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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Monday, 7th January, 2019 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 14)
 - a) Amendment to Standing Orders

To affirm the Council's decision of 3rd December to amend 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.

5. Official Announcements
6. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request from Mr. Conor Shields, Save CQ Campaign, to address the Council in relation to the motion on Tribeca Belfast being proposed by Councillor Reynolds.

7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 15 - 66)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 67 - 114)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 115 - 162)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 163 - 174)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 175 - 200)
12. Brexit Committee (Pages 201 - 206)

13. Notices of Motion

a) Inter-Generational Loneliness

Proposed by Councillor Mullan,

Seconded by Alderman Spence,

“This Council notes with concern the impact that inter-generational loneliness and social isolation is having across the City.

The Council recognises the good work already being done in the Council to address these problems but acknowledges that more needs to be done. Other agencies, such as Age NI, the Red Cross and the Campaign to End Loneliness are also recognising loneliness as a significant emerging issue.

Due to the Northern Ireland Assembly not currently functioning, we are now falling behind other administrations in addressing these problems at an Executive level.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to consider how best it can develop an inter-agency approach to address the problems, including working with partner agencies in the statutory, community and voluntary sectors.”

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

b) Tribeca Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Reynolds,

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

“This Council, whilst welcoming investment and the regeneration of our City, calls upon Castlebrook Investments to drop the Tribeca branding for their City centre regeneration scheme.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Gambling Addiction

Proposed by Councillor Kyle,

Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

“This Council notes the enormous damage which gambling addiction can cause in the lives of individuals, families and communities. In May 2017, the Department for Communities published a survey, which found a problem gambling prevalence rate of 2.3% in Northern Ireland, a rate over four times higher than in England. Despite this, support for individuals suffering from gambling addiction in NI is almost non-existent.

Furthermore, this Council notes the move by the British Government, under pressure from a cross-party group of MP’s at Westminster, to reduce stakes on fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBT’s), a particularly addictive form of gambling, from £100 to £2 in April, 2019.

The Council notes that this decision does not apply to Northern Ireland and, in the absence of an Executive and Assembly, action cannot be taken to reduce the stakes on these terminals.

The Council calls on betting companies operating in Northern Ireland to follow the decision of Ladbrokes to voluntarily reduce the stakes on FOBT machines in this jurisdiction, in line with the rest of the UK. The Council also calls on the Department of Health to review the support given to individuals suffering from gambling addiction and calls for the creation of a dedicated service to address this addiction.

The Council will ask the Department of Health and Department for Communities to meet with an All Party delegation to discuss support for individuals suffering from gambling addiction and the status of FOBT’s.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Half Fare SmartPass Scheme

Proposed by Councillor Corr Johnston,

Seconded by Alderman Copeland,

“This Council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure to extend the eligibility criteria for the Half Fare SmartPass scheme to all Universal Credit claimants.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Councillors' Code of Conduct

Proposed by Councillor Boyle,

Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

“This Council recognises the need for clarity around the Councillors' Code of Conduct and, in particular, the need for clear guidance to be issued by the Ombudsman's Office in respect of declarations of interest.”

(To be debated by the Council)

f) Social Clauses

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,

Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

This Council agrees to develop a social value strategy to further social, environmental and economic goals of Belfast City Council.

As far as permissible by Law, this Council should increase the value of social impact clauses at the pre-procurement stage and to include them within the award criteria.

Contracts should be informed by a social needs assessment with consideration given to how social clauses can help address those needs.

Assessments should be conducted with key stakeholders, including members of the public, as appropriate.

The social value strategy should promote more creative use of social clauses to deliver positive social benefits.

Council officials should set up monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the delivery of social clauses at the start of the contract and these should be included in the tender documents.


The social value strategy should be outcome based and used to tackle poverty, particularly within areas of multiple deprivation.

Tackling zero hour contracts and encouraging living wage employment should be central to the strategy.

To achieve the social value strategy, I am proposing that this Council sets up a working group, which will report directly to the Strategic Policy and Resource committee and submit a report within two months.”

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

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

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

Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd December, 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);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence;
and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen L. Patterson and R. Patterson and Councillors Armitage, McAllister, McCusker, Newton and O'Neill.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in relation to the items contained within the minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November and the Licensing Committee of 20th November, under the heading "Licensing of Houses of Multiple Occupation – Role of the Licensing Committee", in that he owned a number of HMO's within the City, and left the Chamber whilst the matter was being discussed.

Councillor Long declared an interest in relation to the motion being proposed by Councillor Heading, under the heading "NHS Pay Offer", in that he was employed by the National Health Service, and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion.

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 November be taken as read and signed as correct.

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Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Tina Black, who had replaced former Councillor McConville, to her first meeting and paid tribute to the former Councillor for the service which she had provided during her time on the Council.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended congratulations to Councillor O'Neill and her husband, Kieran, on the occasion of their recent marriage.

At the request of Councillor Long, the Lord Mayor congratulated Councillor McAllister and her partner, Sam, on the birth of their son, Art, and congratulated also Councillor McReynolds on his recent engagement and on completing the Dublin Marathon.

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Lord Mayor undertook to write to the President of the Irish Rugby Football Union, to congratulate the Irish Rugby Team on beating the New Zealand All Blacks for the first time in Ireland and on attaining a number of team and individual awards in 2018.

The Lord Mayor highlighted the fact that Belfast had been named as the best sister city co-operation partnership at the recent Chinese National Sister Cities Conference and, on behalf of the Council, congratulated the International Relations Team and other partners, including the Chinese Consulate, on that achievement.

Requests to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from Mr. Gerard Greene, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI, and from Ms. Louise Kennedy, Regional Policy and Information Co-ordinator, Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, to address the Council in advance of the motions being proposed by Alderman Copeland and Councillor Lyons respectively.

The Council acceded to the requests.

Community Pharmacy NI

Mr. Greene informed the Council that Community Pharmacy NI represented community pharmacy owners in their dealings with the Health and Social Care Board and the Department of Health. He explained that there were 532 community pharmacies delivering healthcare across Northern Ireland currently and that they were visited on approximately thirty-five million occasions and dispensed around forty million prescription items annually. The number of visits were, he pointed out, significantly higher than for GP practices. He referred to a number of independent reviews which had supported an enhanced role for community pharmacies and proceeded to outline the significant financial difficulties which pharmacies were facing, due to chronic underfunding by the Department of Health, which had the potential to affect the quality of services and lead to closures.

Mr. Greene confirmed that community pharmacies had, for a number of years, failed to have their costs met and had essentially been subsidising their service. He drew the

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Council's attention to the fact that the Department of Health had, in February, confirmed that £11 million had been allocated to community pharmacies over a two-year period. This, he stressed, was insufficient, given that there had already been a £20 million reduction in funding in the current year and was occurring at a time when workloads were increasing and the workforce was reducing. He pointed out that the results of a survey which had been undertaken across community pharmacies had reflected the seriousness of the funding situation and he highlighted the need to invest in the community pharmacy network to enable it to provide, for example, public health and preventative services and targeted screening and health checks, which would assist in alleviating the burden on GP practices and make it comparable with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Greene concluded by inviting the Council to support Alderman Copeland's motion and was thanked by the Lord Mayor.

Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland

Ms. Kennedy reported that Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland was a voluntary agency which supported women, men and children who were affected by domestic and sexual violence. She provided details around the annual sixteen days of activism, which had been established to commemorate the murder in 1989 of fourteen women in École Polytechnique in Ontario, Canada, which ran from 'White Ribbon Day' on 25th November to Human Rights Day on 10th December, and pointed out that it was an opportunity to remember also other victims of misogyny and of domestic violence, sexual assault etc.

She pointed out that, whilst men were also subjected to domestic and sexual violence, it was an inescapable fact that women made up the majority of victims and, particularly in extreme cases, where there was a threat to life. She explained that, last year, two women per week had been killed by a man in the United Kingdom and that, in Northern Ireland, 717 women and 485 children had stayed in women's refuges due to concerns for their safety. A further 258 women could not gain access a refuge due to a lack of accommodation.

Ms. Kennedy then referred to the review which had been undertaken by Sir John Gillen around sexual violence and the criminal justice system and confirmed that its outcome was welcomed by Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland, which hoped that it would lead to a marked change in the way in which sexual violence trials operated in the future. She pointed out that Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland would be submitting a robust response to the public consultation and concluded by urging Members to engage fully in that process by supporting Councillor Lyons' motion.

Ms. Kennedy was thanked by the Lord Mayor.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th and 23rd November be approved and adopted.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November, under the heading "Area Working Update", be amended to provide that the Girdwood project be moved to the next stage on the Capital Programme, as had been agreed by the Committee but had been omitted in error from the minutes.

Amendment

**Language Strategy 2018-2023
Update and Action Plan 2018-2020**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Kingston,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November, under the heading "Language Strategy 2018-2023 Update and Action Plan 2018-2020", in so far as it relates to the secondment of the Northern Ireland Assembly's Irish Language translator to the Council, be rejected and accordingly the Council does not agree to the secondment.

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

<u>For 20</u>	<u>Against 30</u>
Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November, under the heading "Visit to Brussels", be amended to provide that the visit take place to Brussels, as originally planned, but that it be postponed until the New Year.

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

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November, under the heading "Visit to Brussels", as amended, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

<u>For 25</u>	<u>Against 26</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, McReynolds, Nicholl, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th and 23rd November were thereupon approved and adopted.

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Amendment to Standing Orders

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell and

Resolved - That the Council agrees, in pursuance of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's decision of 23rd November, 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) Act 2016.

People and Communities Committee

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th November be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Dual Language – Rose Street

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 6th November, under the heading Dual Language – Rose Street, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees that the Committee will wait for requests to be received for dual language signs, in accordance with the established policy.

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

<u>For 25</u>	<u>Against 26</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, McReynolds, Nicholl, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

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Amendment

Dual Language – Mountforde Park

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 6th November, under the heading Dual Language – Mountforde Park, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees that no second street nameplate be erected in Mountforde Park.

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

<u>For 25</u>	<u>Against 26</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, McReynolds, Nicholl, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Mullan, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

Stadia Community Benefits Initiative

At the request of Alderman Rodgers, the Council agreed that the Chief Executive of the Irish Football Association be invited to meet with the South Belfast Area Working Group to discuss concerns which had been raised by local residents around the lack of consultation in advance of events taking place within the National Football Stadium.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th November were thereupon approved and adopted.

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th November 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 20th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 13th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Alderman Haire,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 12th November be approved and adopted.

Congratulations

At the request of Alderman Haire, the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated the staff of the Belfast Waterfront Hall on winning the Best Local Authority Tourism Initiative category at the recent Northern Ireland Local Government Association awards ceremony.

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Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 8th November be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Social Investment Fund

(Councillor Beattie declared an interest in this motion in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board, which had carried out a skills and employability scheme through the Social Investment Fund, and left the meeting whilst the motion was being proposed.

Councillor McAteer declared an interest in this motion insofar as she was a member of the West Belfast Social Investment Fund Steering Group and was employed by the West Belfast Partnership Board and left the meeting whilst the motion was being proposed.

Alderman Kingston declared an interest in this motion, on the basis that he was a member of the West Belfast Social Investment Fund Steering Group and of the Greater Shankill Partnership Board, which had delivered a project under the Social Investment Fund.)

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Long.

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

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The Council noted that advice around declarations of interest in the context of the Social Investment Fund would be issued to Members in advance of the motion being considered by the Committee.

NHS Pay Offer

(Councillor Corr Johnston declared an interest in this motion in that she was waiting to take up employment within the NHS and left the meeting whilst the motion was being discussed.)

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

Community Pharmacies

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mullan.

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

Lighting of City Parks

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) proposed:

“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

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

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

Belfast Blitz Memorial

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Alderman Convery.

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

**Arrangements to Deliver Justice in
Serious Sexual Offences Cases**

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

“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.

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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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicholl.

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

At the request of Councillor Canavan, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider the potential for submitting a wider Council response to the public consultation.

Sexual Harassment

Prior to proposing his motion, Councillor McReynolds sought and was granted approval by the Council to replace the word "women" with the word "people" in the first line of his motion.

Accordingly, Councillor McReynolds proposed:

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

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicholl.

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

Zero Hours Contracts

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

“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 hours contracts now and commits itself to doing everything that it can to help make Belfast a zero hours contracts 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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

The proposer declined a request from Councillor Long to amend his motion.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard),

That the motion, as proposed by Councillor Beattie, be amended to provide for the deletion of the existing wording and the insertion of the following:

“This Council agrees that the overuse of zero hour contracts is detrimental to balanced economic growth and social inclusion.

The Council commits itself to doing everything that it can to help create and secure quality employment for workers within the City.

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

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

The original motion, standing in the name of Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Murphy, was thereupon put to the meeting and declared carried, with twenty-four Members voting for and none against.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 7th December, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery and Haire;
Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Carson,
Garrett, Hutchinson, and Long.

Also Attended: Councillors Corr and Heading.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability attend were reported from Alderman Browne and Councillors Attwood, Craig, McAteer, Reynolds and Walsh.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Belfast Agenda - Progress Briefing

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Economic Development provided a presentation on the progress of the Belfast Agenda.

The presentation reviewed the role of the Council, the statutory partners involved, the envisioned outcomes, the ambitions and the focus over the next four years. The Director of City and Organisational Strategy outlined the Boards which had been established to drive action, which were the Grow the Economy Board, the Living Here Board, the City Development Board and the Working and Learning Board. He highlighted the areas for attention under each for the next three till nine months and in the next six till twelve months.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services then provided a detailed presentation on the areas to be progressed under the Living Here Board which were Drugs, Alcohol and Mental Health; Preventing Avoidable Winter Deaths; Area Workings; and Housing.

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The Director of Economic Development then highlighted the areas which would be developed under the Working and Learning Board, including the Belfast Pathway Model; the Harnessing our Collective Recruitment powers; and Educational Inequalities.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy then concluded by outlining the next steps which were as follows:

1. Continue to drive action
 - Growing the Economy
 - City Development
2. Strengthen Partnership Working
3. Strengthening Community Voluntary Sector and Business Representation
 - Ongoing engagement January 2019
 - Final solution workshops February 2019
4. Embed inclusive growth
5. Focus on outcomes

During the presentation, the Directors answered a number of questions from the Members, following which the Committee noted the details of the presentation.

**Community and Voluntary Sector and Private Sector
Representation in Community Planning**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report is to update Members on proposals to strengthen representation of the community and voluntary, and business sectors in community planning.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Agree the proposed approach to strengthen community and voluntary sector representation via the development of a CVS Forum, including upcoming engagement with stakeholders;
- b) Agree the proposed next steps for strengthening business sector representation;
- c) Note the update on work to develop a Community Planning Partnership engagement strategy to ensure wider citizen involvement/civic voice in community planning.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 The Community Planning Partnership has a duty to involve the community in community planning. The Statutory Guidance for Operation of Community Planning (DoE, 2015) highlights that this can take the form of representation of community and voluntary sectors, and also more broadly in terms of seeking views of citizens in relation to community planning objectives and actions.

3.2 At the Community Planning Partnership meeting in February 2018, partners and Elected Members present highlighted the importance of ensuring the views of communities are heard via both forms of involvement referred to above, and it was agreed that the Partnership would progress work to consider how best to address these areas going forward. A background paper summarising a review of current practice and work undertaken to date was subsequently tabled at the Community Planning Partnership meeting on 9th October 2018. This highlighted the need for further work to develop:

- Wider engagement strategy, harnessing innovative tools and methods to facilitate wider input from citizens across the Belfast Agenda;
- Proposals for community and voluntary sector representation in community planning.

Community and voluntary sector representation in community planning

3.3 To ensure an effective approach to CVS representation in community planning the following issues need to be considered:

- Improving information sharing within the CVS, and between it and community planning.
- Reflecting and taking account of the rich diversity of the CVS in the Belfast City Council area (communities of geography, interest & practice).
- Ensure representation is reviewed and refreshed at appropriate intervals.
- Provide transparency and accountability between the agreed reps and the wider sector.
- Ensure sustainability.

3.4 Furthermore it is important that we consider how our approach reflects the diversity of CVS in Belfast:

- There are over 1,600 organisations operating across communities of interest, communities of identity, and communities of geography; and
- existing representation and participation mechanisms across other city partnerships that also feed in to the Belfast Agenda

3.5 Alongside these broad issues, a number of specific considerations are emerging from Belfast City Council's own perspective, particularly in relation to corporate changes towards neighbourhood working within City and Neighbourhood Services Department. These include:

- Ensuring locality based representation
- Council funding and support for community development/capacity development
- Future role of BAPs and relationship with Department for Communities
- Area governance/planning frameworks incl, role of Neighbourhood Management

Emerging proposal – Community and Voluntary Sector Forum

3.6 Notwithstanding the considerations above, building on previous engagement with the sector in Belfast during 2016, the emerging model (which is similar that which exists elsewhere in Northern Ireland) suggests a Community Forum or Panel. At this time it is proposed that the forum would be comprised of CVS organisations across communities of interest (thematic), communities of identity (s75 groups), and communities of geography (area based). The forum (or panel) would then provide a smaller number of representatives to sit on the Community Planning Partnership and other structures (e.g. Boards) as required.

3.7 As outlined above there are a some technical considerations that need to be fully worked through this includes:

- Options for populating a forum or panel could include an open call, nominations or election; views on these methods were sought from the sector in 2016 however no definitive preferred view was identified at that time.
- Effective communication mechanisms for ensuring effective representation of views across the sector, and for disseminating information from the CPP are vital to successful implementation. The panel would therefore

need to deploy macro communication methods such as annual conferences and sectoral events.

- 3.8 Now that the Belfast Agenda has been published and community planning structures are beginning to establish, it is timely to further develop the model.

CVS Representation next steps

- 3.9 Next steps for development of the forum, including engagement with CVS stakeholders are outlined the following table. Note that it is proposed that the Forum will be established in the 2nd quarter of 2019.

Internal engagement to scope related BCC issues and interrelated dependencies	Dec 2018 – Jan 2019
Ongoing engagement with CP Partners and CVS to refine approach	Jan – Feb 2019
CVS Stakeholder engagement workshops (N, S, E & W) to test options and inform final proposals	March 2019
Proposal to CPP to agree model	Spring 2019

Wider civic voice/engagement strategy development

- 3.10 Alongside this timeline, development of a wider engagement strategy to include proposals for wider community involvement will be progressed. A further update on this work will be brought to committee and the CPP in early 2019.

Private sector (business) representation in community planning

- 3.11 It is also necessary to consider the arrangements for how the private/business sector is represented and involved in the process.
- 3.12 To date, representation from this sector to the Community Planning partnership has included the Belfast Chamber of Commerce and CBI (NI), and also various engagements with organisations such as the NI Chamber of Commerce Trade and Industry, Institute of Directors and others. However the current model does not provide a fully robust mechanism for representation of views/communication across this sector.
- 3.13 In 2018, an Economic Forum was established, involving a wider range of business stakeholders to input views on economy related issues in respect of the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.14 To ensure a balanced and equitable approach to representation in the community planning process it is

proposed to refresh the current private sector representation arrangements. Officers will work with the Economic Forum and through the CPP partnership in the coming months to further develop this model - at all times we will seek to ensure equality of representation between the CVS and the business sector in terms of CPP representation.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.15 The proposed engagement workshops referred to above will utilise independent facilitation /expert support to ensure delivery of required workshop outcomes. Costs for this support along with other event costs are anticipated to be in the region of £4,000, however this will be met within existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.16 There are no equality or good relations implications as a result of this report, however the proposals contained within the report will support enhanced consideration of equality and good relations issues by ensuring more robust community involvement via strengthened representation in the community planning process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Inclusive Growth Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 Members have expressed their desire to embed inclusive growth within the decision-making process of Council. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan 2017-21 includes a commitment to work to drive inclusive growth through the development and adoption of an inclusive growth decision making framework for the council.
- 1.2 This report provides Committee with a draft framework for discussion and outlines the next steps in refining and implementing the framework into the Council's decision making processes.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Strategic Policy & Resources Committee are asked to:

- Note the working draft Inclusive Growth Decision Making Framework;
- Agree that in the first instance that the ongoing development of the framework will focus on the four inclusive growth cohorts outlined in para 3.13; and
- Note the next steps in developing the framework.

3.0 Main Report

Agreed steps to developing a framework

3.1 At SP&R Committee on 20th April 2018, members agreed to a five step approach in developing an inclusive growth framework for the city:

1. Defining inclusive growth for Belfast. It is vital that there is an agreed, and Belfast specific, definition of inclusive growth. To do this we must use data and evidence to determine challenges facing the city, and its population, and collectively develop a common narrative about the vision for change. Doing this will ensure a common framework is in place for all policy and decision makers.
2. Developing and adopting a Belfast City Council bespoke framework. Following the agreement of a specific definition of inclusive growth for Belfast, we will develop an inclusive growth framework to ensure that inclusive growth is placed at the heart of policy, capital and programme decisions. This will ensure that the Council has a practical and simple framework to use in future decision making to quantify the inclusive growth benefits of investments and interventions.
3. Assessing current interventions. This step will involve an assessment of whether the Council's and the actions of other agencies / partners are sufficient, along with the development of a plan to address deficiencies or build on strengths.
4. Measuring our progress. Members will be aware the Community Planning and Smart Cities teams are currently working with Community Planning Partners to pilot a City Dashboard; it is proposed that the agreed measurements of inclusive growth form part of this dashboard. This will enable Members to assess progress.
5. Ensuring Delivery. The Director of City and Organisational Strategy, via the Council's newly established Strategic Hub, will oversee the successful implementation and delivery of the Council's inclusive growth framework.

- 3.2 Metro Dynamics were appointed to assist with steps one and two. Following a series of one to one interviews with Party Group Leaders, Committee Chairs, Chief Officers and an all member workshop, as well as a detailed analysis of the data available in Belfast, a definition has been drafted and noted at SP&R Committee on 17th August (see Appendix One). Since August, Officers from the Strategic Hub and Metro Dynamics have been developing the decision making framework.

The Framework

- 3.3 The framework is a tool to support Members and officers in decision making. It provides a consistent set of questions which start to look at the 'how' and 'who' will benefit from economic growth investments. There are many different models for project appraisal and for how places develop strategy and policy. This framework aims to bridge this gap with other models and embed inclusive growth in both policy appraisals and strategy and policy development.
- 3.4 The aim of the framework is to have a practical tool that will help budget holders determine if their decisions to invest or intervene will have a positive effect on predefined inclusive growth cohorts (ie those who do not currently benefit from economic growth).
- 3.5 Not only does the framework determine that there will be a positive impact, it also quantifies what this impact will be i.e., which cohorts will benefit and how many individuals, enabling corporate monitoring and reporting of inclusive growth impact.
- 3.6 Furthermore, if the framework does not identify any positive contribution, it provides the opportunity for the proposal to be re-scoped to make it beneficial to inclusive growth cohorts.
- 3.7 There are two tools to be considered within the framework:
- Strategic Case Tool to determine whether the intervention or investment (IoI) supports inclusive growth.
 - Operational Considerations to apply to all projects. This means that even if a project is not designed to deliver economic growth, officers can start to think about inclusive growth benefits.
- 3.8 The Strategic Case Tool poses a set of waterfall questions to help assess whether an IoI will directly and substantively

improve the economic well-being of underserved and/or low-earning populations. It is based on a qualitative assessment with a sliding scale in the worksheet, designed to create a dialogue with the applicant as opposed to a yes/no finite assessment.

- 3.9 **The Operational Considerations** provides a series of questions to apply to projects to challenge whether they can be managed in a way that ensures inclusive growth principles are supported. An example of a project type which could be assessed through this lens include community investments to address health inequalities.
- 3.10 If the assessment tool indicates that an investment, as currently constituted, does not support inclusive growth, further consideration may be given to restructuring the project to ensure the benefits of the project are shared more widely, or by the identified target groups.
- 3.11 It should be noted that this framework is not a replacement for the decision making processes that currently exist. It is an additional tool that complements the existing decision making processes and should be used alongside existing assessment frameworks.

