for schools – An event for schools to promote students' knowledge of Europe. Numbers attending - 120	B	Yes - £300	No – government body	Director Delegated approval given due to date Approve £300 charge No Hospitality
Extern	8TH March 2018	Extern 40th Anniversary Campaign Launch – Social Justice charity celebrating their work with the homeless, refugees and people living with addiction etc Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea and Coffee and Biscuits	Delegated approval given due to date Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Horn of Africa People's Aid	9th March 2018	International Women's Day – Celebration event with speakers, entertainment and drinks reception. Numbers attending - 60	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine	Delegated approval given due to date Approve No charge Wine Reception

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

B
1723

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
War on Want NI	27th March 2018	Launch of new beginning for War on Want and Self Help Africa – celebrate the merge of these two charities and promote campaigns and work ahead Numbers attending – 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea and Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Queen's University, Belfast	18th April 2018	Global Agent Fam Trip – Dinner with drinks reception to promote Belfast as an International study choice. Numbers attending - 130	A & B	No (Charity)	No – government body	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
Cara –friend	14th May 2018	Launch of LGBT Awareness Week 2018, reception and speeches about theme of visibility for LGBT people and promote upcoming events Numbers attending - 100	D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea and Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Active Communities Network	8th June 2018	SIF West Belfast Early Intervention Celebration – marking the achievements of over 70 young people - Speeches, Dinner, Presentations & Entertainment Numbers attending - 130	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea and Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	24th June 2018	Belfast City ITF Junior Tournament 2018 Celebratory Event – promoting local young Tennis players with	B & D	No (Voluntary)	No – received BCC funding for this event	Approve No Charge No Hospitality

B
1724

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

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		buffet, speeches and networking Numbers attending - 205				
Remembering Srebrenica	10th July 2018	Northern Ireland's National Remembering Srebrenica Commemoration – An annual event to mark the genocide in Srebrenica. Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Coffee Biscuits Tea and	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast Global Shapers	17th August 2018	Shape Belfast 2018 – a network of young people working together to address local and global challenges. Welcome drinks reception followed by dinner and speeches as part of Shape 3-day Conference at Waterfront. Numbers attending – 350	A & B	No (Charity) <i>*awaiting charity number – if not provided then charge of £825.00</i>	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Co-Operation Ireland	20th August 2018	Northern Ireland National Citizen Service Graduation and Celebration - celebration event for young people who have completed NCS training with reception, presentation and speakers. Numbers Attending - 350	C & D	No (charity)	No	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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

B
1725

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Ulster Journals Ltd	6 September 2018	Ulster Tatler Awards 2018 Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending; 420	B & C 1 in 3 rule	Yes - £825.00	No as commercial company	Approve Yes, £825 No Hospitality 1 in 3 rule
International Society for Eye Research	9th September 2018	ISER Conference 2018 – 1000 people expected to participate in the 5-day conference in the city. Welcome reception to launch the conference. Numbers attending; 500 - 700	A & B	No (charity)	Yes – Wine Linked to Visit Belfast	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Aisling Events	5th October 2018	The Belfast International Homecoming Banquet – Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment as part of a 3 -day festival to promote Sister Cities connections. Numbers attending; 250	B	Yes - £300	Yes – Wine due to BCC links	Approve Yes, £300 Wine Reception
Ulster College of Physical Education Former Students Association	14th October 2018	65th Anniversary of Inception of Ulster College of Physical Education – Drinks reception for former students followed by speeches. Numbers attending - 300	C & D	No (Voluntary)	No	Approve No Charge No hospitality

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Barnardo's Northern Ireland	6th November 2018	Barnardo's NI Supporters Event – Celebrating volunteers and supporters - Speakers, panel session and lunch. Numbers attending - 100	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Corrymeela Community	9th November 2018	Decade of Centenaries – Centenary of end of WWI Schools Event – An event for school children to commemorate WWI with drama, discussion and lunch. Numbers attending - 350	C	No (Charity)	No – as Good Relations have a budget for catering for students	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Pharmacy Forum NI	15th November 2018	Pharmacy Forum NI Rewarding Excellence Event 2018 – Fellows Dinner, annual event to recognize excellence and professionalism across the industry. Numbers attending - 100	C	No (Charity)	No – not linked to Belfast Agenda	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Polish Educational and Cultural Association	18th November 2018	Polish Independence Day 2018 – Celebration event to promote diversity and reflect on positive contribution of Polish community. Numbers attending - 160	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
The Scout Association, Northern Ireland Scout Council	4th January 2019	Queen's Scout Award and Chief Scout's Award Presentation – 175 young people receiving awards, reception with awards ceremony Numbers attending - 450	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Agri-food and Biosciences Institute	8th September 2019	Campylobacter, Helicobacter and Related Organisms Conference Welcome Reception – Conference promotes microbiological food safety, drinks reception to launch this conference in Belfast Numbers attending - 300	A & B	No as this event is linked to Visit Belfast endorsed	Yes - Wine	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

Development of Building Regulations in Northern Ireland

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

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

1. *‘A progress update on the recruitment process for The Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee (NIBRAC)’* - The Department is currently finalising the recruitment arrangements and expects to advertise for candidates during February or March 2018.

2. *'The outcome of the Department's review of Technical Booklet E, Fire Safety'* – An interim review looking at possible measures around high rise residential accommodation is ongoing, after which any policy proposals would be subject to Ministerial consideration and consultation.
3. *'The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's view that the Department should take a more proactive approach to updating building regulations in NI and that this should commence now rather than awaiting the outcome of the review in England'* – The Department continues to work with officials in England and the other devolved administrations regarding building regulation amendments and Dame Judith Hackett's Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. The Department has no plans at this time to move from its policy of following England's general position, as recommended in the McConnell Report, or to bring forward significant changes in advance of the outcome of Dame Judith's review.

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

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

Rainbow Project Fundraising Event – Employee Sponsorship

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

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

The Committee approved the sponsorship as outlined.

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

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

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

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

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

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

Head of Policy and Strategy – Recruitment Panel

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

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Procedure – Voting at Council Meetings

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

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

Chairperson