Inclusive growth cohorts

- 3.12 Our inclusive growth targets are focused on the narrative of the tale of two cities within Belfast's economy, and have been determined based on a review of the evidence and the consultation carried out with Members. They also align with the Belfast Agenda ambitions and priorities to ensure that these are complementary.
- 3.13 It is recommended that the following four cohorts are the target inclusive growth groups for Belfast City Council, in the first instance:
1. Workless residents
 2. Residents with low skill levels
 3. In work, low earning individuals
 4. Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- 3.14 The following table summarises the number of people in the recommended inclusive growth target groups in Belfast. Some residents will fall into one or more groups – this is important to consider as to avoid double counting.

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Target group/sub-groups		No. in Belfast	Proportion in:		
			Belfast	Northern Ireland	UK
Workless residents	Unemployed residents	8,070	3.6%	2.7%	1.2%
	Economically inactive residents	57,378	26.2%	26.0%	22.3%
Residents with low skill levels	Working age residents with qualifications below NVQ Level 2	71,175	32.5%	29.0%	25.8%
In work, low earning residents	Residents earning below the Living Wage	42,000	18.1%	26.6%	22.7%
Young people not in education employment or training	Young people not in education, employment or training	230	6.7%	4.0%	6.0% ¹

Setting targets and report on our performance

3.15 As we move forward and embed inclusive growth, there are a number of ways in which we can sustain and promote our endeavours. This includes creating clear inclusive growth targets, publishing yearly impact statements and ensuring that the City Dashboard incorporates inclusive growth measures.

Next steps

3.16 Should SP&R agree to the continued development of the Framework, in order to operationalise it the following steps are recommended:

- **December 2018 - February 2019 - Staff engagement to share the framework and to work through the practical considerations as to how it could successfully be implemented;**
- **February 2019 - Refine IG Framework and develop implementation plan based on feedback from staff engagement.**
- **March 2019 – Bring revised framework to SP&R Committee for approval**
- **April 2019 – Commence public consultation period**
- **June 2019 – Bring final framework to new SP&R Committee for approval**

¹ This figure is for England, not the UK.

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- **August 2019** – Operationalise framework in pilot area(s) for one year.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.17** There are no additional financial or resource allocations contained within this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.18** There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained within this report. However, the framework, once refined will be screened to test its implications against these requirements.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Monitoring and Reporting for Community Planning

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy submitted for the Committee’s consideration the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1** This report provides an update for Members on requirements for the Community Planning Partnership to make arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including publication of a Statement of Progress in November 2019, and application of Outcomes Based Accountability approaches in development of the performance framework for the Partnership.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- a) note the statutory requirements for the CPP to make arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including publication of a Statement of Progress in November 2019;
- b) agree to apply a pragmatic approach that focuses application of Outcomes Based Accountability to the priority areas for attention/collaborative action as identified by the CPP and the relevant delivery boards; and
- c) note that a proposal confirming this approach will be brought to the Community Planning Partnership meeting in February 2019 for agreement.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1** The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires the council and its community planning partners to make arrangements to monitor progress against meeting the objectives of community plans and the effectiveness of the actions taken in aiming to achieve these objectives. The legislation also requires council to publish a statement of progress on progress towards the outcomes, and actions taken every two years.
- 3.2** The Department for Communities will shortly issue new guidance (expected by early December 2018) focused on the practical requirements for councils and their CP Partnerships to report on progress made on community planning. The guidance will cover two distinct aspects:
- a) The expectation that the CPP arrangements for monitoring and reporting on community planning outcomes and actions should follow an outcomes based approach (particular reference is made to use of Outcomes Based Accountability); and
 - b) What should be contained within the first Statement of Progress that CP Partnership must publish by 30 November 2019.
- 3.3** The general move in both local and central government in NI, wider GB and beyond is to use an outcomes based approach, in particular to drive performance improvement and efficient use of resources towards the achievement of tangible outcomes and impact for citizens.
- 3.4** The approach taken by the NI Executive in development of the draft Programme for Government and associated monitoring has been based specifically on Mark Friedman's Outcomes Based Accountability™ (OBA) model. As a result, NI Departments and their delivery bodies, many of which are Community Planning Partners (e.g. Public Health Agency, Education Authority) are also now using, or beginning to use, the OBA methodology to frame their corporate planning, monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness and impact of services and activity.
- 3.5** It is therefore unsurprising that DfC's guidance recommends that councils and community planning partners adopt the OBA performance framework.

- 3.6 The use of OBA is not unfamiliar to council. The undernoted notice of motion was moved by Alderman Convery (and seconded by Councillor Attwood) at council on 03 January 2017:

'Belfast City Council notes that the Programme for Government has been developed under the Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) principles. Belfast City Council notes that two Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) pilots have been taken forward in Whiterock and Inner East, as part of the Belfast Agenda. Belfast City Council agrees to embed the OBA principles in all Council decision making processes in the Council to make sure we achieve outcomes which show measurable improvements for people and communities in every part of the city.'

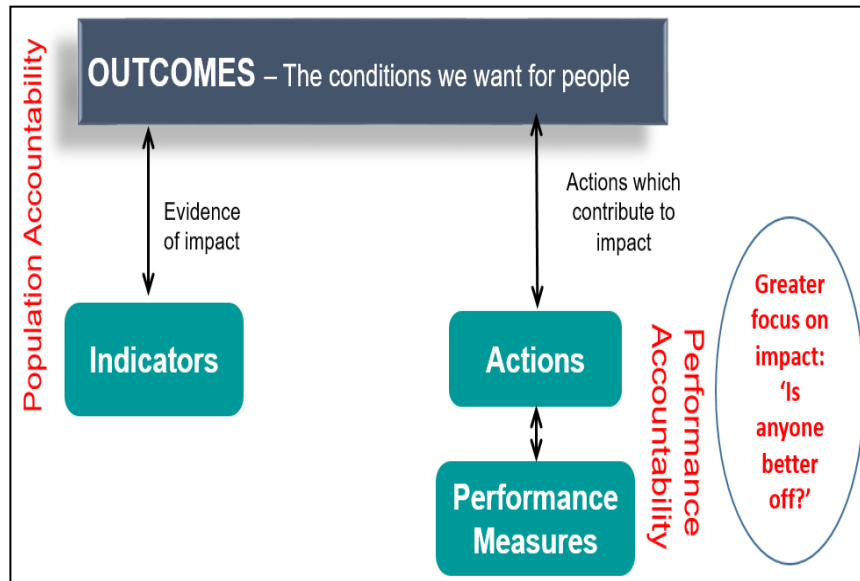
- 3.7 The Council has been using the OBA methodology with partners in a variety of ways as follows:

- Workshop facilitated by Mark Friedman (developer of the OBA methodology) with Members and partners (September 2014);
- OBA Capacity building training programme with officers and partners (Spring 2015);
- Briefings for Area Working Groups on the OBA approach and discussion of outcomes for local areas as part of AWG workshops (November 2015 and January 2016);
- Belfast Agenda: development of a long-term citywide outcomes framework seeking to improve the quality of life over the next 20 years and align with Programme for Government population outcomes and indicators.
- Locality planning: testing the use of OBA across the city in locality settings with communities and partners to help local people shape targeted interventions;
- A number of Council service delivery areas (which are funded by central government) have developed (or are in process of developing) frameworks that apply OBA concepts for monitoring impact including:
 - (D)PCSP Action Plans - DoJ;
 - Community Festivals Funding framework (in development) - DfC;
 - Peace IV programme monitoring – SEPUB.
- As a result, monitoring and reporting arrangements for a small number of service delivery areas could be considered to align to the OBA performance management framework highlighted in the NI Audit Office Good Practice guide for performance management for outcomes.

Implications for the Belfast Community Planning Partnership

- 3.8 The next meeting of the Community Planning Partnership is scheduled for February 2019. At this meeting we plan to bring a paper to partners outlining the ‘monitoring and reporting’ considerations and suggested practical arrangements that the CPP should adopt for monitoring and reporting and production of the first Statement of Progress (due by November 2019). This paper will include suggested arrangements to adopt the Performance Monitoring framework outlined in the DfC guidance document and the Northern Ireland Audit Office’s good practice guide.
- 3.9 It is important to note that officer feedback to DfC (during development of the guidance) highlighted concerns that to fully implement OBA monitoring and reporting approaches across the entire Community Plan (Belfast Agenda) would immediately create an administrative heavy approach. It is also unlikely that there would capacity within the Partnership to robustly implement this across the entire Belfast Agenda within the next 2 years.
- 3.10 Accordingly, the proposal to the CPP will be to implement a more pragmatic approach in the first instance, that embeds the principles of the new guidance (OBA approach) within the small number of priority areas of work/actions identified as areas for collaborative focus of the CPP and its delivery Boards. In practice this will mean that Action leads and key partners will need to identify, monitor and report on performance measures that identify:
- a. How much did we do? (quantity of effort)
 - b. How well did we do it? (quality of effort)
 - c. Is anyone better off? (quantity and quality of effect/impact)

Summary of key elements of Outcomes Based Accountability™



- 3.11 As the Living Here Board (and shortly the Working & Learning Board) are already progressing detailed action planning and delivery in a number of focused areas, we will work with the Action leads/ key partners to ensure the detailed action plans consider and utilise the OBA approach where appropriate. This will seek to identify appropriate performance measures that more clearly demonstrate the contribution to Belfast Agenda outcomes as a result of actions taken by the Partnership.

Proposed Next Steps

- 3.12 To ensure the CPP's responsibilities relating to monitoring and reporting are addressed, the following next steps and indicative timeframes are proposed:
- Dec – Feb 2019 (and ongoing thereafter): Support Boards and relevant Task groups in development of Action plans to apply OBA principles for monitoring and reporting of their impact
 - Feb 2019, Paper to CPP on new DfC guidance and implications – CPP to agree to apply to the small number priority areas of focus
 - Spring 2019 Develop appropriate monitoring and reporting framework for CPP going forward
 - Spring/Summer 2019 - Development of reporting systems and tools for partnership reporting
 - November 2019 – Publish Statement of Progress

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.13 There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. Alignment of resources to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda is part of the ongoing organisational and financial planning processes.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.14 The Belfast Agenda has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment at a strategic level and a Rural Needs impact statement at the time of its publication. Application of an outcomes based approach, particularly in relation to monitoring of outcomes at a population level, impacts on s75 groups, along with more emphasis on monitoring of impact of actions taken by the Partnership will assist future equality assessments and strategic planning/decision making.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 14th December, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown);
Aldermen Browne, Convery and Haire;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Craig,
Garrett, Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McAteer, O'Donnell,
Reynolds 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. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Alderman Spence.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 14th and 23rd November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

The following members declared an interest in respect of item 3(c) Motion: Social Investment Fund (SIF) and left the meeting while the matter was under consideration:

Councillor Reynolds – in that he was a former member of the Social Investment Fund North Belfast Panel;

Councillor Carson – in that he was the manager of an organisation (Tar Anall) which had received Social Investment Funding;

Councillor Beattie – insofar as he was on the West Belfast Partnership Board which had received Social Investment Funding and his partner was funded through a programme that worked with the West Belfast Partnership Board;

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Councillor O'Donnell – insofar as she was employed by the Short Strand Partnership based in the Short Strand community Centre and that organisation had received funding from the Social Investment Fund;

Councillor Garrett - in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board which had received funding from the Social Investment Fund;

Councillor Walsh – insofar as he was the Chair of Tar Anall Management Committee and a member of Coiste na nIarchimí, both of which had employees which had been funded through the Social Investment Fund;

Councillor McAteer – in that she received a salary from a project which had been managed and delivered by the Social Investment Fund employability programme;

Councillor Hutchinson – in that he was a member of the Shankill Partnership Board;

Alderman Browne – insofar as he was a member of the Westland Community Centre Management Committee; and

Councillor Graham – in that she worked for Gems NI which is the delivery agent on the Employment East Social Investment Funding programme.

Councillor Reynolds also declared an interest in respect of item 4(b) Smart Belfast Programme Update insofar as it related to Wildstone as when it had announced its investment he was involved in a statement promoting it and he left the meeting whilst that item was under consideration.

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.

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 23rd November, it had agreed a target for the rates increase for 2019/20 to be in the region of 1.98% and that the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources should bring a further report to the December meeting which would deliver the target rate increase.

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Accordingly, the Director submitted a report in this regard which recommended that the Committee:

1. Agree that the decisions in relation to the setting of the district rate as set out below should not be subject to call-in because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the rate by the legislative deadline of 15 February 2019.
2. Agree the following departmental growth proposals, which were presented to Committee at its meeting on the 23 November 2018.

Departmental Proposals

3. Planning and Technical Support Officers: £102,150 (Planning Committee)
4. Regeneration Support Staff: £107,010 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
5. Regeneration - Housing and Infrastructure: £100,000 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
6. Legal and Civic Services: £120,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

Priority Areas

7. Area Based Festivals: £500,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
8. City Deal: £500,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
9. Capital Financing: £500,000 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
10. Agree to recommend the following cash limits for 2019/20 subject to the impact of the decisions made on items 3 to 9 above.
 - a. A cash limit of £42,292,987 for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2019/20, including £3,270,000 for Belfast Investment Fund and £1,500,000 for City Deal.
 - b. A cash limit of £80,614,500 for the People and Communities Committee for 2019/20.
 - c. A cash limit of £17,118,371 for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2019/20.
 - d. A cash limit of £1,609,861 for the Planning Committee for 2019/20.
 - e. A Capital Financing Budget of £21,524,022 for 2019/20
11. Noted the next steps to setting the district rate outlined in paragraph 3.37 of the report.

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After discussion it was,

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

That priority area 7 – Area Based Festivals: £500k be not included in the Revenue Estimates and that the rise in rates be set at 1.67%.

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

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the £500k allocated for priority area – Area Based Festivals be reallocated to an anti-poverty crisis and prevention fund.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Craig,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations in relation to the setting of the district rate as set out in points one through to eleven.

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

Review of the Finance Function

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the review of the finance function which had been completed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and its recommendations to ensure that the Council had a fit for the future finance function.

The Committee agreed:

- The finance structure recommendations of the CIPFA review included in Section 3.9 of the report;
- That the selection panel for the Head of Finance (Head of Profession) comprise the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees), together with Councillor Hutchinson;

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- That these three elected members provide a balance in terms of both gender and community background;
- That the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources accompany the elected members to constitute the selection panel to recruit this key post; and
- To the establishment of a post of Programme Lead to take forward the City Deal, the post to be for a period of 3 years with the possibility of a 2 year extension to be financed through the City Deal resources.

**Update on Council Funding and Service
Support for the Romanian Roma Community
Association Northern Ireland (RRCANI)**

The Committee considered a report which provided members with an update on the funding of and any other relationship the Council had with the Romanian Roma Community Association Northern Ireland.

After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the contents of the report and that the Council would not release any grant payments to the RRCANI pending satisfactory resolution of grant monitoring in respect of Council funding; and
- (ii) noted the ongoing engagement of Council officers on the inter-agency group in order to ensure access to free and independent advice and services and the provision of culturally sensitive and effective support to the Roma community in the city.

**Progression of Cultural Programme –
Festival and Events**

The Committee was advised that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on 5th December, had considered that an interim year was required for evolving to a new approach for developing events and festivals for the future. It had considered this under the auspices of a 10 year Cultural Programme and the recommendations already accepted from the Festival and Events International (FEI) on repositioning events and festivals.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reported that, in agreeing to an evolutionary programme to test some Signature and Growth events and festivals, it would require the allocation of one year funding. As the finance was not included in the draft revenue estimates for the annual programme of events, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had requested that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee consider releasing finance from a specified reserve to enable that to happen.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to allocate £320,000 from within the cultural programme development reserve to enable the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to fund and test an evolutionary year for Signature and Growth Events and Festivals.

Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 18th May, 2018, it had agreed to allocate £400k of non-recurrent funding to a number of summer diversionary events and programmes. At the same meeting, it had also agreed “to ensure transparency in future years, to establish an open call diversionary programme with an agreed budget.”

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report, the purpose of which was to ascertain whether the Committee wished to proceed with a diversionary programme for 2019 and what form that programme would take. The report had been provided in the context of the Revenue Estimates and District Rate report which had been considered and discussed early in the meeting. He pointed out that during discussion on that item the Committee had agreed to allocate funding in the sum of £500k to the Programme. The Committee now needed to decide how that budget would be allocated and consider also the definition of Community Diversionary Festival Activity, the objectives of the programme, the criteria for funding and the process.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee agrees that the budget of £500,000 be split with £250,000 being allocated to the July programme and £250,000 being allocated to the August programme.

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

The Committee then agreed the following:

- That no financial limit should be placed on the basis of geographical areas for both the July and August programmes;
- That a minimum of £25k and a maximum of £100k levels of funding be available for a successful applicant;
- The definition of community diversionary festival activity as outlined at paragraph 3.1 of the report;
- The objectives of the programme as outlined at paragraph 3.2.
- The selection criteria as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report and to Option 2 – that Festival activity as far as possible must be delivered in the lead in to and around 12th July and 8th August. Any applications that fall out of this scope must clearly demonstrate how their project will address issues associated with these dates;
- That consortia applications are encouraged, with the Group submitting the application having experience of programmes at a similar level or similar financial scale;

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

That in relation to the process, following the preliminary assessment of each application against the agreed criteria, recommendations should be submitted directly to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and not reported through the relevant Area Working Groups.

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

The Committee accordingly agreed the process as outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the report.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion: "On the Ball" Campaign

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st November, the following Motion, which had been proposed by Councillor O'Neill and seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

Councillor O'Neill, in whose name the motion stood, then addressed the Committee and requested that it give consideration to supporting the campaign

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the motion and that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the feasibility of the Council participating in the campaign.

Motion: "No Grey Zone" Campaign

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council on 1st November, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown):

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"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."

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed to support the motion.

Motion: Social Investment Fund

The Chairperson's attention was drawn to the fact that, due to the number of Members who had declared an interest and left the meeting, the meeting was now inquorate and that the motion could not be considered.

The Chairperson indicated that those Members who had left the meeting be advised that he would be moving on to the next item on the agenda and that they be invited to return to the meeting.

(The meeting then achieved a quorum and recommenced with the next item of business.)

Motion: Belfast Blitz Memorial

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd December, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Dudgeon and seconded by Alderman Convery was, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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,

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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."

Councillor Dudgeon, in whose name the motion stood, addressed the Committee and urged it to support the motion.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That consideration of the matter be deferred until the monthly meeting of the Committee to be held in January 2019.

Amendment

Moved by Alderman Browne,
Seconded by the Chairperson (Councillor Rodgers),

That the Belfast Blitz memorial, as outlined in the motion, be included on the capital programme as an emerging project.

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

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Carson was put to the meeting, when seven Members voted for and two against and it was declared carried.

**Motion: Arrangements to Deliver Justice in
Serious Sexual Offences Cases**

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 A Notice of Motion was brought to Council on 3rd December, entitled 'Arrangements to Deliver Justice in Serious Sexual Offences Cases'. This Motion was in relation to an open public consultation by the Criminal Justice Board on the

findings of an independent review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offences cases.

- 1.2 Following debate, the motion was put to the meeting and passed, giving authority for the Council to respond to the consultation in support of the recommendation in the Notice of Motion.
- 1.3 It was further proposed by Councillor Canavan (and agreed by the Council) that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider the potential for submitting a wider Council response to the public consultation.

This report asks the Committee to submit a consultation response, in line with the Notice of Motion and to highlight within the response that individual parties will respond directly to the wider recommendations contained within the preliminary report.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is, therefore, asked to:

- a) submit a Council response to the consultation in line with the Notice of Motion; and
- b) submit individual Party responses to reflect the key recommendations contained within the preliminary report.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 At the Council meeting on 3rd December, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Lyons and 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:

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- 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.”

- 3.2 After discussion, the motion was put to the meeting and passed.
- 3.3 The Committee is, therefore, asked to submit a Council response to the consultation, in line with the Notice of Motion and to agree that each political party will consider submitting

a more detailed response on the wider recommendations of the review.

- 3.4 Should the Committee agree to submit a response to the consultation in line with the Notice of Motion, a response will be submitted before the consultation closure deadline of 15th January 2019. This response will also highlight that each political party will engage directly with the review in relation to its 16 key recommendations.

The Gillen Review

- 3.5 The Criminal Justice Board has commissioned an independent review of the arrangements to deliver justice in serious sexual offence cases. A former Lord Justice of Appeal, the Right Honourable Sir John Gillen, will lead the review supported by an Advisory Panel.
- 3.6 The review has been established to consider law, procedure and practice covering the development and progression of cases of alleged serious sexual offences, taking account of experience from recent cases in Northern Ireland and developments in other jurisdictions. The purpose of the Review is to determine whether current arrangements deliver the best outcomes for victims, defendants and justice, and to make recommendations for improvements.
- 3.7 Further details on the review including the preliminary findings are available on <https://gillenreview.org>

3.8 **Financial and Resource Implications**

None associated with this report.

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

None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

ICT Strategy

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 Digital Services has recently worked with Deloitte on a new ICT Strategy for Belfast City Council which will provide a framework for members, under the remit of the Strategic

Policy and Resources committee, to oversee the development of the Council's ICT platforms and systems, over a period of three years, according to the Council's key business priorities.

1.2 One of the key aims of the new ICT Strategy will be to establish the business and technical capabilities needed for BCC to deliver ICT services that meet strategic expectations, while acknowledging budget and staff constraints. This paper outlines a new vision for ICT services and highlights the key strategic themes that are required to deliver the new ICT Strategy.

1.2 The new strategy must also be flexible enough to ensure it aligns and supports the City's ambitions which will be delivered through the Innovation and Digital pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal and the Smart Belfast framework.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee are asked to;

- endorse the new ICT Strategy.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

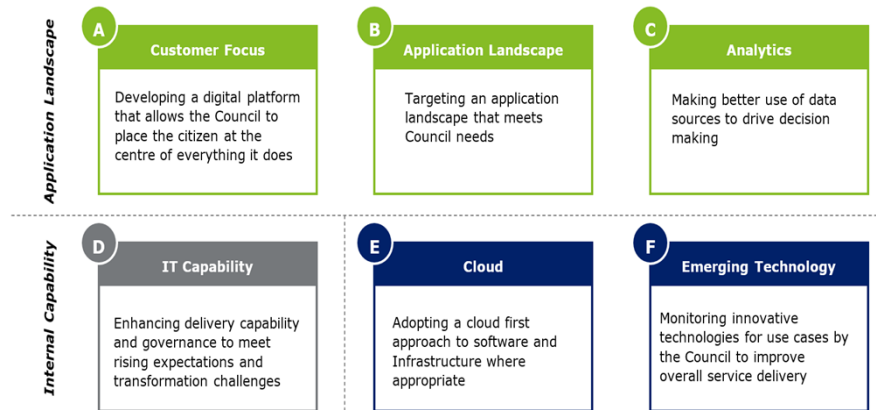
The ICT strategy sets out a vision that 'the Council will become an exemplar in the use of innovative technology to deliver improved outcomes for Belfast and its citizens.'

3.2 The key challenges for Digital Services are to:

- Develop a deep understanding of business areas to be the Council's trusted advisory and delivery partner,
- Lead the use of innovative technologies to deliver better outcomes for citizens,
- Drive the improved use of data to support better decision-making,
- Be a key technology delivery partner supporting the Belfast Agenda and innovation initiatives.

3.3 Whilst Digital Services has strong foundations to deliver the technical requirements of the Council, there are 6 strategic themes that should be prioritised to deliver the new ICT Vision.

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3.4 Customer Focus Programme – Developing a Customer Digital Platform

The recommendations contained in the ICT Strategy are closely aligned with outcomes of the Customer Focus Discovery exercise. Detailed planning for a strategic Customer Focus Programme of work will be completed before April 2019. Digital Services will be using the assessment of the current state of citizen experience and engagement to determine the digital technologies and practices that are needed to meet the vision of a citizen-centred digital council.

The customer journey maps identified through discovery will help to prioritise new opportunities for ‘digital services’ and the required technology investments that will be needed to accelerate progress toward implementing improved citizen services.

The Customer Focus Programme will have an impact on many areas of technology including:

- BCC Website
- Online Customer Portal
- Online/Mobile services
- Corporate CRM
- Back Office Integration
- Telephony and networking services
- Social Media

3.5 Application Landscape – Targeting an application landscape that meets the Council’s needs

The new ICT Strategy recognises that demand management is becoming increasingly difficult for Digital Services, with a

requirement to deliver a large number of corporately significant projects, alongside an increase in line-of-business demand for technology and improvements to office productivity. Also, due to the political nature of Council business, like every Council service, Digital Services must react to unforeseen circumstances meaning drivers for new projects can come from many and varied sources.

Digital Services is also facing the challenge of dealing with two apparently opposite pressures:

- A pressure for continuous change: Designing and delivering business applications that drive new innovative processes.
- A pressure for controlling change: Providing a robust, scalable, reliable, secure and cost-effective environment to support core, mission-critical business processes.

The ICT Strategy focusses on delivering a strategic view of the ICT Programme of work looking at a new approach to integration that will allow the Council to maximise business and customer benefits from our current application estate and help with application rationalisation, while we prioritise the delivery of essential corporate and line of business applications.

Removing or upgrading an application will result in changes to how business units currently operate and will require significant business change. This will necessitate careful prioritisation to manage the replacement of corporately significant applications alongside line of business application upgrades which should now be aligned with the Customer Focus programme of work.

3.6 *Analytics – Making better use of data sources to drive decision-making and improve services*

At its core, a 'Digital Council' is about using data to improve decision-making and to provide more-effective services to citizens.

At present our information is often managed in silos and is not readily available to help with strategic decision-making. There is general recognition across the Council that significant improvements can be made to information management and governance and that the potential value of our information can be better leveraged.

The ICT Strategy recommends that we develop a data strategy to define an organisational approach to the management of information, which can help us gain better insight from the information we hold and improve analytics capability across the organisation. To be effective the strategy must also consider how it will align with the Innovation and Digital pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal and the requirements of the Smart Belfast framework.

3.7 IT Capability – Enhancing delivery capability and governance to meet growing expectations

One of the biggest challenges for Digital Services will be to build and maintain a cost-effective and agile IT service that can meet our complex and changing business demands. A focus will be needed to identify the individual resources and skills required to maintain a high-performing IT service.

As technology becomes pervasive throughout every aspect of the Council, Digital Services must ensure continued engagement with business and operational managers and also with the department of City and Organisational Strategy to understand the role Digital Services can bring to shaping the solutions and services required to deliver continuous improvement.

Through delivery of the ICT Strategy Digital Services will work to improve business alignment, provide improved transparency around governance and project prioritisation, and will concentrate on identifying and improving key skills and succession planning within the service.

3.8 Cloud – Adopting a cloud first approach (where appropriate)

Meeting organisational expectations around the inevitable migration to cloud services involves more than choosing technologies. The migration from on premise ICT Services to cloud-based services will involve governance, procurement, disaster recovery/business continuity, financing, security, citizen services, mobile workforce, subscription pricing models and risk management. Cloud services will also have a major impact for our business units who may need to accept more frequent software updates and standardisation of business processes. This is why the ICT Strategy is recommending the creation of a Cloud Strategy and adoption plan that meets our specific requirements and which focusses on the delivery of the strategic aims of Belfast City Council.

Through the delivery of a Cloud strategy business users should expect to see increased agility with speedier implementations over traditional on-premises models, this will allow innovative initiatives to be delivered faster.

3.9 Emerging Technology – *Monitoring innovative technologies to improve service delivery*

New technologies are constantly emerging, raising citizen and business expectations, and changing citizen behaviour as innovations become the new normal. Significant changes in how Council services are offered and consumed are inevitable. The rate of change, and the manner and degree of shifts in government's approach to service delivery, is exceedingly difficult to predict with accuracy as service transformation is a long-term endeavour. However, agility will be essential and keeping a constant eye out for new opportunities will be critical so that we can adapt to changes as they emerge.

The customer focus programme will be a key area to look at how emerging technologies can be incorporated into service delivery. One of the first places that artificial intelligence and machine learning tools will have a major impact on is CRM and Customer Experience. Exploiting conversational interfaces with chatbots and virtual customer assistants to improve customer experience and bring additional value to the business will be an early area for investigation.

The ICT Strategy is recommending the establishment of new ways of managing and financing a new approach to innovation. The aim will be to ensure innovation skills can be grown not only within Digital Services but right across the organisation.

3.10 Other Strategic priorities

Information Security

One of the Council's key corporate risks is around how we manage 'Digital Information Security'. There is a growing realisation from Elected Members and within CMT that information security management must be strategically aligned with the delivery of the Council's key aims and objectives. This will require improved governance of business risks and greater oversight of cyber security risk management and technical controls. We will need to develop processes that integrate information security into all areas of the Council including technology, processes and staff behaviours.

To mitigate Cyber security risks, Digital Services is working with our external security partner to develop a new IT Security Strategy based on a business impact assessment which assesses the potential impact of any compromise against the confidentiality, integrity and availability of our electronic information and ICT systems.

Full Fibre Connectivity

The Belfast Agenda recognises that improved digital connectivity is integral to the sustainability of our city. The BCC Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) programme, being delivered by Digital Services, will help to create the circumstances in which technological innovation can flourish in support of the visions of the Council.

Through the BCC Public Sector Anchor Tenancy project, the Council intends to connect council buildings across the city to create a gigabit capable fibre network which will future proof BCC's own connectivity requirements for the next 25 years.

The Council is also seeking to maximise the availability and benefit of gigabit capable broadband services in the City Centre through, the Public Sector Asset Reuse (PSAR) project, which aims to allow ducting within the Streets Ahead area to be used to deploy fibre services to businesses in this area much more cost effectively than is currently the case.

The BCC LFFN programme also supports the aims of the Belfast Region City Deal and Smart Belfast Framework. The BCC LFFN project will open up new opportunities to support digitally transformed user focussed Customer services, and innovative digital infrastructure covering networking, IoT sensors, modern devices, data management systems and 5G smart districts and test-beds.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

Delivering the ambitious recommendations contained within the new ICT Strategy will require careful planning. The corporately significant projects and the implementation of the Customer Focus programme will be given the highest priorities for delivery.

Projects emerging from the strategy that require capital funding will require business cases to be developed and taken through the council's gate review process.

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee agreed to endorse the new ICT Strategy.

Adjournment

At this stage of the meeting, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a period of fifteen minutes. It agreed also that, during the adjournment, officers identify those reports which were time bound and needed a decision at this meeting and those reports which could be deferred until the Committee’s monthly meeting to be held in January, 2019.

(The Committee stood adjourned from 12.00pm to 12.15pm).

Smart Belfast Programme Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the public sector in order to tackle urban challenges and ultimately contribute to the outcomes expressed in the Belfast Agenda. Delivery of the programme is driven by a ‘pipeline’ of collaborative projects. This paper provides a short update and seeks Members’ approval on a number of emerging opportunities.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee are asked to:

- 1. Agree that the Council will provide in-kind practical support and promotion for Wildstone’s £20,000 smart hub competition to support insights into the management of our city centre.**
- 2. Agree to Belfast City Council to joining the Mastercard ‘City Possible’ programme and that, following engagement with Legal Services, a MoU is signed between the Council and Mastercard.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages collaborative innovation between our universities, digital SMEs and the

public sector to tackle urban challenges and support public service transformation. Delivery of the programme is 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> Members are asked to note a number of current and planned pipeline projects:

£20,000 Smart hub challenge

- 3.2 As Members may be aware, a number of outdoor 'smart hubs' are being installed in various locations across the city centre over the coming months by UK company, Wildstone. These hubs will provide a range of features including electronic advertising, public WiFi, phone-charging and public defibrillators, etc. The hubs will also provide access to on-street real-time information. For example, Belfast's tourism partners are currently working with them to provide real-time information to visitors.
- 3.3 Each hub will also have a range of smart 'Internet of Things' sensors and potentially will offer the ability to measure footfall, air quality, etc. The City Innovation team have introduced the company to QUB's Centre for Wireless Innovation who are exploring opportunities to work with Wildstone on cutting edge experimental networks in the city centre.
- 3.4 Wildstone would also like to encourage local digital SMEs to take the opportunity to use the Smart Hubs to address a real city centre challenge in innovative ways. They are therefore proposing to fund a smart city competition for SMEs, the winner of which will receive up to £20,000 to develop their product or service idea.
- 3.5 They have invited the City Innovation Team to work with them to define and promote a challenge that supports the Belfast Agenda; advise on the competition guidelines; sit on the judging panel; and provide practical support and guidance to the winning company. (The Council is not being asked to provide funding for the competition). However, it is being provided with the opportunity to align the competition to city challenges. The launch of the competition is January 2019 with the winning company deploying its solution during Spring 2019.
- 3.6 Members are asked to agree that the Council will provide in-kind practical support and promotion for the £20,000 smart

hub competition to support insights into the management of our city centre.

Mastercard 'City Possible' programme

- 3.7 Following engagement with Mastercard at the Smart Cities Word Expo in November 2019, Belfast has been invited to join their 'City Possible' programme which aims to bring together up to 200 'smart cities' over the next three years to address common urban challenges (<https://citypossible.com>). The objective is for cities to work with the digital industry to co-develop, pilot and then scale smart city solutions. Partner cities already include Liverpool, Dublin, Helsinki, Baltimore and Athens.
- 3.8 Belfast City Council has been invited to sign a memorandum of understanding with City Possible. There is no membership fee associated with the programme; at this stage cities are only asked to participate in sharing learning and to explore future opportunities for work on joint challenges. Initial discussions have explored joint working on tourism spending patterns, city centre retail, Mobility as a Service, and the development of a Belfast smart district.
- 3.9 Members are asked to agree to Belfast City Council to joining the City Possible programme and, following engagement with Legal Services, that an MoU is signed between the Council and Mastercard.

'Last Mile' Freight delivery challenge

- 3.10 Following previous committee approval, the Council has been working with Dublin City Council, the NI Department for Infrastructure, the Belfast BIDs, the NI Freight Transport Association, on a €240,000 SBRI competition to support the companies to develop innovative proofs of concepts for managing freight deliveries in both Dublin and Belfast city centres. The aim is to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality.
- 3.11 Three companies have been selected for Phase One work in Belfast over the next three months: 'ParkUnload', 'WeBringg' and 'UPS'. Proof of concepts being explored will include a 'micro-distribution centre' that will consolidate certain deliveries at a location on the edge of the city centre, with follow-on distribution by electric bikes and carts. Another concept will explore managing designated loading bays via a mobile phone app and Bluetooth technology.

SBRI challenge for managing open space

- 3.12 As Members will be aware, the Council is also working with the NI Department for Justice, the Community Safety Partnership and other agencies, on a £110,000 SBRI competition to support the better management of public space in the city (including our parks).
- 3.13 Sixteen companies applied to competition and five SMEs were selected to develop phase one proofs of concepts. The companies include CIVICA, Pitchbooking, Bann Technology, SpparoWatch, and iSensing. Concepts being developed for our parks will include a community reward programme, real-time facilities management, and remote sensing using IoT devices.
- 3.14 Each company will receive up to £20,000 for phase one (which runs until the end of March 2019). Due diligence checks are being undertaken prior to contracts being issued.

Urban Healthy Living Learning Workshop

- 3.15 Work is now ending on a six-month air quality project that used satellite data and local air quality sensors to study the relationship between traffic pollution and levels of diseases such as asthma, diabetes and COPD in Belfast's inner city communities.
- 3.16 The £200,000 project was funded by the UK Space Agency and partners included Smart Belfast, DAERA, Belfast Health Trust and four digital SMEs and the University of Leicester. The project has produced insights that has clinicians from the Health Trust believe could help support future caseload management.
- 3.17 Ulster University has recently agreed to appoint a Phd researcher to work with the City Innovation Team to continue to explore insights from the data over the next years. The group have also bid for a further £1.4 million for a much more ambitious Phase Two – which if successful will kick off later in 2019.
- 3.18 The project team have arranged a showcase session on Monday, 14th January at City Hall (12 noon to 3pm) to share their learning with city partners and to consider the wider implications for city management. Members are invited to attend.

3.19 Financial & Resource Implications

The 2018/2019 programme budget for Smart Belfast was agreed by SP&R Committee in November 2017. Most of the funding in the above projects has been secured through successful funding applications to a range of organisations.

3.2 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. At project level, equality and rural needs assessment will be undertaken when developing projects.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Governance/Members' Issues

Request to Make a Drawing of the Council Chamber

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Mr Brian John Spencer, a local artist, for permission to make a sketch at the Council meeting to be held on 7th January, 2019. The request would involve Mr Spencer being allowed access to the Chamber for a couple of hours prior to the meeting commencing and for him to be present in the VIP Gallery to also sketch during the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees not to accede to the request.

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

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Leisure Transformation Programme Assets Update

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

Assets Management

Proposed relocation of Moyard Playground

The Committee granted approval for the disposal of the existing Moyard Crescent playground site to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) by way of a surrender of the lease and the acquisition of a new site at the former Vere Foster Primary School from the Education Authority, subject the terms of the Deed of Surrender to the NIHE and the new lease with the Education Authority being agreed by the Estates and Legal Services.

Proposed disposal of land at the Old Zoo to the Department for Infrastructure

The Committee approved the transfer of a small plot of land off the Antrim Road to the front of the Belfast Zoo to facilitate the installation of a footpath and road crossing by the Department of Infrastructure, subject to terms being agreed by the Estates and Legal Services.

Proposed licence from the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) for the Holylands Local Investment Fund (LIF) project

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking a licence from DfI to allow the planting of trees in the footpaths in the Holylands as required for the LIF 2 Holylands Area Improvement Initiative, subject to terms to be agreed by the Estates and Legal Services.

Proposed licence for Cancer Lifeline Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) project

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking a licence from Cancer Lifeline to allow the Council's contractors on to the site at No.44 Alliance Avenue to construct the new building as part of the Cancer Lifeline BIF project, subject to terms being agreed with Estates and Legal Services.

Proposed licence from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for Dunmurry Station Footpath scheme

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking a licence from DfI permitting the Council to carry out landscaping works at the entrance to the Dunmurry Station Footpath.

Area Working Update

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to accept the most economically advantageous tender; and
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55(a) exceptions in relations to contracts by direction of the Council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts set out in 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 2:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Technical Professionals (ICT)	Ronan Cregan	1 year

Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System / Product	Supplier	Estimate
City Centre illumination (Including canopy lighting, festoon lighting and animated projection)	Belfast City Centre Management	£110,000

The Committee agreed also to award a single tender action contract to Visit Belfast to support the delivery of the #Your Belfast Marketing and Animation Programme in response to the Bank Building fire.

Equality and Good Relations

Seachtain na Gaeilge/ Irish-Language Festival

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

**Corporate Response to the Equality Commission
for Northern Ireland's Draft Corporate Plan 2019-22**

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 for the submission of a corporate response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's Corporate Plan 2019-22

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the corporate response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) draft Corporate Plan 2019-22 (Appendix 1)
- Approve the submission of the corporate response to ECNI, if approval granted by SP&R on Friday 14th December 2018, on a holding basis subject to approval by Council, to meet the submission deadline of 4th January 2019.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

ECNI currently has their draft Corporate Plan 2019-22 out for consultation, areas of focus include:

Employment

- More and better jobs for disabled people
- Increased choice for women in employment
- Freedom from prejudice and harassment at work

Education

- Tackling educational disadvantage
- Freedom from prejudice based bullying at school

Access and participation

- Participation in public and political life
- Shared, safe communities and accessible services and public space
- Access to information and digital services

Mainstreaming and championing equality

- Mainstreaming equality and good relations

3.2 Key Issues

The Equality and Diversity Unit has prepared a draft corporate response. Key points include:

- Alignment with the Belfast Agenda outcomes
- Need for focus on correlations between deprivation and Section 75 protected characteristics

3.3 Financial & Resource Implications

None

3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Equality and good relations underpin the Council's work as demonstrated through the consultation response. Rural needs implications were not relevant in this case."

Appendix 1

**Consultation Response to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland's
Draft Corporate Plan 2019-22**

From: Belfast City Council

Date: 4.12.18

"1. Introduction

- 1.1** Belfast City Council has considered the draft Corporate Plan 2019 – 2022 of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Please see our response below.

2.0 Feedback

2.1 Belfast City Council (BCC) welcomes the identification of the following strategic priorities:

- Employment,
- Education,
- Access and Participation
- Mainstreaming and Championing Equality

We have identified some alignment with the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's first community plan, and our four areas of focus until 2021:

- Growing the Economy
- Living Here
- City Development
- Working and Learning

The advice and guidance from ECNI should support collaborative working and measuring of progress amongst statutory partners.

2.2 BCC also welcome the ECNI move towards an outcomes based accountability process and associated measures, which BCC has adopted within the Belfast Agenda and is currently mainstreaming throughout associated programmes of work.

2.3 In particular the council welcomes the focus on the development of Programme for Government equality indicators and the addressing of data gaps and need for disaggregation by section 75 groups, as outlined on page 31 under the strategic outcome area of 'Mainstreaming and Championing Equality'. The development of these indicators and associated activity may aid the Council in its commitment to deliver inclusive growth, a key principle underpinning the Belfast Agenda, through effective targeting of resources and activity. As part of the above indicators we would invite attention be paid to multiple identities.

2.4 We also welcome the inclusion of a focus, as identified on page 31, on the Commissions role in raising the profile and level of engagement with issues in the media and across key decision-takers and opinion formers and acknowledge the recent leadership report, supported by David Sterling, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. We would encourage the

Commission to be pro-active in raising the issues of inequalities across society.

- 2.5 In relation to the strategic outcome areas of Employment and Education the draft corporate plan focuses on section 75 groups that experience inequalities in these areas of life. We would welcome that, in addition to this, consideration is given to understanding the relationship between the complex nature of the barriers that individuals from areas of high deprivation may face around income and unemployment, educational attainment and health, and how these relate to the groups protected by Section 75 legislation.

We have adopted the following definition:

For us, addressing inequalities is about what we can do to create a fairer society and recognises that equality and good relations are issues for us all. We don't all start from the same place and to create a fairer, peaceful society we need to recognise the diversity in our communities. We need to continue to consider how the characteristics protected by Section 75 may have on the life chances of members of all of our communities and better understand the relationship between these characteristics and the role that socio-economic status has in creating, or contributing to, inequalities. (Equality and Diversity Framework 2017-21)

This correlation between vertical and horizontal inequalities is a burgeoning field of study and Northern Ireland specific guidance would be of significant value in developing interventions that address broad, complex inequalities and their impact on the synergies between equality and good relations.

- 2.6 ECNI corporate plan (p.14) refers to the importance of securing progress around 'Education'. However, there are no specific potential indicators in relation to the defined groups and this could be considered going forward. In addition, the indicators referenced in the 'Employment' section, on page 17, focus on women and those with a disability and we would ask how progress in relation to the other Section 75 groups, as outlined on pg. 13 would also be monitored/measured?
- 2.7 In relation to the strategic outcomes of 'Access to information and digital services' we would ask that the indicators, listed on pg. 29 encompass all forms of communication and the needs of others whose first language is not English. The goal being to create a society where people with different access

requirements can locate and access the detail they need to make informed choices about their lives.

- 2.8 Within the strategic outcome area of 'Employment', much of the section focuses mainly on working with employers to improve in work practices. We would recommend that consideration be given to earlier interventions, including pre-employment support, to help support access to job opportunities for those groups experiencing inequalities. Consideration could be given to including indicators around the provision of opportunities for pre-employment support for relevant section 75 groups. These could be additional forms of learning that should have recognition in developing the skills and confidence of people. There are good examples of this activity in Belfast and our experience would support the notion that it encourages better employee retention.
- 2.9 Within the strategic outcome of 'Education', as discussed on pg.13, we recommend that reference to early years interventions i.e. identifying and providing effective early support to children and young people who are at risk of poor outcomes and inequalities should be reflected in the narrative. In addition, under this strategic outcome, consideration should be given to including performance indicators around attainment levels at GCSE for those children entitled to free school meals.
- 2.10 Further thought could be given to considering including additional indicators in relation to the procurement and social clauses within contracts, particularly in relation to the strategic priority areas of employment and mainstreaming and championing equality.
- 2.11 We look forward to the publication of the final document and delivery plan. In addition, we would recommend that a detailed glossary is attached alongside the strategy to ensure consistency of approach and understanding going forward"

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members on how the wording of the recent motion about the definition of antisemitism brought to Strategic

Policy and Resources at the November meeting would impact on the Good Relations Strategy and associated policies.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Consider the definition and associated examples of ant-Semitism as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance on 26th May 2016 and if the definition should be fully incorporated into the Council's Good Relations Strategy and associated policies bearing in mind the impact as outlined below.

2.2 That further to the recommendation of the Shared City Partnership on 5th November 2018, Committee agrees that the draft Good Relations Strategy be published for public consultation in January 2018.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 At the last meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the following motion, which had been proposed at the Council meeting on 1st November 2018 by Councillor Craig and seconded by Councillor Boyle had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), be referred to the Committee for consideration.

3.2 *"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."*

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 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.

- 3.6** A copy of the definition and the associated examples as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and referred to in the above notice of motion are attached at Appendix 1 for member's information. Members may be aware that the definition and associated examples have been subject to some debate.

Impact on Good Relations Strategy

- 3.7** The draft Good Relations Strategy has been agreed by the Shared City Partnership at its meeting on 5th November 2018 and is attached at Appendix 2. Pending SP and R Committee and Council approval anticipated in January, the draft strategy will go out to public consultation, via the Council's Citizen Space portal.
- 3.8** The Strategy outlines a vision for the promotion of a shared Belfast. It is not intended to be an action plan rather a framework to support the delivery of Good Relations in Belfast. Throughout this document, we have used the term Good Relations to describe good community and race relations between people of different community, religious, racial or political backgrounds.
- 3.9** The Strategy looks at issues of separation, sectarianism and racism in a holistic manner. No one community has been singled out within the document, as the aim is to promote good relations between all our citizens on different levels. We have not included definitions of any distinct prejudices but tackling discrimination and racism is implicit within the document as a whole.
- 3.10** To include one definition would mean that Council would have to agree definitions for each distinct element regarding prejudice towards those from a different community, religious, racial, political or background. This could prove extremely challenging and it would be difficult to ensure we had included every facet and manifestation of prejudice.
- 3.11** Members may wish to note that part of the outworking of the Strategy will be the District Council Good Relations Action Plan which is part funded by The Executive Office. The current plan is based on the priorities laid down in the Together: Building a United Community which are : Children and Young

People, Safe Community, Shared Community and Cultural Expression.

- 3.12 Under these priorities, we run a number of programmes which meet particular outcomes which address diversity and difference. It is important to note that this work includes engagement with the Jewish community.
- 3.13 Examples include two annual events, organised as part of the DiverseCity programme, that open up opportunities for people from Belfast to visit the Jewish Synagogue enabling them to understand aspects relating to the history, heritage and cultural practice of the community in Belfast. In addition, the Council, through the Good Relations Unit, is partnering with The Executive Office to run a regional event in the City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 24th January 2019. In the run up to this event, several engagement initiatives, involving a survivor of the Holocaust, were organised for communities and schools in October.
- 3.14 Therefore, while there may be no particular issues in Council agreeing the definition as presented, it would not be recommended that a definition particular to one section of the community be specifically incorporated into the Draft Good Relations Strategy and/or associated policies. Tackling all aspects of discrimination and racism is at the core of these strategies and policies and this would include such attitudes and behaviours in relation to the Jewish community and others.
- 3.15 On a related matter, Members should note that any delay on the draft Good Relations Strategy will affect the ability of the Strategy to be launched as planned in early Summer and will mean the consultation sessions will have to take place during Purdah. This will limit the ability of members to demonstrate cross party support for an important Council Strategy, which is a core value within the Belfast agenda, and Local Development Plan.

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under

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Section 75 which includes different religious, political or racial backgrounds. If a policy is deemed to have a potentially negative impact, then the Council must explore mitigating actions to alleviate the negative impact. There are no rural needs implications.”

Moved by Councillor Garret,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees that the definition should not be fully incorporated into the Council’s Good Relations Strategy and associated policies and that the draft Strategy be published for consultation in January, 2019.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Craig,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the definition be not included in the Good Relations Strategy but that the Council adopts the definition of anti-semitism which has been internationally recognised.

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

Further Amendment

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees that the definition be not incorporated into the Good Relations Strategy and that it be published for consultation, but that a report on the definition be brought back to a future meeting.

On a vote by show of hands six Members voted for the amendment and seven against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Beattie was put to the meeting, when seven Members voted for and six against and it was declared carried.

**Equality and Diversity Screening and Rural Needs
Outcome Report – April – September 2018**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Shared city Partnership**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable it to be considered at its meeting in January, 2019.

Operational Issues

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

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the item until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

**Minutes of Budget and
Transformation Panel Meeting**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

Minutes of Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its meeting to be held in January, 2019.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 4th December, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillors Boyle, Dudgeon, Kyle and Mullan.

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 Councillors Newton, Nicholl and McAllister.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Restricted Items

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

Community Support Programme 2018/19: Letter Variance

(Mrs. C. Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with the following two items.)

The Committee considered a report which provided details in relation to a Letter of Variance (LoV) to the Community Support Programme (CSP) 2018/19, specifically relating

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to additional funding of £42,432 for Frontline Advice Services. The Committee was asked to consider the following two options and to agree the preferred option:

- Option A – to allocate all additional in-year funding to the five area based Advice Consortia; and
- Option B - to allocate all additional funding to the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service.

Following consideration of the options, it was,

Moved by Councillor Magennis,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

“That the Committee accepts the amendment and variation to the contract for funding detailed as in the Letter of Variance and that Option A be adopted as the preferred option, to allocate all additional in-year funding to the five Area Based Advice Consortia using the funding allocation model developed by the Council in 2012 (revised in 2015 to reflect the boundary changes).”

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Heading,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons

“That the Committee accepts the amendment and variation to the contract for funding as detailed in the Letter of Variance and that a new ‘Option C’ be agreed which would see a 50% equal spilt of the additional in-year funding to the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service and the five Area Based Advice Consortia.”

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

The original motion standing in the name of Councillor Magennis and seconded by Councillor Magee was thereupon put to the meeting and passed with thirteen Members voting for and none against.

Community Development Grants

The Committee considered a report which sought permission to offer contract extensions for 2019/20 across the Community Development Grant Programme (CDGP) categories to funded organisation, pending affordability.

Following consideration, the Committee:

- agreed an intention to offer contract extensions for 2019/20 and noted that any offer of Community Development Grant Programme funding would be dependent upon formal confirmation of the Council’s

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contribution and a stable level of Department for Community income from their regional Community Support Programme grant allocation;

- noted that, following the Committee's approval, officers would engage with funded organisations on this basis; and
- agreed that a report would be submitted to the January meeting that would provide a geographical breakdown in respect of the previous allocation of community development funding grants.

Burial Provision Update

The Committee considered a report which provided details in relation to future burial provision and information in respect of a proposal from a private individual for a cemetery at Dundrod. The Committee was advised that the application had been submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and it had refused permission on 4th October, 2018. The individual concerned was now considering appealing this decision and the Planning Consultant for the proposal had written to the Council seeking the Council's support should it go to the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC).

The Committee considered a number of options in relation to the request and, following consideration, it was

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston,

"That the Committee agrees not to support the appellant's application at the PAC."

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Corr,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

"That the Committee agrees to support the appellant's application at the PAC (if requested) by making representation on the Council's position in relation to its current supply of burial lands and anticipated need."

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

The amendment was put as the substantive motion and passed.

Request for the use of Ormeau Park

The Committee granted authority for Aiken Promotions to hold an outdoor concert on 22nd August, 2019 at Ormeau Park, 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;

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- 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 Entertainment Licence.

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

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

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Response from DAERA re: Japanese Knotweed

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held on 9th October, the Committee had agreed to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to seek an all-party deputation to meet with him to discuss the ongoing challenges in respect of issues associated with Japanese Knotweed.

The Members were advised that a response had been received. In this response, the Permanent Secretary had outlined in detail within the correspondence the Department's role in relation to the management of non-invasive species. He advised that the Department was not in a position to provide a service to manage non-native invasive weeds on land outside of its own ownership as the responsibility for managing species such as Japanese Knotweed lay solely with the owner of the land on which it was growing.

Subsequently, the Permanent Secretary had declined the Committee's request to meet with an all-party deputation to discuss the matter further.

The Committee noted the response.

Lighting of City Parks

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 3rd December, the following motion, which had been proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown) and seconded by Councillor Reynolds, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

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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."

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

Committee/Strategic Issues

**Update on Grass Cutting and Horticultural Maintenance
of Sites Not Owned by Belfast City Council**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Members that the Council had previously agreed to enter into an arrangement with Transport NI (TNI) regarding the provision of maintenance at the Michael Ferguson roundabout, Stewartstown Road and on the roadside verges at Kingsway Dunmurry, Knock dual carriageway and the top of the Cregagh Road, all of which were under the ownership and responsibility of TNI.

The Director explained that, whilst this arrangement had now been in operation for three years, it was recognised that the condition of many of these open spaces, rather than contributing to the attractiveness and vibrancy of the City and local neighbourhoods, were unsightly as they were not effectively maintained. She advised that consideration was now being given as to what other options were available to partner agencies and local communities to ensure that open spaces were suitably maintained.

The Director reported that, as part of recent work to develop a Belfast Open Spaces Strategy, an audit of open spaces in the City had been undertaken. The audit had assessed open space provision, accessibility and potential future action based on the City's growth strategy and included parks, playing fields, playgrounds and civic spaces. She advised that this Strategy would be presented to the Committee in the coming months for its consideration.

The Committee noted that a review had also been undertaken of the Growing Communities Strategy and that it too would be presented to Committee in due course. In the context of maintaining non-Council open spaces in local areas, it was felt that there was an opportunity to assess how this area of work might also be addressed through volunteering with the development of increased capacity through communities.

The Committee was advised that, based on the work to date, it was proposed that further work would now be undertaken in each area to assess the need for maintenance of open spaces that were not owned by the Council. The Director advised that it was suggested that Council officers would meet with representatives from the Department of Infrastructure to review the current arrangements and to discuss opportunities to improve or enhance these arrangements. Any further discussion would be set in the context of the Council's significant financial constraints and would recognise that the Council alone could not resolve the issues.

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Following consideration, the Committee:

- agreed that, in order to test feasibility and to grow capacity, some pilot projects would be undertaken in 2018/2019. A further report on the scope and detail of pilots would be submitted at a future meeting;
- agreed that officers would undertake a review of the grass cutting arrangements already in place with Transport NI and seek to establish, in conjunction with Transport NI, how these could be enhanced or improved for the year 2019/2020, this would also give consideration to the McKinstry Road Roundabout; and
- noted that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would include recommendations for the 2019/2020 financial year.

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

The Committee was advised that at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 21st November, the following key items had been considered:

- update in respect of the permanent memorial to mark Z1 in the City Cemetery; and
- Update in respect of new Burial Lands.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 21st November 2018.

Physical Programme/Asset Management

Proposed Relocation of Moyard Playground

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council currently held a site at Moyard Crescent from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) on a 10,000-year lease, for the purpose of providing a standalone playground and small kick about area. She detailed that the location, which was isolated from the main body of the Moyard Estate, had been used as a gathering point for local youths who engaged in anti-social behaviour.

The Committee was further reminded that, at its meeting held on 14th August, 2014, it had granted approval to relocate the playground from Moyard Crescent to the Vere Foster Primary School site and to surrender the Moyard Crescent site to the NIHE. The playground had subsequently been closed and the equipment removed but the Council had retained ownership of the site. The Belfast Education and Library Board (now the Education Authority) had indicated a willingness to transfer part of the land at the Vere Foster Primary School to the Council for the relocation of the playground and kick about area. It had been considered that this proposed location would provide improved access due to the proximity to the housing and to the Matt Talbot Youth Club.

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Following the construction of a mini pitch by the Education Authority, the remainder of the Vere Foster Primary School site had been declared surplus in June 2017 and the Council had expressed an interest in acquiring the site for a new playground and casual multi games area. The NIHE had also expressed an interest in acquiring the site for social housing. The Land and Property Service (LPS) had valued the site at £120,000 to reflect residential development. The Committee was advised that, following discussion with officers, the NIHE had since withdrawn its expression of interest in the Vere Foster Primary School site.

The Director reported that Council had submitted a business case to the Education Authority seeking to acquire the site for a playground and multi games area by way of a 25-year lease. The Education Authority had agreed to the request for the 25-year lease and the LPS had assessed the value at £800 per annum.

The Committee noted that the Council was now in a position to agree to the NIHE's request for the Council to surrender its leasehold interest in the Moyard Crescent site. The Committee was advised that the NIHE intended to transfer the site to Choice Housing for the construction of 12-14 social housing units to address the identified social housing need in the area. The LPS had assessed the value of the Council's leasehold in the Moyard Crescent site at nil, given that the site was restricted to that of a playground and also that the NIHE had reserved the right to take possession of the frontage of the site on giving the Council one-months' notice at any time.

The Committee:

- authorised the disposal of the existing Moyard Crescent playground site to the NIHE by way of a surrender of the lease; and
- agreed to the acquisition of a new site at the former Vere Foster Primary School from the Education Authority, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to the terms of the Deed of Surrender to the NIHE and the new lease with the Education Authority in accordance with standing orders.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 2 Finance Report

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 2 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 2 position for the Committee which showed an under-spend of £476,845 or (1.2%) of the budget, with the forecast year end position being an under-spend of £98,000k (0.1%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Director advised that the forecast year end position for the Council was an underspend of £1.225m which was 0.9% of the budgeted net expenditure. The Quarter 2 forecast from the Land and Property Service was a clawback of £1.201m. The Committee was advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its

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meeting on 23rd November, had agreed that no budget reallocations would be considered until the year end given the considerable financial challenges that faced the Council.

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

People and Communities Committee Plan

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 a mid-year update on the People and Communities Committee Plan 2018/19 outlining progress on key actions, achievements and risks (as at 30th September 2018).

1.2 The People and Communities Committee Plan 2018/19 was approved by Committee on 12th April 2018, following a Members planning workshop held on 27th February 2018 and a feedback report was tabled for consideration on the 6th March 2018.

1.3 The Committee Plan provides an overview of the various priorities and key activities that this Committee will oversee in the 2018-19 financial year to help deliver on the priorities and ambitions in the Corporate Plan and Belfast Agenda.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the progress to date against the agreed actions within the Committee Plan.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The People and Communities Committee Plan provides an overview of the priorities and key activities the Committee will oversee throughout the 2018-19 financial year to deliver the ambitions in the Corporate Plan and Belfast Agenda. The Committee Plan actions contribute towards the City’s strategic direction and long-term vision.

The Committee Plan supports the delivery of the Belfast Agenda, working towards the delivery of inclusive growth across all four priorities of Living Here, City Development,

Growing the Economy and Working and Learning led by an organisation fit to lead and serve, and aiming to leave no one behind. The Living Here priority makes a significant contribution to improving life at a local level.

Committee Plan Update

3.2 Over the last six months a range of strategies, policies, programmes and projects have been developed and implemented aimed at improving the quality of life and well-being at a local level, working with partner organisations and communities to realise the City's vision and achieve its potential. Lead officers have provided status and progress updates measured against the projects, programmes and activities as laid out in the Committee Plan. A detailed update is outlined is available on Mod.gov with some key highlights summarised below against the relevant priorities of the Belfast Agenda.

3.3 *Living Here -Improve Neighbourhoods highlights:*

- Our work in partnership with Early Years Organisations with pre-school children is reaping benefits; the opportunity to train staff with new techniques embeds skills which benefit all child age groups.
- We are re-enforcing our commitment to leave no one behind by solidifying closer relationships with Family Support Hubs. We continue to extend outreach services in hard to reach communities. We have delivered a number of single identity sessions in our Community Centres to newcomers and ethnic communities, and increasingly children are participating in our mainstream services which are drawn from a wide range of ethnic minority communities including the Roma and Traveller community.
- We are continuing to deliver the Belfast PCSP Action Plan exceeding our targets aiming to ensure our neighbourhoods are safe.
- Officers are meeting regularly with the PSNI to improve front line services by tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in our Parks and Open Spaces, prioritising resources and programming activity to areas most in need.
- We have earned two new accredited Green Flag Awards for Connswater Greenway and Half Moon Lake achieving a total of nineteen as we successfully retained our seventeen existing sites across the city; Botanic Gardens also successfully achieved the Green Flag Heritage Award.

- The Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) is thriving with 337,402 people using our new and improved facilities. Our animation plan is well established with 23,918 people attending CCG events actively engaging in a wide range of cultural, active and sporting activities. A multi-activity programme of events has been delivered comprising Walking, Yoga, Cycling activities including Market Fayres, Festivals and Park Runs.
- We are finalising the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy ready for committee approval prior to a period of public consultation to maximise the council's commitment to improve the city's natural and built environment.
- We have completed and submitted the Air Quality Plan to DAERA fulfilling our commitment to protecting and improving the city's environment.

3.4 *Living Here – Improve the City Living Experience highlights:*

- We successfully organised and delivered the Spring Fair, Rose Week and Autumn Fair to an audience over 86,000 visitors maximising the benefits of our local assets and green spaces.
- Our investment towards the development of sports in the city is making good progress with the recent approval of the Sports Development Strategy terms of reference.
- We are continually working at a local level with our residents to deliver the Stadia Community Benefits programme with GAA coming on board and joining the initiative.

3.5 Living Here - Improve Community Relations highlights:

- We have received a Letter of Offer for £506K to deliver our Good Relations Action Plan which continues to be rolled out via a range of programmes across Belfast.
- We allocated Grant Aid Funding to 69 projects across the City for a range of Good Relations and Summer Intervention activity.
- We successfully rebid for £5.5M under the Peace IV Programme themes of Children and Young People, Shared Spaces & Services and Building Positive Relations.
- We have completed the public consultation on The Springfield Dam Park Masterplan aiming to foster greater levels of social integration and engagement; the project will reconnect the dam and park creating a new signature civic space improving access, recreational facilities and environmental enhancements.

3.6 *Living here - Reduce Life Inequalities highlights:*

- We continue to work with our key partners in the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) –supporting the development of a revised draft strategic framework with identified themes.
- Innovative and collaborative approaches towards tackling drug use in the city is helping to develop a joined-up approach to address drug, alcohol and mental health issues.
- We are collaborating with partners working towards establishing the crisis de-escalation service pilot which is on track for opening in January 2019 together with secured funding; and a tender process is underway.
- An animation and outreach programme has been delivered in Marrowbone which is linked to Care Zone to support the approach towards suicide prevention, well-being and emotional resilience.
- Financial support of £73K of has been allocated to deliver the Every Body Active programme. The Clubmark scheme has now awarded 88 clubs with accreditation or achieved higher progression.
- We continue to manage the GLL strategic partnership under the Active Belfast Ltd business plan, delivering year on year growth and efficiencies. The Olympia Leisure Centre continues to be a successful operational model and pre-paid membership is increasing.

3.7 *Living Here - Enable Active, Healthy and Empowered Citizens highlights:*

- A cross council steering group has been established to lead on the Corporate Volunteer Policy with an internal communication plan developed to promote the policy.
- Volunteer activity continues across a range of projects and services including Summer Scheme programmes, Age Friendly Belfast, Positive Ageing month, our Sail Training programmes and the Tropical Ravine. Over 5000 volunteers supported the delivery of community and play programmes amounting to over 31,500 volunteer hours contributed to date.

3.8 *Living Here - Provide fit for purpose city services highlights:*

- We continue to work on projects as part of the CNS Change Programme. In relation to service integration, structural change and efficiency, four workstreams have been prioritized : Customer Focus, Waste Management,

Frontline Regulatory and Open Spaces & Streetscene. The Tier 4 management structure is complete with 5 management appointments in place by end of Sept (the final post was recruited in November).

- Work is continuing on the Bereavement Improvement Programme with a recent risk zoning exercise taking place facilitated by a national expert.

3.9 *Living Here - Support young and older people highlights:*

- The Age Friendly Plan has been agreed and approved by Committee ready for public consultation.
- There is continued engagement with the Youth Forum campaign programme with 40 recently recruited young people.
- The Belfast Youth Forum and Children's Law Centre worked together on the collaborative project 'Elephant in the Room' to help inform and promote mental health issues in young people.

3.10 *City Development – Protect and Enhance our Environment and Built Heritage highlights:*

- Our work progressing HLF funding applications in support of the restoration and animation of city assets has transformed the Tropical Ravine which has received 142,000 visitors since opening until September 2018. The upgrade achieved 'Project of the Year' at RICS Awards 2018; this award is testament to the council's commitment to deliver key strategic physical projects and enhance our environment and built heritage.
- The public consultation of the Waste Framework began in June and is now complete with over 2,000 responses received to date. Nineteen site-specific information roadshows took place across the city.
- Workshops have taken place under the Circular Economy umbrella. A programme of work has been developed identifying four material streams of food waste; electrical & electronic equipment; furniture & clothing and textiles and is currently under consideration as part of the Strategic Framework.

3.11 *Organisation Fit to Lead and Serve – our enablers*

- Presentations have been delivered to Area Working Groups and updates provided to Community Planning Partnership/Living Here Board.
- Four Area Neighbourhood Service Managers have been appointed.

- The plan to transfer the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) regulation to Council is progressing. A draft budget has been prepared for the new service and is currently under review.

3.12 Corporate Risk Actions Update

- There has been good progress in relation to the two corporate risk actions. The risks are regularly reviewed and assessed.
- Regular monitoring and reporting of existing waste contracts takes place within the business area. Next steps in relation to overturn DAERA's award of planning for arc21 Residual Waste Treatment project remains with the Secretary of State NI. Public consultation of the Waste Framework is now completed together with the strategic Outline Cases for relevant capital investments.
- The Safeguarding All Ages risk is progressing with a Safeguarding Panel established and training being delivered. An internal audit has supported the development of a responsibility matrix which is the basis of a continuous improvement plan which will report findings to the Safeguarding Panel.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

The Committee Plan 2018-19 has been developed and delivered in the context of the resources available to Committee.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

Where necessary all projects, programmes and activities contained within the Committee Plan have and will be subject to equality and rural needs screening, which are dealt with at project level and in line with the Council's processes."

The Committee noted the progress to date against the agreed actions within the Committee Plan.

Operational Issues

Street Naming

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Castlehill Wood, off Castlehill Manor, BT4 and Napoleans Gate, off Shore Road, BT15.

Dual Language

The Committee approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Powerscourt Place, off Essex Grove, BT7 and Essex Grove, off Ormeau Road, BT7.

Waste Collection - Quarterly Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To provide Members with an update in relation to:

- (i) the processes and procedures that continue to be implemented to enhance the waste collection service;**
- (ii) the actions included in the high level Waste Collection Improvement Plan, which has been developed to address productivity and performance issues; and**
- (iii) the call handling procedures used in relation to waste collection requests for service -and in particular call, waiting times during August 2018.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- note the continued interventions implemented to maintain the performance improvements of the waste collection service, together with progress in relation to the actions included in the Waste Collection Improvement Plan, and the Organisational Development Unit review of the commercial waste function.**

2.2 Members are also asked to note the processes and actions that have been implemented to improve call handling in relation to waste collection calls and the proposed future, enhanced and innovative approach to customer focus across the council.

2.3 As Members will be aware, it was previously agreed that future update reports would be provided on a three monthly basis. Given the positive impact interventions introduced to date have achieved to improve the performance of the Waste Collection Service, the Committee is asked to approve the recommendation that, future Waste Collection update reports be presented to Members on a six monthly basis.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Waste Collection Customer Call Handling and Management Interventions

3.1 The volume of waste collection calls directed into the Customer Contact Centre have returned to normal levels (approximately 11,000 calls per month) as a result of the management interventions and improved processes which have been implemented during the past fifteen months.

3.2 Over the course of a full year the Council completed 8.5 million domestic waste collections. Of these collections, around 12,000 can be attributed to missed collections which were due to a number of reasons, including unrepresented waste receptacles, restricted vehicle access, vehicle breakdowns and unforeseen circumstances such as snow and ice.

3.3 Management information reports continue to be generated, which enable targeted and timely operations to be carried out and proactively deal with service requests in relation to missed bins and missed assisted lifts.

The production of comprehensive daily waste collection analysis reports by assistant managers and operational squads continue to provide accountability, improved communication and increased productivity, which supports prompt resolution of customer enquiries.

3.4 Resolving accessibility problems on some waste collection routes remains an issue. Given the access difficulties of certain locations it will take some time to achieve sustainable solutions. Discussions are ongoing with the Transport NI Enforcement Team to explore viable possibilities which include installing double yellow lines, enforcement action and adjustments in collection times. Additionally, options in relation to using smaller RCVs on specific collection routes are being considered, as these vehicles have the ability to manoeuvre more easily on challenging routes, but this is dependent upon the availability of the limited number of these types of vehicles.

3.5 Members will be aware that the current waste collection fleet is aged, frequently resulting in vehicle breakdowns, which will impact negatively on collections. Options are being explored, where possible, to replace vehicles on a like-for-like basis with modern alternatives, and will include hybrid vehicles in due course.

- 3.6 Regular communications between the senior management forum, the waste collection management team and the trade unions continues to take place, which ensures that priority issues are considered and addressed in a timely basis. This process supports the delivery of a high quality, responsive and flexible service which meets customer need.**

Waste Collection Improvement Action Plan

- 3.7 Having started in the Council over the summer, the Logistics Manager continues to focus on the waste collection improvement plan. An update in relation to the key actions required to address productivity and performance issues, is detailed in the following points.**

- The review in relation to the administrative support arrangements for waste collection operational staff, is continuing. Time spent on the ground supervising waste collection operations by operational staff remains at an increased level and will continue whilst the squad productivity initiatives are implemented for the remainder of 2018-2019.**
- The information gathered in relation to waste collection squad productivity is now being discussed with individual squads and improvement plans have been identified on an individual squad basis for many of the squads. This review covers all types of waste - general, recyclable and food/ organic. This phase is due to complete in January 2019. Where possible incremental improvements are being introduced immediately, with a final improvement plan to balance all routes to follow. Thus may necessitate some further changes to collection timetables in order to maximise efficiencies.**
- A review of Commercial Waste productivity is underway. Base data is being collected and sent to the route optimisation software provider for input. The results will be analysed by the Waste Collection Management team and an action plan will be drawn up to implement any agreed efficiency improvements.**

Customer Contact Centre Call Handling August 2018

- 3.8 Following a query raised at the August 2018 Committee in relation to waste collection customer call waiting times, enquiries have been completed to explore the reasons attributing to increased call handling times.**

- 3.9** Members should note that, during the period April to August 2018, the Customer Contact Centre received an exceptionally high number of calls in relation to bulky waste collections, and wasps. During this period, the volume of bulky waste collection calls increased by 57% and the volume of calls regarding wasps increased substantially, resulting in call answering delays.
- 3.10** It is acknowledged that requests for service regarding wasps are seasonal, generally peaking in August and therefore can explain the significant escalation in such service requests during this period. Additionally, the particularly warm weather during the 2018 summer period, is likely to have contributed to a greater increase in wasp -related calls this year.
- 3.11** The call duration time in relation to dealing with wasp related service requests is considerably longer than other types of service requests, with an individual call duration lasting up to ten minutes. As a result, during August 2018, call durations were of considerable length, with the Customer Contact Centre operatives being occupied for longer periods of time than normal, subsequently leading to longer call handling times for all calls.
- 3.12** At this point, immediate corrective action was taken and a voicemail was activated explaining to customers that, potentially the call waiting time could be up to twenty minutes. To proactively improve customer call experience, customers were invited to leave a voice mail message or where appropriate, directed to Council's website, to access their service request.
- 3.13** This issue has subsequently been resolved, with the volume of all calls received by the Customer Contact Centre and call handling times returning to normal levels (as outlined in 3.1).
- 3.14** In order to proactively avoid similar delays recurring in the future, from 15 October, all calls in relation to wasps have been transferred to the Pest Administration Team.

Proposed Future Customer Focus Approach

- 3.15** Members will be aware of the Corporate Customer Focus Project established to review current customer contact channels and structures, with a view to defining a future corporate approach to customer contact and ultimately enhance customer experience.

- 3.16 An extensive programme of internal and external engagement, as well as wide-ranging research, has informed the development of draft guiding design principals, which if agreed will be used to shape options for delivery and will provide a frame of reference for future decision making in relation to customer focus. These design principals focus on a consistent joined up corporate approach, underpinned by customer service standards which are customer centric to enhance customer experience, whilst improving the efficiency of our processes to support the scale of growth required to meet the Belfast Agenda.**

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.17 At this time there are no negative financial or resource implications associated with this report. Any future route optimisation rebalancing exercises and asset implications arising from the implementation of the Waste Framework may however result in financial and resource implications at a future date.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.18 At this time there are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment implications associated with this report.”**

The Committee noted the update provided and agreed that future Waste Collection update reports would be presented to the Committee on a six monthly basis.

Request for the use of Parks and Facilities (Combined Report)

The Director Neighbourhood Services advised that requests had been received from a number of organisations seeking permission to use various Council parks and facilities.

The Director then provided an overview of each of the proposed events and following consideration, the Committee granted permission to:

- the Apprentice Boys of Derry for its “Annual Easter Monday Demonstration” at Alderman Tommy Patton Playing Fields on Monday 22nd April, 2019;
- the Belfast Junior Orange County for its “Annual Easter Tuesday Parade” at CS Lewis Square on Tuesday 23rd April, 2019; and
- the Grand Opera House to enable it to hold a Family Festival on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July, 2020 at Botanic Gardens and also for a Big Top Circus event, restricted to a maximum of 7- 8 days between 31st July – 16th August, 2020 (also at Botanic Gardens).

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The Committee agreed that all events would be subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organisers:

- resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities; and
- consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.

Specifically in relation to the Grand Opera House Event, the organisers would be required to:

- obtain the necessary permission for pyrotechnics;
- obtain a sale of alcohol license;
- enter into an appropriate legal agreement; and
- process the timely payment of the agreed charges and bonds as required in the legal agreement.

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

- negotiate an appropriate fee for 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; and
- to write to the promoters and advise that the Council reserves the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

Pride of Place 2018

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services explained the purpose of the Pride of Place competition, which recognised and celebrated community partnerships' contribution to society. Entry was by Council nomination and the Council had supported the competition for over twelve years. The Council's Community Service officers took the organisational lead in the selection and preparation of entrant groups.

The Director reminded the Committee that, this year, the Council had nominated five groups, as follows:

- Bloomfield Community Association – Urban Neighbourhood with population under 1,000;
- Markets Development Association – Urban Neighbourhoods with population between 1,000 – 2,000;
- Benview Community Centre – Urban Neighbourhoods with population over 2,000;

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- The Maureen Sheehan Centre – Community Wellbeing Initiative; and
- The Three Faiths Initiative – Communities Reaching Out Initiative.

Four of these had progressed to the judging stage in August, with Benview Community Centre subsequently having withdrawn from the process. At the Gala Awards Ceremony held in Cork City Hall on 17th November, two of the Council nominees had been successful, the Markets Development Association were the overall winners in their category and Bloomfield Community Association were runners up in their category.

The Director detailed that the nomination programme required a very quick turnaround between receipt of the nomination forms and return of the completed application to Co-operation Ireland, usually six weeks. He also advised that the Council had been finding it increasingly difficult to source organisations willing to participate in the competition. Given these difficulties, officers felt that it was an opportune time to develop a more robust process across a number of Council services.

The Committee noted that the process had yet to be developed but it was suggested that the selection criteria would entail a short expression of interest form to be completed by the nominated group, development discussions with the group and an assessment panel.

The Committee approved the development of a new nomination and selection process for participation in the 2019 Pride of Place Competition and agreed that a report would be submitted to committee in due course which would detail the proposed options.

Winter Preparedness

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 outline the multiagency arrangements in place to support rough sleepers and other vulnerable individuals over the winter period and to bring to Committee’s attention the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust’s intention to establish a homeless support hub in Belfast.**
- 1.2 On 6th November, the NI Housing Executive undertook an annual overnight street count of people sleeping rough in Belfast. Sixteen people were encountered on the street between the hours of 2.00am and 5.00am. Street counts provide a snapshot of people who are bedded down or about to bed down on the night of a count.**
- 1.3 All of the sixteen people encountered were known to services. One had their own home and of the remaining 15 people, all were either known by or engaged with staff conducting the street count with only two accepting an offer of temporary accommodation on the night.**

1.4 Many of the people identified as chronically homeless, including people who sleep rough, are characterised by chaotic lifestyles and poor health and well-being. It is typically difficult for these individuals to engage with services and they often decline offers of assistance.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to;

- Note the existing services provided for homeless people and rough sleepers in the city and the additional arrangements in place to support these individuals during winter months, in the form of shelter and associated services.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Existing Services

3.1 Services either offered or funded by the NI Housing Executive within Belfast for tackling homelessness include:

- The provision of day-time and night-time street outreach services;
- A day centre that can provide support services for up to 100 vulnerable people;
- The provision of 26 crash beds and a night time reception service;
- A wet hostel for up to 23 people;
- 70 units of intensively managed emergency accommodation;
- The provision of 11 direct access hostels comprising 348 units;
- 10 hostels of family accommodation with 237 units;
- Almost 400 private let properties

Winter Preparedness

3.2 The Housing Executive's Supporting People team is taking a lead in winter preparedness for the homeless sector and has put in place the following arrangements:

- Distribution of specific winter warmth packs for those on the streets through Council for the Homeless

- Established communication networks with community and voluntary service providers (NIHE led) raising awareness of weather warnings and requesting preparedness
- Enhanced outreach services if needed (with support from other frontline organisations including Council) to encourage those on the street to take shelter in the facilities provided.
- Enhanced tolerance levels in crisis accommodation and hostel accommodation to ensure those with more challenging behaviours (who may have been excluded from hostels for past behaviour) have access to shelter during severe weather
- Crisis accommodation (Annsgate, etc.) have the ability to provide temporary beds to provide shelter for all those wanting to access it

City Centre Animation Project

- 3.3 Council Officers are liaising with NIHE regarding rough sleepers, with a view to preventing further vulnerability.

Additional Services

- 3.4 The Policing and Community Safety Partnership and Public Health Agency continue to fund the Street Injectors Support Service and the Dual Diagnosis Service, both of which, alongside the Drug Outreach Team, support individuals with complex addiction and mental health needs. BCC's Community Safety team continues to work closely with these services and the Safer Neighbourhood Officers working patterns have been extended to cover 11.00am-7.00pm, with a focus on the city centre and supporting vulnerable individuals.

Healthcare Hub for the Homeless

- 3.5 A new hub providing health and social care services for the homeless is to be opened in the near future in Belfast. It will be led by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSC). The aim of the Hub is to bring services out of the clinic setting and into the community and on to the streets, to wrap care around the people who need it most, where they need it. This will include physical and mental health care and addiction services for those sleeping rough or in hostel accommodation. The pilot will run for an initial 18 months with an investment of £225,000 from the Department of Health's transformation fund and will build upon the existing BHSC homeless public health nursing service and services provided by the voluntary sector. A senior nurse with considerable experience of working in the homeless

sector is leading the initiative, designed to help inform future service development. The location of the new hub has still to be decided, however the Trust is continuing to work on this and is endeavoring to have it up and running as early as new year.

- 3.6 These extended services will include a GP and an outreach nurse coming into the hub two days a week, a dentist and a podiatrist on site for half a day and a senior outreach nurse employed for an additional day. It is understood that a bid has also been put in for funding for a mental health nurse practitioner to be located in the new hub.

Service Development

- 3.7 Belfast City Council is working with the Public Health Agency and other partners on a targeted co-ordinated short-term (6-9 months) piece of work to address the needs of injecting drug users, particularly within the city centre. This work will have a particular focus on improving communication and co-ordination amongst services funded to work with these individuals and the wider homeless / at risk of homelessness population within the city and is connected to longer-term strategic actions to tackle health inequalities under the governance of the Living Here Board.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.8 The cost of the extended hours worked by the Safer Neighbourhood Officers in the city centre is included within the emergency budget established to support recovery from the Primark fire. All other work with partners is within existing revenue budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.9 There are no particular equality or good relations issues associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the update provided.

Belfast Youth Forum Update

The Committee was provided with a comprehensive overview of the ongoing work of Belfast City Council’s Youth Forum and the Children and Young People Unit’s ‘Ur City2’ fund, in particular it noted the main developments in relation to:

- the Belfast Youth Forum recruitment and induction process;
- the Elephant in the Room Project;

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- formalising youth participation structures; and
- the Ur City 2 Fund.

The Committee agreed:

- that Belfast Youth Forum members could present its mental health research report findings and recommendations to the January monthly People and Communities Committee meeting; and
- to support NI Youth Forum's funding application to Children in Need for an 'Elephant in the Room' project worker by acting as a referee in this process and committing £10,000 over the next three years to support this project.

Control of Graffiti

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 update the Committee on the Motion that was brought to Council on 3rd September 2018 with regard to the Council's approach to dealing with the control and removal of graffiti throughout the city. The Motion was proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Dudgeon called for as follows:**

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

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

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

- 1.2 In taking into consideration the above motion, this report outlines:**

- (i) current operational practices;
- (ii) research on approaches by other councils;
- (iii) cost implications;
- (iv) legal powers to deal with graffiti; and
- (v) proposed future approach to deal with graffiti.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) Note the complex issues and significant costs associated with tackling graffiti removal across Belfast and the responsibilities of property and site owners to carryout maintenance at their own expense.
- (ii) Approve the future approach, outlined in paragraph 3.20 of the report, to further progress the issue of graffiti removal, including:
 - re-engagement with external partners, statutory agencies and utility companies to raise the profile of problematic graffiti within their organisations, highlight their responsibilities in relation to graffiti removal on their properties and sites, and to agree actions for them to address the issue of graffiti, including site monitoring and graffiti reduction and removal programmes;
 - following engagement with statutory agencies and utility companies, officers within the enforcement team will undertake a proactive monitoring regime by identifying hotspot areas and engage with the respective statutory agencies and utility companies to achieve removal of the graffiti;
 - where appropriate, the use of FPNs and Defacement Removal Notices;
 - continued engagement with PBNI to further develop the existing MOU and support, where appropriate, the effective removal of non-contentious graffiti in all areas of the city;
 - develop a Graffiti Removal Policy; and
 - in response to reported contentious or offensive graffiti, Council will continue to obliterate this type of graffiti from private property following completion of the relevant disclaimer form.
- (iii) Note that a progress report will be presented to Committee in approximately six months.

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3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

- 3.1** Graffiti continues to be prevalent and obvious environmental problem in many areas of our city, appearing on a range of public and private property, often linked to antisocial behaviour. Graffiti can sometimes be offensive and contentious, can be unsightly, influencing the visual appearance of local areas and ultimately could have a degrading impact in our neighbourhoods. Although it is recognised that graffiti is widespread, most graffiti does not appear on Council owned property.
- 3.2** Belfast City Council does not have a legal obligation to remove graffiti from any property, however, under the existing provisions of Article 18 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (removal of graffiti and fly-posters), there are discretionary powers which allow the Council to remove or obliterate any graffiti, which in the opinion of the Council is detrimental to the amenity of any land within its district. Council's current approach, which is in line with Councils and Local Authorities across the UK is to:
- (i) remove graffiti from Council owned property;
 - (ii) in the case of contentious or offensive graffiti, following a request for service, remove from private property with the owners signed permission through a disclaimer;
 - (iii) refer requests for graffiti removal from property owned by other statutory agencies, to the relevant statutory agencies; and
 - (iv) work in collaboration, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Probation Board Northern Ireland (PBNI) to remove, where practicable, nuisance graffiti.
- 3.3** In all other cases, removal of graffiti forms part of the normal maintenance responsibility of the person or organisation responsible for the upkeep of the property or site. This includes public and private landlords, other statutory bodies, business owners, private householders, education authorities, utility companies etc.
- 3.4** In the period April to November 2018, 217 service requests for removal of graffiti were received and actioned. Of these, 139 related to contentious or offensive graffiti. Table 1 below

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provides a breakdown of service requests in relation to the removal of graffiti over the past five years.

Table 1: Service Requests – Removal of Graffiti 2013 to 2018

Year	Number of Graffiti Removal Service Requests			Annual Variance %
	Contentious	Non-Contentious	Total	
2017/2018	255	139	394	+19.8%
2016/2017	222	94	316	-19.6%
2015/2016	329	64	393	-14.6%
2014/2015	323	137	460	-28.3%
2013/2014	429	212	641	n/a

- 3.5 The City and Neighbourhood Services Department has limited resources to remove graffiti and, under current resources is unable to assign a dedicated team to this function. At present, one team undertakes graffiti removal as part of its multidisciplinary functions, which includes power washing streets, gum removal, land clearance, fly-posting removal and bulky household waste collections. Currently this team can manage the current workload generated by the requirement to remove graffiti from Council properties and service requests to remove contentious and offensive graffiti elsewhere. This approach is reflective of other Councils in Northern Ireland and across the UK in relation to contentious or offensive graffiti.**
- 3.6 Members will be aware that in 2017, Council developed a partnership arrangement with PBNI and subsequently signed an MOU to support Council, where practicable, with the removal of non-contentious graffiti through a graffiti bus initiative. Council assisted in establishing this project, by providing guidance on the vehicle and equipment specifications, as well as delivering training on graffiti removal operations and the use of equipment. Since the commencement of the service in March 2017 and November 2018, 424 non-contentious graffiti incidents have been allocated to the initiative. It should be noted however that, from commencement of the project, the service has encountered several operational difficulties, resulting in the graffiti bus being out of service for a significant period of time. PBNI has put in place additional measures to mitigate against future difficulties and currently the bus is operating two days a week.**
- 3.7 The Council has limited enforcement powers available to deal with the perpetrators of graffiti and its removal from all property types. The introduction of powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2011 in Northern Ireland**

provided Councils with enhanced powers to tackle the issue of fly-posting and the enforcement of these powers has proved effective in controlling the level of flyposting activity within the city council area. Conversely, the legislative control to deal with graffiti was weakened by the removal of any enforcement powers to control graffiti on privately owned property. In the absence of any enforcement powers, it is difficult to effectively tackle this issue and the removal of graffiti by private landowners is dependent on their voluntary co-operation and good will.

3.8 In 2015 Council highlighted the need for stronger powers concerning the control of graffiti to the Department of Environment Regulatory and Natural Resources Division. However, in a response dated September 2015, the Department indicated that a change to the legislation was unlikely. In any event, given the ongoing absence of a Stormont Assembly, Council is unable to progress this matter further at present.

3.9 The Councils enforcement powers in relation to graffiti include:

(i) Fixed Penalty Notices:

A £80 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) can be issue in certain circumstances to anyone who is caught in the act of graffiti.

(ii) Removal Notices:

A two-day removal notice can only be served on any individual who is identified as being responsible for the graffiti asking them to remove the graffiti. Failure to comply with the notice may result in the removal of the graffiti by the Council and the recovery of debt as a civil debt.

(iii) Defacement Removal Notices:

A Defacement Removal Notice can be served on the owners of utilities and statutory undertakers in certain circumstances to request that they remove graffiti from their properties. The Guidance suggest that Councils should seek to achieve co-operation through a partnership approach and that the use of these Notices should be a last resort.

3.10 As stated previously, the responsibility for removal of graffiti should form part of the responsibilities of the person or organisation accountable for maintaining the property or site. It

would be a considerable burden on the rates if Council decided to undertake graffiti removal on sites which are the responsibility of other individuals or organisations.

- 3.11** By way of example, in 2013 the former Cleansing Services participated in a three month, multi-partnership regeneration initiative, in an area comprising 74 streets in the Lower Falls area. Cleansing Services deployed one priority waste team which removed graffiti from 150 sites in the area. The graffiti ranged in size and type and was removed from all properties following completion of the necessary disclaimer. Several issues evolved during the project which included, problems obtaining the necessary signed disclaimer from property owners, access difficulties and staff being threatened. On occasions staff had to be accompanied by local representatives during the graffiti removal process. In 2013 the cost to remove graffiti in this 0.3452km², over a three month period, amounted to £30,000 which was funded from non-recurring monies. A subsequent review of the same area identified that new graffiti had occurred, despite attempts by local communities to control it
- 3.12** In 2016, a graffiti removal blitz aimed at private and publically owned property in a number of streets within the Holyland and Stramillis area was undertaken by the Council. There are a number of techniques deployed in the removal of graffiti including the most common method of obliteration using masonry paint which is the most cost effective and quickest method. The use of gels/chemicals followed by power hosing is a more expensive and time consuming technique and can only be used to remove small quantities of graffiti within a limited budget. This project highlighted that some property owners refused to allow obliteration of graffiti on their property using paint and insisted on the use of gels, which could cost up to £200 for a sufficient quantity of gel to remove large-scale graffiti from a gable wall. This highlights that the Council's duty to obliterate graffiti in a cost effective manner will not necessarily meet with the expectation of private land owners. After a number of weeks, the graffiti started to emerge again in the area and remains an on-going challenge which many land owners do not pro-actively address.
- 3.13** In addition to the ongoing operational activity to remove graffiti, Council has, over a number of years, implemented several alternative community initiatives aimed at tackling graffiti problems.
- 3.14** Additionally in 2015, Council engaged with key external partners, statutory organisations and utility companies to

address the issue of graffiti, engagement with a view to ensuring that all organisations and companies were working pro-actively to remove graffiti from their properties. With current technology advances, the street scene now accommodates a wide range street furniture belonging to the various utilities, which is also prone to graffiti activity. In many cases, the owners of the street furniture is neither displayed nor obvious and would require an additional resource to map and investigate the owners to pursue any form of action. During previous engagement with utilities, it was acknowledged that the issue of graffiti is challenging and there was a limited resource available to deal with the issue with some indicating that it was reactive approach rather than a proactive programme.

- 3.15 Any future decisions on allocating additional resources around this function would need to be considered in detail, and appraised, in terms of the impacts on the rate setting process. It is estimated that the cost of graffiti removal throughout the UK exceeds £1 billion. It should be noted that other UK Local Authorities have responsibility for the functions of housing, education, roads etc. therefore are accountable for much of the public realm. In Northern Ireland responsibilities are divided between local and central government resulting in fragmented lines of accountability which do not support a straightforward approach to the removal of graffiti.
- 3.16 Recent research undertaken across other Councils and Local Authorities in relation to the removal of non-contentious graffiti from privately owned property demonstrates that a wide and varied approach is adopted. Some Local Authorities charge for graffiti removal, whilst others do not provide any service and place the onus on the land owner to make arrangements for removal. In Northern Ireland, there is a similar varied approach with most Councils prioritising the removal of contentious graffiti from private property. Those Councils who provide non-contentious graffiti removal services free of charge from private property provide a reactionary service following a request for service and this is delivered within a limited budget.
- 3.17 Glasgow City Council takes a proactive approach to graffiti removal by removing graffiti from all Council owned sites as well as removing contentious and non-contentious graffiti from public and private property. At present it has seven dedicated, two person teams, which operate across the city based on a general neighbourhood approach. The annual cost of this service to Glasgow City Council is £500,000. The work of the service is predominately driven by service requests made by the public, to the Council's Customer Care Centre. In addition,

the service also undertakes graffiti removal based on observations throughout individual multi-member wards, to ensure all areas of Glasgow benefit from the service. Glasgow City Council has a similar approach to Belfast City Council in that it will only remove graffiti from privately owned property following receipt of a signed disclaimer from the property owner.

- 3.18** If a similar approach to the Glasgow model was applied in Belfast, significant additional resources would be required. It is estimated that, to introduce two dedicated graffiti removal teams working across the city, the initial annual cost would be £275,743, which would include the purchase of necessary plant and equipment. Thereafter, an annual budget of approximately £209,703 would be required to maintain the service throughout the city. Funding for Council to introduce this model and undertake graffiti removal on a range of sites and properties across the city would have a significant burden on the rate, as these funds could not be found within existing budgets.
- 3.19** A further consideration in the context of providing an approach similar to the Glasgow City Council model is that Councils in Northern Ireland do not have the have discretionary powers to remove or obliterate graffiti on any property owned by another statutory agency. As a result, each statutory agency is responsible for the removal of graffiti from its own property. It has been explained previously that, unlike UK Local Authorities who have wider responsibilities for functions such as roads, housing etc. and are responsible for graffiti removal from these properties, the responsibility for removal of graffiti on such properties in Northern Ireland is fragmented between a number of statutory organisations. This presents a challenge in terms of achieving an effective, proactive graffiti removal programme for the city through one body such as the Council.
- 3.20** In further developing this work, it is recommended that Belfast City Council's future approach could include the following:
- (i)** re- engagement with external partners, statutory agencies and utility companies to raise the profile of problematic graffiti within their organisations, highlight their responsibilities in relation to graffiti removal on their properties and sites and to agree actions for them to address the issue of graffiti, including site monitoring and graffiti reduction and removal programmes;
 - (ii)** following engagement with statutory agencies and utility companies, officers within the enforcement team will undertake a proactive monitoring regime by

- identifying hotspot areas and engage with the respective statutory agencies and utility companies to achieve removal of the graffiti;
- (iii) where appropriate, the use of FPNs and Defacement Removal Notices;
 - (iv) consider the use of new HMO licence powers to deal with Graffiti on Houses In Multiple Occupation;
 - (v) continued engagement with PBNI to further develop the existing MOU and support, where appropriate, the effective removal of non-contentious graffiti in all areas of the city;
 - (vi) develop a Graffiti Removal Policy; and
 - (vii) In response to reported contentious or offensive graffiti, Council will continue to obliterate this type of graffiti from private property following completion of the relevant disclaimer form.
 - (viii) Should include action to write to Department again re new legislation to assist enforcement.

- 3.21 All future work in respect of graffiti removal must support and align with the Belfast Agenda and Community Planning.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.22 The City and Neighbourhood Services Department has a limited budget to deal with graffiti removal. At present resources are sufficient to deal with graffiti removal from Council properties and sites together with the removal of reported contentious graffiti from public places. Any increase in the scope of the current service provision for graffiti removal will have significant cost and resource implications, which will be a considerable burden on the rates if Council decides to undertake graffiti removal on sites which are the responsibility of others.

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.23 Incidents of reported contentious graffiti include political, sectarian and racist remarks. Council recognises the importance of removing such graffiti, where possible, as quickly as possible to reduce interface and community tension.
- 3.24 All graffiti removal is undertaken in line with Council's equality and good relations policies and procedures."

With the permission of the Chairman, Councillors Boyle and Dudgeon the proposer and seconder of the original motion, respectively, addressed the Committee and reiterated their growing concern regarding the unsightliness and lack of control in respect of graffiti

across the City. Councillor Boyle stated that he felt that the proposed measures, as outlined in the report, were inadequate.

The Director of City Services detailed that the issue of tackling graffiti was complex given that it often involved engagement with external partners, statutory agencies, property/site owners and utility companies. She also stressed that there was often significant costs associated with its removal.

Following discussion, the Committee approved the future approach, outlined in paragraph 3.20 of the report, to further progress the issue of graffiti removal and noted that a progress report would be submitted to Committee in approximately six months.

Update in respect of Transfers of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Regulations

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The new legislative control, the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 completed the Final Stage on 15th March 2016 and received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016. On commencement of this Act HMO regulation will transfer to local Councils.

1.2 The committee will recall an update paper presented at the meeting on 4th September 2018, and the papers of 10th April 2018 and 8th May 2018.

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

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

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

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Fees

3.1 During the summer of 2018, the three cluster lead Councils developed a fee calculator, which considered the costs of the

new scheme transferring to the Councils, and the necessary fee that would be required to ensure the scheme could be administered at no cost to the councils.

The fee calculator has subsequently been reviewed by external consultants.

- 3.2 The consultants, working closely with the finance teams in the Councils, concluded that, the assumptions underpinning the anticipated costs and income for the new scheme were reasonable, while the overriding premise is that the Councils' delivery of the scheme would be cost neutral i.e. no public sector subvention required.
- 3.3 It is intended to bring a further report to the Committee regarding the fees once the Department of Communities (DfC) engagement (see below) has been completed and the feedback from stakeholders has been fully reviewed.

DfC engagement

- 3.4 On 14th November 2018, the DfC launched a stakeholder engagement, which included the issuing of 2607 letters to landlords and agents registered under the current scheme, and the publication of the new scheme's details on the DfC website.
- 3.5 The letter detailed that whilst the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 has been granted Royal Assent and introduced into law, most of the Sections contained within have not yet been enacted. This means the Act exists, but at this stage, in name only. Following on from the introduction of the primary legislation, DfC officials have been working alongside Council and Housing Executive representatives, to prepare a significant programme of subordinate regulations and a landlords Code of Practice which will give effect to the HMO Act with the aim to introduce a new licensing scheme from 1st April 2019. DfC are on track to meet the deadline for transferring the HMO function and introducing the licensing scheme for 01 April 2019.
- 3.6 The communications also provided additional information on the new HMO licensing scheme and included a copy of the draft HMO Regulations (Northern Ireland) 20XX, the Landlords Code of Practice and a Regulatory Impact Assessment. The communications also outlined the new registration fees for the scheme. The engagement advised interested parties to contact the DfC for any clarification, and with any questions or comments. The engagement will close on 30 November 2018.

ICT

- 3.7 BCC's Digital Services has lead on the process to procure a regional ICT solution for the new scheme. The contract has been awarded, subject to completion of a call off contract, to undertake this work. Considerable work is required to build the new ICT system, and to prepare for the transfer of data from NIHE files to the new ICT platform. Costs associated with the new ICT system will be paid for by DfC as transition costs. Digital Services have developed a SLA for ICT across all the Councils.

Governance

- 3.8 On advice from Legal Services, given the licensing/regulatory nature of the 2016 Act and the expertise gained by the Licensing Committee in terms of assessing similar type issues, a report was taken to the Licensing Committee on 20th November 2018, recommending that it 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 Department, i.e.

- 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.

- 3.9 A subsequent report on 23 November 2018 to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee recommended amendments to 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. The report also confirmed that the Licensing Committee had agreed 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.

- 3.10 It is proposed to hold a training workshop in January 2019 and bring proposed amendments to the Licencing Committee's Operating Protocol on February 2019.

Transferring staff

- 3.11 Consultation with staff transferring from NIHE to BCC continues. Two members of NIHE staff continue to work in BCC offices each week to prepare a procedure manual and other relevant documentation. It is anticipated that an awareness session for transferring staff will take place in December, which will include a tour of the proposed office space and facilities in Cecil Ward Building, an opportunity to meet future colleagues in the City & Neighbourhood Services Department, and a tour of City Hall. A similar process will take place for transferring staff who will be based in the offices of Causeway Coasts and Glens Borough Council. A review of training needs prior to transfer is also ongoing.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.12 The cost of administering the new licensing regime has been included in the draft estimates for 2019/20.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Committee noted the update provided.

Resourceful Belfast

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Waste Management has continued to develop and refine the Council's approach to the Circular Economy under the banner of '*Resourceful Belfast*'. This has involved consideration of how the Council can use procurement and its contract base. We are also considering the policy landscape that could be created and benchmarked against the actions of other cities.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to

- note the contents of the report and approve holding a Members' workshop in the New Year to report work to date and inform future steps.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 Members will be aware that the results from the Waste Collections consultation exercise was presented to Committee last month, and briefings on these are being scheduled for January 2019. These amount to a proposal to improve the quality of materials collected which can then be used locally for reprocessing and remanufacture.
- 3.2 In addition to the proposals around waste collections, which form part of the Council's draft Waste Framework strategic framework, a further series of actions are being developed to improve the Council's waste operations specifically around (i) waste infrastructure and treatment (ii) residents' behaviour change and (iii) the use of ICT and other technologies and new equipment to support these changes. The focus of the Framework is to effect a paradigm shift waste management in Belfast in order to add value to what is currently thrown away and, in the process, to create jobs in Northern Ireland.
- 3.3 To assist in this transition away from a treatment and disposal operation, Waste Management has been collaborating with other internal/external partners to develop *Resourceful Belfast* (a sister document to the Waste Framework) to articulate what these jobs may be, and in which sectors. The aim of a Circular Economy is to minimise the extraction of natural resources through the reuse and recirculation of goods and materials in order to gain maximum value from them. By extending a product's life through repair/recirculation, a Circular Economy enhances 'waste' to being a material or commodity, while minimising the residues sent for disposal. In such a way, the opportunities created are not just environmental, but economic and social and supports the Belfast Agenda. This means the focus of Resourceful Belfast is not on managing waste, but on identifying the sectors/creation of jobs which could use the materials resulting from working higher up the waste hierarchy (see Diagram 1). As this work is emerging in response to recent Circular Economy legislation, there are no ready-made templates or best practice within cities or regions which the Council can readily adopt so this is a discovery piece. Like many proactive councils, Belfast has been collaborating and working with others to inform and develop its thinking and approach.

- 3.4 At the People & Communities Committee meeting in August 2016, Members approved formation of an Advisory Board to develop a Circular Economy (CE) strategy or framework. That framework was formerly referred to as the '*materials strategy*' but is now known as *Resourceful Belfast*. At this meeting, Members also approved a collaborative arrangement with WRAP. Following this meeting, Waste Management created a cross-Departmental *Resourceful Belfast* Board to identify what actions could be taken.

Circular Economy Advisory Board

Emerging agendas

- 3.5 Since the first report there have been a number of game changers as highlighted in last month's report, particularly with David Attenborough's Blue Planet II highlighting the scale of the problem of escaped plastics, and the Chinese Government's implementation of *Operation National Sword* which reduced China's acceptance of low quality recyclates (8M tonnes per annum approx.), and a resultant global weakening of these materials' prices.
- 3.6 Also, the EU Circular Economy Package was passed. As this was ratified before March 2019, it is part of the legislative bundle which the UK will adopt prior to Brexit and national legislation should be drafted within the next couple of years to enact this. This legislation is of note because it is principally concerned with facilitating increased waste diversion through recycling and reuse, in addition to designing out waste at source, and the promotion of new business models.
- 3.7 There are higher targets for household waste recycling – 55% by 2025, 60% by 2030 and 65% by 2035, along with a 10% maximum allowance to landfill for municipal waste. This emphasises the need to achieve the significant behavioural change outlined in the Council's Waste Framework, and highlights the importance of completing the present consultation exercise.

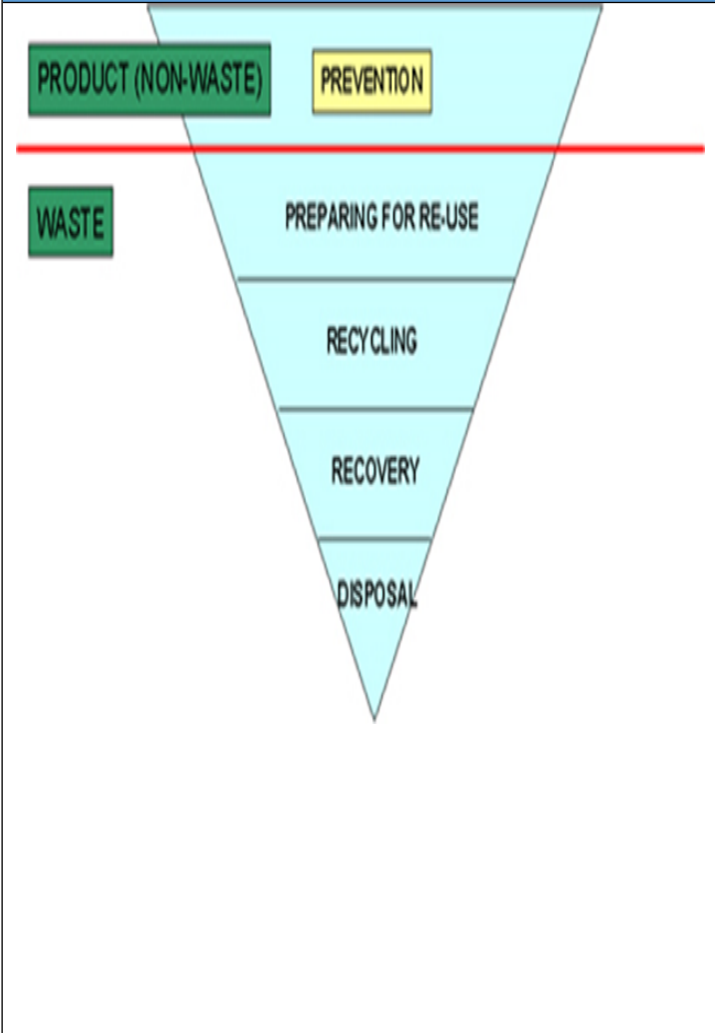
Stages	Include
 <p>The diagram is an inverted pyramid divided into five horizontal sections. From top to bottom, the sections are: PREVENTION, PREPARING FOR RE-USE, RECYCLING, RECOVERY, and DISPOSAL. To the left of the pyramid, there are two green boxes: 'PRODUCT (NON-WASTE)' at the top and 'WASTE' below it. A red horizontal line is drawn across the pyramid, separating the 'PRODUCT (NON-WASTE)' box from the 'WASTE' box. The 'PREVENTION' box is yellow, while the others are light blue.</p>	<p>Using less material in design & manufacture. Keeping products for longer; re use. Using less hazardous materials.</p>
<p>Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts.</p>	<p>Checking, cleaning, repairing, refurbishing, whole items or spare parts.</p>
<p>Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols.</p>	<p>Turning waste into a new substance or product. Includes composting if it meets quality protocols.</p>
<p>Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification & pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat & power) & materials from waste; some backfilling.</p>	<p>Includes anaerobic digestion, incineration with energy recovery, gasification & pyrolysis which produce energy (fuels, heat & power) & materials from waste; some backfilling.</p>
<p>Landfill & incineration without energy recovery.</p>	<p>Landfill & incineration without energy recovery.</p>

Diagram 1: Applying the waste hierarchy

- 3.8 In parallel, or as part of the Package, several national and international plastics strategies have been proposed or launched focusing on preventing or increased recycling. This has generated many calls for partial or total bans of single use plastics, for example, cotton buds and straws as recently covered locally. As outlined to Members recently, one of the key objectives of the Waste Framework is to improve the quality of materials collected to create/support local jobs by introducing new collection arrangements of which one of the most obvious waste streams is plastics. The specific aim of this proposed revision to collections is to collect better quality

materials to be used locally in remanufacture, as opposed to offshoring and recycling elsewhere, which is also likely to minimise the Council's future spend on waste. Such an approach will increase NI's sustainability and economic resilience. Discussions have been held with the universities and with organisations like the NI Polymers Association (NIPA— which represents over 50 plastic processors across the region) and some limited research using students has been conducted. Many are interested in increasing the amount of recycle used in plastic polymer production locally although financial support may be needed to progress this further. A recent application to the ESPRC to progress some of these elements involving some Council support has been successful.

- 3.9 Recently, the Collaborative Network which, in 2016, identified that it could reprocess locally most of the glass, plastic and paper which would be available in NI through better quality recycling and would be worth £47M per annum. These findings contributed considerably to the draft Waste Framework. This Network has now been re-established to explore how to realise these local improvements.
- 3.10 For over a decade, the Council has been extremely active in NI in moving waste thinking beyond simple collection, treatment and disposal. Initiatives, such as Business Improvement through Environmental Schemes (BITES); European Week for Waste Reduction to NI; securing funding for a Carbon Card (foundered due to Great Recession), collaborating on ReNEW project (with WRAP); introducing waste prevention schemes (the Fashion Souk, Stitch & Style, &c); and developing contracts to encourage expand the waste and resources management marketplace in NI were all achieved.
- 3.11 From this background, the Council developed *Resourceful Belfast* to explicitly link waste/resources management with local material supply and, in the process, what contribution could be made to the Belfast Agenda and job creation. The Council (Waste Management) and WRAP established a collaborative agreement to help develop a Circular Economy framework and, working with the Advisory Board (comprising officers from Waste Management, WRAP NI, DAERA Policy Unit, Procurement Unit, and Economic Development Unit), we have identified what might be possible for Belfast.
- 3.12 This identified that, through (i) policies and procedures, (ii) procurement exercises and (iii) market engagement/interventions, the Council could influence how circular economy thinking developed in Belfast. Members of the Advisory Board have also engaged with Strategic Planning

and Property & Projects to get this included in other Council documents, such as the Local Development Plan, and with Members.

- 3.13 In 2016, Waste Management joined the Eurocities Circular Economy taskforce and contributed to a Position Statement at their Annual General Meeting (see [http://nws.eurocities.eu/MediaShell/media/Final -
Stmnt towards circular cities.pdf](http://nws.eurocities.eu/MediaShell/media/Final-_Stmnt_towards_circular_cities.pdf))

Strategy Development

- 3.14 The Circular Economy has proven to be dynamic with considerable focus upon manufacturing and resource efficiency, and new business models. Over the past two years, some clarity of councils' role in supporting this has become clearer (as shown by the Eurocities Position Statement). An underlying principle was that waste provided a starting point, the circular economy element means the focus is not only about cataloguing how many jobs are supported by the Council's recycling activities though, but also how additional steps stimulate new sectors/ businesses and thereby create opportunities additional to those from managing waste.
- 3.15 Rather than merely treating waste, the circular economy addresses the entire process of consumption, production and disposal in a way which conserves natural resources and generates local economic benefits. Adopting this approach over a decade ago supported the steps Bryson Charitable Group took in establishing some of its recycling activities and more recently similar backing has been provided to Extern (WEEE), East Belfast Mission (Bulky Goods) and Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL – mattresses). Building on these approaches, the Advisory Board has been working consistently to develop simple steps in the *Resourceful Belfast* framework, the objective of which stated that '*if we implement targeted interventions and support (1) to stimulate Circular Economy solutions (2) at key points in the local economy (3) we can generate significant economic, environmental and social benefits for the city (4).*'
- 3.16 These elements underpin the framework documents and are available on Mod.gov:
- A summary concept diagram providing a high-level explanation of the framework and their interaction; and
 - A slide pack outlining the initial work; as a '*living*' document it considers how to implement the framework

and how actions can be delivered (a copy of this is available within the Members Library)

- 3.17 These are now being used to engage with businesses, community and voluntary sectors, and other public sector stakeholders. Learning from Glasgow City Council (supported by Zero Waste Scotland), the Board recognised that longer-term a sectoral analysis of the local economy would identify where the most impactful opportunities exist. Glasgow's results helped inform their approach to developing relevant interventions and, posing this question, highlighted that the Council did not have this data and, as a next step, the Board proposes to work with WRAP to commission a similar exercise for Belfast.

Associated Programme of Work

- 3.18 One of the successes in terms of tackling problem wastes has been working with USEL. From a 2015 pilot, the Council contracted for a novel recovery operation which, last year, resulted in 14,000 mattresses being recycling or reuse. This scheme resulted in other councils and institutions getting involved and through its expansion, USEL created 22 jobs. Further materials are being considered including carpets and soft furnishings. In May, Waste Management was selected as USEL's '*Partner of the Year*'.
- 3.19 Extending this approach, the Board considered how it could contribute to the Belfast Agenda and identified that, in addition to policy and procurement approaches, four material streams offered the strongest opportunity to create new jobs through developing projects '*on the ground*'. The four were:
- Clothing & textiles
 - Electricals & electronics
 - Food & drink
 - Furniture (Priority Waste provides a great opportunity for the reuse of bulky waste)
- 3.20 To date, two workshops have identified seven projects as having potential and, currently, they are being assessed for deliverability given resources and timescales.
- 3.21 By way of example of actions of circular economy underway, a resource-matching community outreach/hub exercise run by International Synergies at South 13 Belfast happened in June to swap materials between organisations, many of which were manufacturers. Interested parties included North Belfast Men's Shed and several local waste management companies which

identified new materials for repair and recycling. This prolonging material use, or repairing items is similar to the pop-up Repair Café which has established itself in Belfast and occurs at a different venues across the city. It shows that businesses and third sector organisations are identifying circular economy opportunities and how to realise its benefits. There is a prospect that some may approach the Council to collaborate and maximise local impact.

- 3.22 In terms of increasing employability and skills, as part of the Circular Economy the Economic Development Unit (EDU) has been identifying where there is a significant employment need. As this sector develops and employment opportunities emerge around things like light fabrication, facilities management, & the prospect of accelerating this transition by establishing relevant employment academies may become an option.
- 3.23 EDU are working with a range of employers across the city to establish these employment academies in a wide range of sectors to provide residents with the skills and qualifications needed to apply for job opportunities. All the Council's employment academies are employer-driven to meet demand issues, and underpinned by sectoral employment needs and intelligence. Regular links are maintained with employers and business stakeholders, such as NIPA and EDU are currently focused on engaging with small businesses on a range of programmes and are promoting the Circular Economy message and *Resourceful Belfast* activities. In particular EDU has established a Circular Economy pilot programme for cafés and restaurants in Belfast.
- 3.24 Members may also care to note that a couple of social enterprises have expressed an interest in the North Foreshore, and proposals to develop facilities here or provide alternative approaches for Council services may be in preparation.

Waste Framework

- 3.25 As highlighted in 3.4 above, currently the Council's wastes have secure treatment and disposal markets but with developments like the Chinese import restrictions, there is an increased emphasis upon maximising quality of recyclables which can be used locally (in NI) and create jobs. This adds weight to the Waste Framework and the paradigm shift needed in householders' behaviours improving the flight to quality of materials collected, rather than the simple approach – chasing ever-increasing weight based goals but relying on these lower grade materials being sorted somewhere else.

- 3.26 Top grade papers collected at the kerbside are selling well to local re-processors, such as Huhtamaki. On the other hand, recently the Council's contractor (Bryson) had to get a new market for the comingled (blue bin) collections' mixed papers, the price of which has fallen. Similar to *Resourceful Belfast*, the Waste Framework considers how waste collection changes could mitigate market volatility, optimise income and maintain jobs in line with the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.27 An application for DAERA funding for a pilot wheelie-box collection service has been submitted and the Council anticipate being informed shortly if this is successful.

Internal Actions

- 3.28 In addition to delivering the Waste Framework and *Resourceful Belfast*, there are other actions which the Council can take/ is taking to set the circular economy agenda within the city through leading by example by adopting corporate policies, and further opportunities exist around purchasing, albeit to be fully effective the Standing Orders may need to be amended to provide greater clarity for the Procurement Service to manage environmental and social considerations within capital and revenue tender exercises. Examples from Eurocities and other progressive associations show that this is developing rapidly for councils and alongside enhanced procurement practices, there is scope to explore how circular economy can support SMART city aspirations.
- 3.29 Members have also been looking at what the Council could do and, at a recent meeting of the North Foreshore Working Group, they were keen the Council lead by example. Recent Notice of Motions on '*Water Refill Points*' and '*Single Use Coffee Cups & Plastic Items*' were considered supportive of the direction of the Council to reduce environmental impact, improve performance and demonstrate civic responsibility. When the issue of probable increased cost to deliver some of these approaches was highlighted, some Members felt this needed recognised but should not be the determining factor. Committee reports responding to Members' Notices of Motion are addressing such issues.
- 3.30 Members may care to note that following discussion between Waste Management and canteen staff, single-use cups are now being charged for in the Cecil Ward Building.

Risk

- 3.31 The requirement to create and support local industry to use (reprocess) the materials collected has become more acute in recent months. As mentioned above, the Chinese '*Operation National Sword*' has introduced restrictions on certain wastes; the most relevant are (i) banning post-consumer plastics and mixed/unsorted paper (ii) setting a 0.5% tolerance level for sorted paper from 1 March 2018 and (iii) restricting import waste licences to China next year. Additional restrictions were announced in April which will come into effect in 2019/20 and will further impact income and processing capacity for certain materials.
- 3.32 To date, the UK (in addition to the EU and US) has been reliant on exporting paper and plastics to China but with these restriction, alternative markets in Turkey, Indonesia and Vietnam (and elsewhere) are developing. In the meantime, income for these materials has fallen (e.g. in the past 6 months, mixed papers have fallen from £100/t to £35/t (or lower)). Nationally, there are concerns that these measures may lead to stockpiling of materials and mid-term create an increased need for landfilling or incineration of these materials.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.33 Discussions with the Services involved in the *Resourceful Belfast* Board indicate that there are considerable benefits to be gained from the Collaboration Agreement with WRAP in that it provides the Council with access to expertise and resources which it otherwise would not have. The initial agreement ended on 31st March 2018 but included provision to extend with the agreement of both parties. We plan to use this arrangement for a further three years to support the Waste Plan and Resourceful Belfast. Members are reminded that this agreement falls under regulation 12(7) of the Procurement Contracts Regulations 2015 which exempts contracts between contracting authorities which establishes or implements co-operation between those two contracting authorities.
- 3.34 It is envisaged that Waste Management would commit approximately £90K over the life of this agreement to progress projects of benefit to either delivery of the Waste Framework or *Resourceful Belfast*. This will be accommodated within the Service's Revenue Estimates.
- 3.35 As circular economy thinking evolves, some travel is likely to be needed for the purposes of exploratory visits and learning

opportunities – it is proposed that these will be accommodated within the relevant Service’s revenue budget.

- 3.36 As this work develops, resources to deliver this work will need to be kept under review and proposals will be developed if required.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.37 Resourceful Belfast has potential to contribute to the Belfast Agenda by providing an opportunity for retraining and job prospects for the long-term unemployed and others distanced from the world of work.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Pedestrian Access, Cherryvale

In accordance with the notice on the agenda, Councillor McReynolds raised safety concerns regarding the lack of a pedestrian crossing at the entrance to the Cherryvale Playing Fields and requested that the Committee write to the Department for Infrastructure requesting that, given that the last survey had been undertaken in 2017, it agree to undertake a resurvey of the crossing point.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillors Mullan and Boyle also addressed the Committee and reiterated the serious health and safety concerns in respect of the crossing point. They highlighted that the volume of vehicle traffic and pedestrian footfall had both increased following the refurbishment of the pitches and that the pitches were now open until much later in the evening.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) highlighting the health and safety concerns of the Committee and requesting that it undertake a new survey of the pedestrian access at Cherryvale, given that the most recent survey had been carried out in 2017.

Seabins

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O’Donnell raised the following matter:

“This Council is committed, through its Environmental Policy, to set a good example and contribute positively to protecting and improving the environment through promoting an environmentally responsible approach to using natural resources.

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The Council recognises that more than a third of marine litter comes directly from the public and half the plastic we use is single use. In an attempt to address this problem, the Council agrees to work collaboratively with the Harbour Commissioner's Port of Belfast and the Rivers Agency in establishing and procuring Sea bins, to be placed strategically at points along the River Lagan and Belfast Lough. Each bin can capture three tons of litter a year and 70 per cent of each unit is made of recyclable plastic. They use low energy motors and operate at an approximate cost of a pound a day."

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would investigate the Council working collaboratively with the Harbour Commissioner's Port of Belfast and the Rivers Agency to investigate the feasibility of procuring seabins to be placed strategically at points along the River Lagan and Belfast Lough.

SOS Bus

In accordance with notice on the agenda and with the Permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle raised:

"This Council recognises the outstanding work of SOS NI and the SOS Bus over the past ten years. They have created safe spaces on the streets of Belfast during weekend nights, caring for vulnerable individuals, often with complex needs, with teams of experienced and highly trained volunteers.

They provide crisis intervention, medical support, counselling, emotional care, a listening ear, signposting to statutory providers and transport to hospital, home or other places of safety. It is not an exaggeration to say that many lives have been saved through their care and interventions.

The economic benefit they provide to the City is substantial by preventing harm to many vulnerable individuals but, like other third sector organisations, they face the challenge of financial sustainability.

Recognising the importance of the work they do, this Council, working with other statutory agencies, will consider how it can best support the future sustainability of this invaluable organisation."

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to the January meeting of the People and Communities Committee which would give consideration as to how the Council might financially assist with the future sustainability of the SOS Bus.

Chairperson

C1180

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 28th November, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair); Aldermen Haire, Kingston and McGimpsey; and Councillors Beattie, Corr, Dudgeon, Hussey, Johnston, and O'Hara.

Also attended: Alderman Convery and Councillor Boyle.

In attendance: Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy; Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer; Ms. A. Doherty, Planning and Transport Officer; and Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Lyons), the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and Councillors Baker, Dorrian, Mullan, O'Donnell and O'Neill.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Transportation Issues in the City Centre

The Committee was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 14th November, had agreed that a special meeting be held, to which representatives of the Department for Infrastructure, the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Translink would be invited, to discuss transportation issues in the City centre, following the recent fire in Bank Buildings.

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer reviewed the background to those issues, following which the Chairperson welcomed the following representatives:

Department for Infrastructure

- Mr. K. Monaghan, Divisional Roads Manager, Eastern Division;
- Mr. C De Burca, Director of Dfi Roads Transport Projects and Business Services;

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- Mr. G. Doherty, Section Engineer, Belfast South; and
- Mr. G. Miskimmin, Deputy Section Engineer, Belfast North

Police Service of Northern Ireland

- Inspector David Gibson

Translink

- Mr. C. Conway, Chief Executive; and
- Mr. D. Bannon, Belfast Area Manager.

Mr. Bannon informed the Committee that, as a consequence of the Bank Buildings fire, Translink had been required to re-route a large number of its services in and around the City centre, which had coincided with the launch of its Glider service. He reported that there were now an additional sixty vehicles per hour operating via Chichester Street, High Street and North Street and that, whilst that diversionary route was working well, in terms of delivering passengers close to, for example, Castle Court, Translink now needed to plan for service provision in the medium to long term, given that Royal Avenue was unlikely to open to traffic until April at the earliest. He then referred to the funding which had been secured from the Department for Infrastructure to deliver a high impact festive travel campaign and confirmed that, since its launch, there had been a welcome increase in passenger numbers travelling into the City centre.

Mr. Conway reported that, whilst passengers were now becoming accustomed to the new routes and temporary stops, there were still some issues to be addressed, such as adjustments to timetables. He reiterated the point which had been made by Mr. Bannon around the need for Royal Avenue to be re-opened to traffic as a matter of urgency and confirmed that in the longer term, Translink would, if Castle Street were to be closed for an extended period, be required to identify other routes in which to leave the City.

Mr. Monaghan confirmed that the Department for Infrastructure had, in the immediate aftermath of the Bank Buildings fire, worked with other agencies and businesses to develop an access and loading plan for the City centre. He reported that, whilst the plan was working well in the main, there were some issues, particularly around Bank Square and Castle Street, which officers from a number of agencies were working to address. He confirmed that the imminent opening of the Primark store in Commonwealth House and increased conservation-led activity around the Bank Buildings would place additional demands on the plan and that the Department for Infrastructure would be working to meet the various needs of all stakeholders. He concluded by outlining the arrangements which had been put in place to facilitate tour bus operators and by pointing out that Primark had now assumed, by way of consents, responsibility for the control of the area located within the security cordon.

Inspector Gibson reminded the Committee that a significant amount of work had been undertaken by the various agencies to assist the Police Service of Northern Ireland

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Wednesday, 28th November, 2018**

in and around the City centre, such as the re-painting of road markings, and he thanked them for their contribution. He highlighted the fact that the Police Service had been using social media to raise awareness of the new transport routes and road safety enforcement and stated that there had not, as far as he was aware, been any major issues since the new routes had been introduced.

The Translink representatives then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by Members, particularly around congestion and air quality concerns in Chichester Street, late night services, reliability on certain routes and the need for greater communication generally.

Mr. Conway explained that additional services would be provided in the lead up to Christmas and that Metro, Goldline and rail services would be operating at weekends until midnight. He confirmed that recent delays on some routes had been a knock-on effect of collisions in other parts of the City and that every effort was made to ensure that customers were provided with up-to-date information in such circumstances and generally.

Mr. Bannon pointed out that the number of buses using Chichester Street had doubled since the Bank Buildings fire and that he had, as a precaution, requested the Council to undertake air quality monitoring in that area. He added that the new Glider buses utilised the cleanest available propulsion technology, which should improve air quality across the City in the longer term.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson, following which Messrs. Conway and Bannon and Inspector Gibson left the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

DfI Roads Service Autumn Report

Mr. Monaghan submitted for the Committee's consideration the Department for Infrastructure Roads Service's Autumn Report, which outlined the work undertaken by the Roads Service's Eastern Division within the Council area during 2018/2019.

In relation to major works, he reported that the York Street Interchange scheme remained a high priority, given that it would address a major bottleneck on the strategic road network. New bus lanes were being constructed currently on the M1 and M2 motorways, which would provide an additional 4.6 kilometres and 2.2 kilometres, respectively. He then provided an update on the two minor works schemes, at Barnett's Road, which was progressing, and at the Blacks Road/M1 Junction 3, which was programmed, and on the maintenance of various structures across the City. The Committee's attention was then drawn to the Division's work around collision remedial schemes, traffic schemes, pedestrian measures, traffic signs, carriageway markings/resurfacing and street lighting. He then highlighted the wide programme of cycle improvement measures which had been implemented, such as the widening of the Comber Greenway, and the various schemes which were being planned. He added that the sole traffic calming scheme which had been programmed for the period, at Tennent Street, had been withdrawn, due to objections from the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

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A Member then drew to Mr. Monaghan's attention to the need to undertake resurfacing in Sydney Street West and Abbeydale Crescent, Drive and Parade, and in the Lower Shankill area, including Shankill Parade, and suggested that traffic management measures should be introduced at the Lanark Way/Springfield Road junction. Other Members highlighted the need for traffic calming measures in Glasvey Drive, for gullies to be emptied on a Sunday due to the presence of parked vehicles at other times and difficulties with the Albertbridge Road/Templemore Avenue junction leaving the City.

Mr. Monaghan confirmed that issues with the material to be used to resurface Sydney Street West and Abbeydale Crescent/Drive had now been resolved and that consideration would be given to including Abbeydale Parade in that scheme. He undertook to examine the Lanark Way/Springfield Road junction and to advise the Member of the outcome. He pointed out that only up to four traffic calming schemes were delivered each year and that, since Glasvey Drive was located at number forty-three on the current list of around 500 streets, it was unlikely to be actioned for the foreseeable future. In relation to gulley cleaning, Mr. Monaghan stated that additional funding had become available for routine work, some of which could potentially be utilised for gully emptying, and he invited the Member to identify gullies in his area. It was pointed out that, despite the Roads Service on occasions issuing flyers informing residents of their intention to cleanse gullies on a Sunday in streets where accessibility was an issue, teams had still encountered issues with parked vehicles. Finally, he confirmed that the Albertbridge Road/Templemore Avenue junction had been configured in such a way as to allow Glider buses priority access.

Mr. De Burca informed the Committee that the Belfast Rapid Transport Glider service had been launched on 3rd September and that, since then, there had been an increase of 33,000 passenger journeys per week on the Glider routes. Reliability and punctuality had since risen to 99% and 94%, respectively which, he pointed out, was due to a high level of enforcement activity around clearways and bus lanes. The Glider fleet was demonstrating a 10% to 40% improvement in fuel efficiency, when compared to other Metro buses, and air quality emissions had also improved by 90% on Glider routes.

He reported that all thirty of the Glider vehicles had now been delivered and that an additional two vehicles would be acquired early in 2019. All 102 halts, complete with ticket machines, validators and real time passenger information screens, were now operational and the road infrastructure was now complete. He outlined the issues which had delayed the opening of the Colin Transport Hub and confirmed that it was anticipated that it would be operational by the end of January. Mr. De Burca concluded by referring to the proposed extension of the rapid transit scheme to the north and south of the City and confirmed that the routes which were being recommended would be subject to a full business case and transport modelling.

The representatives were thanked by the Chairperson and, with the exception of Mr. Monaghan, who remained for the subsequent item on the Belfast Bicycle Network Plan, they left the meeting.

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The Committee noted the information contained within the Department for Infrastructure Roads Service's Autumn Report, a copy of which is available [here](#).

Belfast Bicycle Network Plan

The Planning and Transport Officer submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To provide background and outline some of the issues to consider in the context of the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) presentation on the implementation of the Belfast Bicycle Network Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee notes the background and consider the issues in respect of the implementation of the Bicycle Network Plan including opportunities for joint action with the DfI Cycling Unit.

3.0 Main Report

Belfast Bicycle Network Plan

3.1 The Council responded to the public consultation on the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network Plan in March 2017, highlighting the following issues:

- the need for investment and clarification on the resources available to implement the plan within the proposed timeframes;**
- the omission from the draft Plan of a number of the main arterial routes which could service high density residential areas from the primary network in particular in west Belfast, south Belfast and north Belfast; and**
- identification of opportunities to improve connections to the existing greenways supporting the development of a network in the East of the city.**

3.2 It is recognised that DfI has made some progress on developing the cycling network in the City centre, however, there remains a lack of significant progress on establishing a coherent bicycle network city-wide. There is a need for convenient and safe cycling infrastructure linking the city centre to the north, west and south of the city. Further

investment is also required to maximise opportunities around the development of greenways such as the Comber and Connswater Greenway and develop new greenways.

- 3.3 The implementation of the Belfast Bicycle Network Plan would indicate a contribution to delivering a number of the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in particular ‘Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city’. An indicator of this outcome is to increase ‘the percentage of all journeys which are made by walking, cycling or public transport’. It is also in line with the emerging policy in the Local Development Plan, draft Plan Strategy to promote active travel and the Green and Blue Infrastructure plan. It is suggested that the following issues and initial priority areas (in Bold) are raised with Dfl for consideration.

A Community Greenway Route to Service the West of the City.

- 3.4 There is a lack of cycling infrastructure for west Belfast, the main option remains that of using the bus lanes to connect with the city centre and other networks. The alignment of a proposed greenway route could link the Transport Hub and Belfast City Centre along the busway to the Westlink and Bog Meadows. This connection could be extended alongside the M1 Motorway corridor to connect with the Lagan Towpath and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park to the south. The proposed route and connections has the potential to link high density residential areas in the west of the city to the Lagan Towpath and the city centre. It is considered that it would provide a safer environment in which to encourage greater uptake of cycling
- 3.5 It is worth noting the council’s PEACE IV Connecting open spaces project, which seeks to create a pathway and cycleway network (approx. 10km) to connect communities across west Belfast, is currently in progress (Development stage). At a project level Property and Projects Department has initiated engagement with Dfl.

South/Southeast Belfast linking to proposed Gasworks Bridge and Towpath.

- 3.6 Cyclists currently share the bus lane on the Ormeau Road which is operational between 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 pm to 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday. The bus lane runs in both directions but is not continuous and heavily used. There is a shared path section from Park Road to the Ormeau Bridge and an advisory cycle lane on the Ravenhill Road (which experiences a high level of parking outside the urban clearway

restricted times). A high quality dedicated route along the Ormeau Road or Ravenhill Road would link to the towpath and National cycle route and potentially a Gasworks bridge. The ability to link the city centre to the Ormeau Park area through a new Gasworks Bridge would establish a high quality active travel route for pedestrians and cyclists who live and work in the city centre.

South West Belfast

- 3.7 The draft Belfast Bicycle Network plan includes a Southwest Route 5 which links Castle Junction to Finaghy Road North utilising the Boucher Road industrial estate. However, the potential to improve cycle infrastructure along the Lisburn and Malone Roads which service high density residential areas has been omitted and should also be considered as part of a wider network.

North Belfast

- 3.8 The draft Belfast Bicycle Network Plan identifies the North Route 8 which links the City Hall to Gray's Lane and to Whiteabbey. Similar to other areas in Belfast cyclists currently use the bus lanes (Antrim and Shore Road). The development of Route 8 could greatly improve opportunities for cycling in north Belfast. Linkages though to the new York Street bridge as part of the York Street Interchange project should also be included linking into the city centre and Ulster University Belfast campus in both directions.

East Belfast - The Sydenham Greenway

- 3.9 There is an opportunity to connect the existing Comber Greenway and Connswater Community Greenway with the North Down Coastal Path at Holywood. This could provide a link to the City Airport, Harbour Estate, D5 and the proposed park and ride facility at Tillysburn. This proposal would deliver elements of the Green and Blue infrastructure plan (as part of the ongoing Local Development Plan work) to consider routes and links along green corridors and rivers which can be used to promote cycling and walking.
- 3.10 For information a copy of the draft Belfast Network Plan and consultation report can be assessed by using this web link to the DfI site: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-belfast-bicycle-network-2017-consultation>

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.11 There would be resource implications associated with the implementation of the bicycle network proposals if carried out in partnership with DfI which would need to be assessed at project development stage and brought back for committee consideration.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.12 No specific equality or good relations implications.”**

The Planning and Transport Officer provided an overview of the report and stated that Mr. A. Grieve, Safe and Sustainable Travel Division, Department for Infrastructure, and Mr. J. Hobbs, NI Greenways, were in attendance in order to comment on the Plan.

Mr. Grieve explained that the Department for Infrastructure’s public consultation on the Belfast Bicycle Network Plan had taken place over a three-month period, commencing in early 2017. He reported that over two hundred written responses had been submitted, including one from the Council, with the majority of those confirming support for the proposed bicycle network, wishing to see it implemented as the earliest opportunity and expressing concern at the lack of cycle paths along many of the arterial routes. It was evident also that the North and West of the City faced particular challenges in relation to developing cycling infrastructure and that there were areas where cycle use was particularly low. That had been emphasised further by work which had been undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure and Urban Villages in the Collin area, which had led to walking and cycling studies being commissioned for the North and West of the City. Those studies would, he indicated, inform the overall development of the cycling network.

He confirmed that the comments which had been made by the Council and other stakeholders, specifically around the need to adapt more arterial routes in the South and East of the City for cycling, to identify more traffic-free ‘greenway’ routes and to improve connections to existing routes, would be used in the development of the final bicycle network. In terms of funding, which had been raised by the Council, Mr. Grieve stated that it was hoped that some additional resources would be made available to progress the development of the plan.

Mr. Grieve and Mr. Monaghan then clarified a number of points which had been raised by the Committee.

Mr. Hobbs informed the Members that he had been involved with Greenways NI for the past seven years and was the editor of the Bikefast website, which focused upon everyday cycling issues in Belfast. He reported that, in the previous year, he had written a series of articles in support of objections to the Belfast Bicycle Network Plan and that those had been referenced in approximately 41% of the two hundred odd responses to the Department for Infrastructure’s public consultation. He highlighted a number of key issues which needed to be given greater consideration in the context of the proposed

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network plan around, for example, traffic congestion and childhood obesity, and stated that, unless the current under investment in infrastructure was significantly addressed and safe and attractive cycling routes were provided, the proposed plan would have limited success. He drew the Members' attention to cycling initiatives being delivered in cities such as London and Manchester and stressed that the Council had a significant role to play by providing cycling infrastructures within its open spaces, such as the Giant's Park, and by lobbying for the Gasworks bridge to be prioritised.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy explained that the Department for Infrastructure was engaged in discussions with the Council around the Local Development Plan and how the Council would meet its infrastructure requirements, given that the number of people, jobs and housing would be expanding over the coming years. He added that the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, which was being implementing currently, permitted the Council to increase cycling provision within the City.

Mr. Hobbs then addressed a number of points which had been raised by the Members and, together with Mr. Grieve and Mr. Monaghan, was thanked by the Chairperson.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that it would receive further updates as the Belfast Bicycle Network Plan was developed.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 5th December, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

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

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
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 the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and Councillor Dorrian.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 7th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

Steer Economic Development - Draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast

The Committee was reminded that Steer Economic Development had been commissioned by the Council to develop an Enterprise Framework for Belfast.

It was reported that Mr. Pringle, Director of Steer Economic Development, was in attendance in order to outline the extent of the work which had been undertaken to date and he was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Pringle began his presentation by outlining the main challenges and opportunities faced by Belfast in terms of its enterprise economy. He reported that it was

one of the best locations in Northern Ireland in which to start a business and that the ability to scale-up businesses and support the growth of small high-growth firms was a key strength. It was also a relatively inexpensive place in which to start or grow a business and performed well in the context of 'Quality of Life' measures. However, when compared with other cities across the United Kingdom, it struggled in terms of the volume of business start-ups, had lower survival rates and higher incidences of failure.

He explained that there were currently twenty-seven providers delivering 180 initiatives/programmes across the City, which demonstrated the need to adopt a more co-ordinated approach. There was also a high degree of dependence amongst entrepreneurs/the business community on publicly funded enterprise support programmes.

He informed the Members that an Enterprise Framework had now been formulated, which was comprised of three distinct elements, namely, an overarching vision, thematic priorities and cross-cutting themes. The vision statement reflected the overarching aim of the Framework, whilst the thematic priorities outlined the issues to be addressed, the corresponding objectives and the outputs, outcomes and impacts to be delivered. Finally, the cross-cutting themes set out the underpinning factors and guiding principles behind all activities to be driven by the Framework.

Mr. Pringle then outlined a number of issues which were essential to the success of the Enterprise Framework, such as the need for genuine collaboration between the public and private sector in leading the enterprise agenda and to deliver cultural change in equality of perception between entrepreneurship and employment. In terms of future steps, the Council and its partners would be working to embed the Enterprise Framework, establish governance and management arrangements, scope new delivery models and formulate a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, with the Framework to be implemented over the coming year.

Mr. Pringle was thanked by the Chairperson, following which 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 provide an update to Members on the Enterprise Framework for Belfast.

1.2 Members will be aware that the Council has been working with partners to develop an agreed approach to investment in enterprise support in the city to focus on increasing the number of business start-ups and making existing businesses more productive and competitive. The work is supported by more than 30 partners active in the delivery of enterprise and business support activity across Belfast including Catalyst Inc., Prince's Trust, the Enterprise Agency network, the universities and Belfast Metropolitan College.

1.3 This report sets out some of the key information to be included as part of the presentation by the team from Steer Economic Development – the expert team that has been working with officers on the development of the framework.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- approve the ambition and priorities for Belfast through the Enterprise Framework;
- agree to Council officers working in partnership with the Enterprise and Business Growth working group (EBGWG) to agree next steps and key actions to realise the ambition of the framework and;
- approve the allocation of £50,000 from the existing 2018/2019 Economic Development budget to support the delivery of the Scale Up initiative in partnership with Catalyst Inc. and Invest NI which will commence in January 2019.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that, as part of the transfer of functions and Local Government Reform, responsibility for business start-up and support for under-represented groups in terms of enterprise support transferred to Councils.

3.2 In 2017, the Council convened an Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group to support the achievement of the economic priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda, and work collectively towards addressing Belfast's 'Enterprise Economy' challenges around business start-up and growth. These include:

- Low business start-up rates: the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) reported that the levels of total entrepreneurial activity in Northern Ireland were 6.3%, significantly lower than in England (9.2%) and the UK average (8.8%)
- High levels of business deaths: Since 2008, there has been a tendency for business deaths to outnumber the creation of new firms
- Rebalance the economy: Belfast is too reliant on the public sector. Approximately 1/3 of employment in the city is within this sector
- Employment opportunities: the long-term unemployment rate has fallen, albeit very slightly, over

the period between 2014 and 2017 and is currently at 45.2%. However, this is still almost double that of the UK, where the rate is currently 25.3%

- **Business Survival Rates: Belfast's start up rate per 10,000 populations is the highest in the region, which averages at 24.4% this, is significantly lower than the UK average of 45.7%.**

However, the three-year survival rate of businesses in Belfast sits at 55.3%, higher than the UK average of 54.4%. Belfast is also the best place for businesses to reach £1m turnover in their first three years in the UK. The figures beyond that indicate that firms in Belfast are less likely to scale to £3m turnover than companies based on other parts of the UK.

3.3 Taking account of its statutory remit in this area, the Council has brought together the key enterprise partners to explore opportunities for a more collaborative approach to addressing these challenges and making Belfast a great place to start and grow a business. Partners agreed to develop an enterprise framework around which they could focus activity and investment.

3.4 The objectives of the framework – agreed by the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group – were to:

- **Set the ambition for Belfast by establishing targets to enable Belfast to achieve rates of entrepreneurship and business start activity comparative to other relevant cities**
- **Identify initiatives, programmes and/or projects to be delivered through a partnership approach to achieve the ambitions/targets set**
- **Inform future investment decisions for Belfast City Council and the Enterprise and business growth working group partners**
- **Consider the appropriate management and governance arrangements to deliver against the framework.**

3.5 Steer Economic Development was commissioned to develop the Enterprise Framework for Belfast in Spring 2018. Their work to date has involved:

- **a review of the existing activity to support enterprise**
- **a series of targeted consultations with local stakeholders from the public and private sector**
- **workshops with 29 stakeholders to test and refine the emerging framework thinking and**

- research to establish key metrics to implement, monitor and evaluate progress performance.
- 3.6 Some of the more developed findings have now been shared with the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group. There is consensus among the group on the ambition and the priorities that the framework identifies and also recognition that a significant amount of work needs to take place to realise this. This will also require a cultural change to the current funding-led approach, where the metrics focus on participants engaged rather than more qualitative outcomes that would align with the Belfast Agenda ambitions.
- 3.7 The draft Enterprise Framework includes a vision which sets out the ambition for the city as a great place to start and grow a business. It also outlines the steps to be taken for Belfast to be *'recognised for its diverse community of entrepreneurs, who benefit from a comprehensive, planned and coherent system of enterprise support, which fulfils their needs at all stages of the business growth life-cycle'*.
- 3.8 This vision is supported by four thematic priorities which include:
- enable a vibrant and productive business base;
 - nurture a strong entrepreneurial culture, recognising enterprise as a viable career option;
 - nurture a strong entrepreneurial culture, recognising enterprise as a route out of economic inactivity; and
 - be characterised by clear leadership, co-ordination and communication
- 3.9 Success will be measured through the following metrics:
- Business Birth Rates
 - Business Survival Rates at 3 and 5 years
 - Levels of entrepreneurial activity.
- 3.10 Some of the key actions to be required to enable Belfast to achieve these targets include;
- Review of the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group governance structure aligned to the recommendations of the framework and the governance procedures of the Growing the Economy theme in the Belfast Agenda
 - Development of a shared brand, communication strategy and potential MIS (management information system) that incorporates partner services and better

supports entrepreneurs to navigate their journey through the enterprise landscape

- Establishment of an incentive scheme which removes barriers to enable potential entrepreneurs to explore entrepreneurship as a viable option
- Establishment of a Belfast based programme that works with entrepreneurs, SME's and investors to facilitate access to market funds.

- 3.11 While the Council now has statutory responsibility for the business start element of enterprise, it still has a relatively modest budget for this work, which is currently supplemented by EU funding resources. A key consideration for the long-term strategy will be to look at the level of resourcing required – across all parties – to achieve the targets set, focusing on both the social inclusion angle (enterprise as a response to economic inactivity) and the productivity challenge (supporting the development and growth of competitive, export-focused businesses).
- 3.12 The framework notes that this is a long-term challenge that will need to remain an area of focus for some time if things are to change. It proposes a series of short-term interventions (to 2021) alongside longer-term plans (to 2035). The Framework does not address specific interventions required to support the development and growth of the social enterprise sector. The main aim is to address the structural issues across the enterprise sector in Belfast, to reduce fragmentation and encourage a more collaborative and coordinated approach to delivery.
- 3.13 Subject to agreement of the framework by the Council, officers will re-engage with the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group to agree the programme of work and resource allocations required to improve performance.
- 3.14 One of the key challenges identified through the enterprise framework is the need to encourage more businesses to scale and grow to turnover of more than £3million. In May 2018, in partnership with Catalyst Inc. and Invest NI, Belfast City Council provided support to 10 high-growth start-ups to participate in a Belfast Mass Challenge Programme. Mass Challenge is a global incubator, based in Belfast's sister city of Boston. It has a global reputation and has supported more than 1,500 start-up businesses, creating in excess of 80,000 jobs between them. The aim of Mass Challenge was to identify and accelerate the top start-ups in Belfast, connecting them to the global market and Mass Challenge's global network. Following an application process, 10 successful startups

participated in an intensive multiday bootcamp in Boston in May 2018. Over the week long bootcamp, the businesses made over 100 network introductions, and 50 one to one mentoring sessions. 100% of the programme feedback has been positive with participants commenting that the support has benefited their Go to Market strategy for the US, supported the development of their US networks and enabled them to access US investment opportunities. A full evaluation is underway to establish the economic impact of the support.

3.15 Building on the learning from the Mass Challenge experience, officers have been working with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI to consider how we can extend the support available to eligible businesses and continue the momentum of the MassChallenge Initiative. Catalyst Inc. have now taken this learning and have developed a proposal for a 'Scale Up' initiative. This will provide practical support to 10 businesses to encourage CEO transformation, business modelling and sales strategy support for those businesses with the ambition to scale. The programme will encompass three core elements, namely:

- 1 week Boston Residential at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Entrepreneurship Development Programme
- Interim peer-to-peer workshops with Catalyst Inc designed to maximise peer learning and address real-time business challenges
- 1 week Boston residential at MassChallenge which focuses on go to market strategies and tactics

3.16 The programme will be delivered in partnership with Catalyst Inc and Invest Northern Ireland. The overall cost of the programme will be £211,000. Given the alignment with the ambitions set out in the enterprise framework it is recommended that this is supported with funding of £50,000 to maximise the take-up by Belfast-based businesses, this equates to 23% of the overall programme cost. Invest NI, Catalyst Inc and the participating companies will cover the cost of the remainder (INI 30%, Catalyst Inc 24%, Participants 23%).

Financial and Resource Implications

3.17 The development of the Enterprise Framework for Belfast has been resourced from the 2018/2019 Economic Development budget. The financial implications of any new areas of investment will be factored into the budget estimates for 2019/20 and into the medium-term financial planning process.

- 3.18 The Scale Up initiative will be resourced from the 2018/2019 Economic Development budget previously agreed by this Committee.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.19 The proposed Enterprise Framework for Belfast will undergo the process of equality screening ensuring the framework gives consideration to equality and good relation impacts. A rural needs assessment will also be undertaken.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that a copy of the report which had been produced by Steer Economic Development should be circulated to Members.

Presentations

Request to Present to Committee

The Committee agreed to receive at its special meeting in January a presentation from representatives of the International Convention Centre Belfast and Visit Belfast on the business tourism sector in the City.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Update on Bank Buildings: City Centre Recovery Programme

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the activity under way to support the City Centre Recovery Programme, focusing on the period to end December 2018. A similar update report was brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd November.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note:

- the update on the construction work, the cordon and the protected walkway;
- the update on the city marketing, street animation, major attractions and environmental improvements to enhance the vibrancy and increase footfall in the city centre;

- the progress on the allocation of the funds from the Primark Business Support Fund; and
- the update on the proposed incentive scheme, including the timeline for implementation.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** Members will be aware that, following the fire at Bank Buildings at the end of August, the Council and partners have put together a significant programme of investment to secure and consolidate the city centre in the short term. In parallel, work is under way on a longer-term plan to secure the future viability of the city centre. There are a number of strands to this work, and details on the current position are set out below.

Update on Cordon

- 3.2** Work on the container cordon is nearing completion and construction of the protected walkway has commenced. This walkway will allow pedestrian access between Donegall Place and Royal Avenue and is still on schedule to be open on Monday 3 December 2018. Once the walkway opens, 8 businesses that were inside the original cordon will be able to open and trade (Argento, Spar, Coffee Kiosk, Cookie Box, DV8, McDonald's, Skechers and Aldo). Discussions are ongoing with these businesses about access arrangements prior to 3 December and some started work to prepare for re-opening on 26th November.
- 3.3** Works to remove the most dangerous parts of the Bank Buildings continue with 2 of the chimneys now removed on the Castle Street elevation. Unfortunately, examination of the stonework has revealed that 80% of this is too badly fire-damaged to be able to be used in any reconstruction works. Props have been installed to the front of the building and work will commence this week when we expect that the clock will be next to be removed. Works are still on track to have the facade retention system in place by spring 2019.

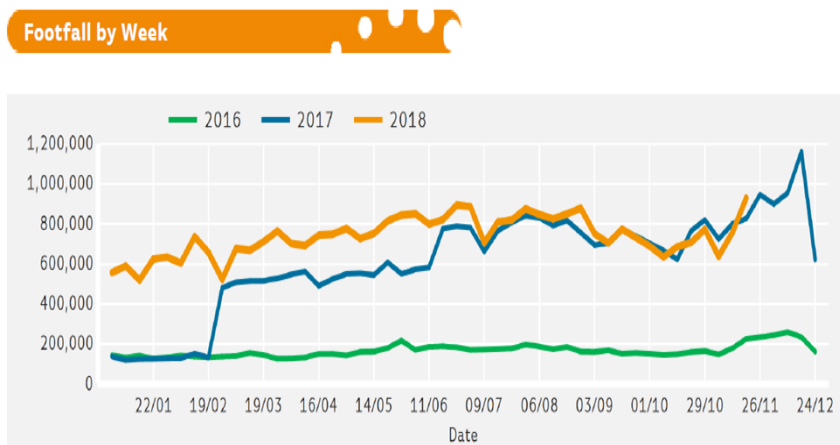
Marketing and Communications

- 3.4** All of the animation investment is being supported by a tactical and sustained PR and marketing campaign led by the Council and inclusive of all city partners. The Head of Marketing has advised that feedback via social media and other channels has been positive and a marketing summary is included below:

- Each day there is a renewed effort to keep the media briefed – keeping the narrative on the city centre positive. Figures from 24th October to 21st November show 754 articles, the majority of them being positive.
- On social #YourBelfast had organic reach of 13.5 million and a selection of positive social media anecdotal comments.
- The ‘Belfast Alive with Christmas’ overarching marketing and campaign activities include print, digital, outdoor, TV – 10 second and 30 second ad and the reskinning/ redirecting of Belfast Wifi. This activity stretches to New Year sales.
- In parallel with this, each city event/ programme of activities has tactical PR and marketing campaigns to support it – sitting within overarching campaign.
- Business and support organisations have received a toolkit to help share city messages. The #YourBelfast toolkit can be used on social media to share updates from @BelfastCC, @VisitBelfast and @Translink_NI on Twitter. Details of all events and attractions are updated daily on Council and Visit Belfast websites.

Footfall Figures

- 3.5 While members will be aware of the challenges around footfall, figures from last week (week 47) do show some signs of recovery. Details are set out below:



Street Animation, Major Attractions and Environmental Improvements

- 3.6 Following approval by the SP and R Committee on 19th October, a programme of animation, major attractions and environmental improvements, supported by an enhanced

marketing campaign has been developed in order to drive footfall into the city centre and support the economic recovery. Given the tight timeframes, and in the lead-up to Christmas, this has required a concerted effort to pull the programme of activity together, taking into account the need to obtain consents, procure, mobilise and deliver the activities, while undertaking engagement with all relevant stakeholders and putting in place an enhanced marketing campaign.

3.7 There has been investment in new feature lighting, planters, wayfinding and other environmental improvements and these are currently being rolled out. In addition, large scale family based attractions have been is aimed at attract visitors into the city to experience the Christmas offer.

3.8 A summary of the main elements include:

- **Donegall Place:** an astro-turf area is in place along with new planters and seating arrangements adjacent to the chalets as part of the extended Christmas Market. This area will be supplemented with additional seating following the removal of the trading locations to create a temporary area of green space within the city centre and to facilitate a 2019 animation programme. A large snow slide attraction has also been installed on Donegall Place adjacent to the cordon. This snow slide, alongside the other attractions, has proven very popular to date.
- **Castle Place:** a new astro-turf area and image representing the location of the River Farset is in place alongside family based attractions, including a carousel, children's rides and a German bratwurst grill. Final work to complete this area is ongoing and the area will be supplemented with additional seating following the removal of the attractions to create temporary additional green space.
- **Royal Avenue:** an area for animation has been constructed outside the entrance to Castle Court as an attractor to Castle Court and the wider Royal Avenue area. Based on an astro-turf surface, a temporary pop up stage has been installed and operated by Cathedral Quarter Trust for choirs, brass bands and City of Music animation. The area has been further enhanced by large lighting attractions, planters and seating arrangements and will provide a focal point for a proposed lighting projection spectacle onto adjacent

buildings. This complements a programme of animation and events being undertaken in conjunction with Castlecourt and BID.

- **Fountain Street Area:** a number of lighting features are already in place throughout the perimeter of the cordon area to improve safe access along the existing diversion routes. Canopy lighting has been installed to Fountain Lane, Fountain Street and Berry Street, with additional lighting schemes planned to be in place on Castle Arcade for the beginning of December.
- **Bank Square/ Castle St Area** -There were proposals to install environmental improvements onto Bank Square, including an astro turf and seated area. However, following concerns raised by some businesses relating to attracting antisocial behaviour to the area, it was agreed that animation and programming should be promoted in the area instead of the temporary environmental improvements. Following discussions with the traders, and in conjunction with DfC, we are currently exploring more permanent improvements that could be installed within the square including a potential canopy system that would enable the square to be better utilised by the traders throughout the year. A further report will be brought back to committee as cost and feasibility options are complete. Approval was also given by the SP&R Committee on 23 November 2018 on a potential public realm scheme in the Queen Street, King Street and College Court. This could provide improved connectivity to Castle Street and the surrounding areas and act as a catalyst for further environmental improvements in the area. In addition, a meanwhile use of the DfC site at 83-87 Castle Street is currently being explored to provide a temporary hub use of a derelict site, pending confirmation of a permanent development proposal. This concept is currently under design in conjunction with DfC. Further reports will be brought back to Committee as the scheme develops.
- **Cathedral Gardens** – Family based attractions including a 40m Observation Wheel and other rides. Work to provide dressing to this area is ongoing.
- **Lighting features:** Christmas-themed lighting features is being installed to the areas of animation on Castle Place, Royal Avenue, Cathedral Gardens and Donegall Place. The lighting features include 4m high ribbon

towers of light and a 4.5m high Christmas Bauble archway that will be moved among the animation areas.

- **City Dressing:** with the construction elements of the animation areas now largely complete, additional dressing to these areas commenced from Monday 26 November. This will include Christmas themed wraps to the heras fence panels, lighting features to trees and planters, and dressing across areas of animation and market chalets.
- **Wayfinding:** an enhanced wayfinding system commenced installation on 26 November with an installation period of 1 week. These measures will include new easy-to-use maps for wayfinding around the perimeter of the cordon, an enhanced Yellow Dot Trial with the yellow dots lifted from the pavement and placed at strategic locations above eye line throughout the perimeter route. Key decision point totem signs will replace the existing heras fence panel arrangements at key junctions. The existing cordon fencing wrap will be replaced with bright messaging promoting the 'We Are Open' message at the cordon locations to ensure visitors are aware that the areas are still open for business.
- **Cordon Dressing:** Primark are currently installing the structural container cordon to Castle Place and the scaffold access walkway between Donegall Place and Castle Place, and between Castle Place and Royal Avenue with an opening date of 3 December 2018. The exposed surfaces of the containers and the access walkways will be dressed and there will be enhanced lighting. It is intended that this will be in place early December.

3.9 In addition to the infrastructure and installations, there has been a significant programme of animation and activities underway. The programme of events started in early November with the Red Bull F1 event which attracted 35,000 people into the city. This was followed by the Christmas lights switch-on took place on 17 November 2018. This attracted almost 11,000 people into the city centre. It also marked the opening of the Christmas Market at the front of City Hall and this will remain in place until 22 December 2018. Given the challenging business environment this year, members will be aware that a number of chalets will extend on to Donegall Place. These will house a number of local businesses – including some who have been displaced or whose business has been adversely affected by the fire. These locations were

operational by 23 November and will operate at this location until 6 January 2019.

3.10 Members were previously advised that the attractions were to be supported by a wider programme of animation, events and entertainment. The Council is working in partnership with the Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT) who are responsible for the annual Culture Night event that is held in Belfast each September. CQT are working with other cultural providers across the city to put together a programme of animation and events with the aim of providing a vibrant city atmosphere with a diverse offering and experience for all. CQT's plans include:

- **Magical Musical Christmas Stage on Royal Avenue (adjacent to CastleCourt). This will be programmed every weekend and during the week in the run-up to Christmas and will feature a selection of local choirs, orchestras, performers and youth arts organisations**
- **Big Belfast 'Christmas' Busk Off on 15 December – performances will take place across the city, offering a platform to local talent**
- **Caribbean Christmas on Royal Avenue on 16 December – working in conjunction with the African and Caribbean Society of Northern Ireland, CQT will present a unique experience of Christmas with a Caribbean twist**
- **'Cinema on the Square' – pop-up cinema on Bank Square from 1-9 December 2018. The cinema will feature a number of popular Christmas classics and will include a signed performance and one performance specifically for those with autism. This event is being delivered in conjunction with Belfast One BID**
- **Fire and Ice – this will involve an ice sculpture gallery on Royal Avenue/Bank Square. It will be complemented by spectacular performances by fire artists. This event will take place on the weekend of 7/8 December**
- **Q-Con Christmas Bizarro – this is a gaming event that will attract young people and those interested in gaming into the city centre. It will be supported by retailers and specialist businesses in this field and will take place on 15/16 December**
- **'A Gift for All' sound and light spectacular – this is a six-minute light show which will run on repeat every quarter hour from 4.30-9pm from 17-23 December 2018. The show will take place on Royal Avenue, adjacent to CastleCourt.**

- Elf workshops and Christmas walking tours at various venues across the city centre, running through to 23 December, as well as a Santa Post-box on Royal Avenue (operated by Belfast One BID) which will be available from 29 November 2018.

3.11 While the detail above focused on the activity up to the Christmas period, work is also under way to look at a programme of investment post-Christmas, in order to underpin the longer-term viability of the city centre. Further details will be brought back to Committee in the near future. .

Public Transport Offers

3.12 Translink has revealed its most extensive range of discount travel tickets and special services to attract more people to shop and socialise in Belfast during the festive season. The launch follows the recent Executive Office announcement that the Department for Infrastructure will provide extra funding to Translink to support delivery of a high impact festive travel campaign.

Starting from 17th November 2018, the package includes:

- Day travel across the city for just £2 (£1 child), a £5 family ticket and additional bus, coach and train services including midnight departures
- Ulsterbus or Goldline services incentives include day return travel for the price of a single ticket after 9.30am from across NI
- One third off NI Railways day return tickets after 9.30am on weekdays and all day at weekends until the end of December
- 50% off bus and rail single fares for yLink card customers
- Midnight departures on NI Railways, Metro and Goldline on Fridays and Saturdays until Christmas and main Park & Ride facilities will offer late night and Saturday services along with free parking at the Park & Ride sites.

3.13 Although it is too early to report on the impact of these incentives, Translink have indicated an increase of some 25% across the Glider network since the announcement, although the relocated northbound services continue to experience a diminished uptake. Translink will report uptake on the fare incentives on a weekly basis going forward.

Incentive Scheme

- 3.14 Traders and city centre partners have given feedback that, while they are supportive of activities that are taking place across the city, they were keen to consider how we could drive additional footfall to generate sales in the stores.

As a result of this feedback, officers have been working with partners to develop an app to support a City Centre Incentive Scheme, the Your Belfast Rewards app will go live on Saturday 1st December. It aims to drive the additional visitors into city centre businesses by providing a range of incentives and rewards for city centre shoppers and visitors. This will also offer the potential to profile local business.

- 3.15 When users download the app, they will be tasked with finding codes located in the premises of retailers in areas around the city centre, each retailer will have their own unique code. This location of these will be tactical based on footfall figures. Once they have collected the allocated number of codes, they will have to answer a quiz question to be entered into the daily / weekly draw. The winners will be selected at random and the rewards will take the form of vouchers from various retailers. An indicative promotional calendar has been developed; however, this is subject to change based on feedback and review of the weekly analytics. Through the app users will also be able to access a range of offers from city centre retailers and find out what events are happening throughout the city in the run up to Christmas.
- 3.16 To date 200 city centre businesses have signed up to the scheme. Officers are still engaging with businesses and further businesses are likely to get involved. The consultation on the app with partners and retailers has been extremely positive and they see the value of getting involved. The analytics on the app will enable officers undertake a weekly review to ensure that it is having an impact on those businesses most adversely affected and to flex the offers to ensure that these areas and businesses are benefitting from engagement.

Finance and Resources and Equality Implications

- 3.17 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at the meeting on 13th November, was provided with details of the full City Recovery programme budget, following confirmation of Treasury monies and funding from NI Executive departments. The Committee agreed the overall programme

expenditure as set out in the report and was advised that further detail on expenditure to March 2019 would be brought to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

3.18 No specific equality or good relations implications associated with this investment.”

The Chief Executive referred to recent media coverage relating to the cost to the Council of providing security around the Primark building. She reminded the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed that those costs should be met by the Council in the interim but that a legal approach would be made to Primark and its insurers to recoup those costs. She confirmed that there had since been correspondence between the parties on that matter.

In terms of the phased work being undertaken in and around the Bank Buildings, she reported that the covered pedestrian walkway between Donegall Place and Royal Avenue had opened on 3rd December, which had allowed for the cordon to be reduced and a number of businesses to re-open. The Primark store in Commonwealth House, Castle Street, was due to open on 8th December. Work was ongoing to remove the upper parapet layer and one floor of the building, following which the façade would be stabilised using shipping containers and the interior would be cleared, to allow eventually for building works to commence. That would mean that vehicular access to Castle Street would continue to be restricted.

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer confirmed that the process of affixing heritage themed images to enhance the shipping containers would commence the next day and reviewed the animation work and other activities which would be taking place at the various locations over the Christmas period, as well as the physical and environmental improvements being delivered. She reported that, based on the most recent analysis, footfall had increased from 680,000 in October to 775,000 in November. The November figure was, she pointed out, only slightly short of the 793,000 recorded in the same month in 2017. She also drew the Committee’s attention to footfall by location figures in and around the Bank Buildings which showed an upward trend and added that information received from businesses had pointed to an increase in trading.

At this point, a Member pointed out that no reference had been made within the footfall figures to Castle Street, given that it was one of the streets which had been most affected by the Bank Buildings fire.

In response, the Chief Executive explained that there were no footfall sensors in Castle Street and that the Council had, historically, no input into the siting of such sensors. She added that the Council was conscious of the issues being faced currently in relation to Castle Street and that it would, from the New Year onwards, be focusing upon the long-term regeneration of that area.

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The Director of Development then provided an update on the incentive scheme which had been introduced on 1st December. He confirmed that two competitions had already been held, involving retailers in Castle Street, and that the scale and range of incentives would increase over time. Information derived from the scheme would be used to evaluate footfall and sales figures and there was the potential eventually to add other elements to the scheme.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Belfast at MIPIM 2019

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Committee on proposals for MIPIM 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- the successful launch event on 9th October, 2018 and the ongoing preparations for MIPIM 2019;
- the designs for the proposed new larger Belfast stand in its current location, which was approved in principle by the Committee in April 2018, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at a later meeting; and
- the approach to MIPIM 2019, including activities being undertaken to promote Belfast to the investment and development community.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that MIPIM is the premier event in the European real estate calendar where many of the world's investors, developers and funders from both the private and public sectors gather to showcase cities and investment and regeneration opportunities. Over 27,000 people attended MIPIM 2018.

3.2 In April 2018, the Committee authorised officers to commence preparations for MIPIM 2019 (to be held 12-16 March 2019) including budget spend. Specialist support for programming, event management, communications and design have subsequently been procured and work is ongoing in terms of securing sponsorship, speakers and programming of events.

- 3.3** Belfast at MIPIM 2019 was successfully launched on 9th October, with strong media interest and attendance. Cllr. Donal Lyons, as the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, delivered the opening speech at the event, which was attended by over 100 representatives from across public and private sectors. It was highlighted at the launch that if we are to attract further growth, investment and regeneration, we must work collectively with all stakeholders to set out our ambitions to achieving sustainable, inclusive growth and building resilient cities. Subsequent sponsorship support for the Belfast at MIPIM 2019 delegation has been strong, both from the public and private sectors.
- 3.4** At the time of writing, organisations committed to supporting Belfast at MIPIM 2019 include: Aecom, Arup, Aurora Prime Real Estate, Belfast City Council and Belfast City Region Councils, Belfast Harbour, Benmore Developments, Bruceshaw, Bywater Properties, Carson McDowell, Castlebrooke, Causeway Asset Management, Deloitte, Heron Bros, Invest NI, Killultagh Estates, McAleer and Rushe, Oakland, Queens University, Titanic Quarter, TLT, TODD Architects, Tourism NI, Tughans, Ulster University, Valor Homes, Osborne & Co. It is anticipated that further organisations will support the delegation in coming weeks. The level of support to date is creating a platform for the strongest Belfast delegation at MIPIM yet.
- 3.5** Following the announcement from the Chancellor in the Autumn budget statement in relation to the Belfast Region City Deal, Members should note that this year's MIPIM delegation will, for the first time, include representatives from the five councils partnering with Belfast City Council in the Belfast Region City Deal bid. This represents a strong commitment to collaborative working as part of the BRCD proposition.
- 3.6** A dedicated MIPIM landing page has been built into the Council's 'investinbelfast.com' website. This page was live in line with the launch event and provides a platform for organisations and individuals to register their interest and support. The website provides details on investment opportunities in the City and provides news updates. .
- 3.7** Key objectives for MIPIM 2019 are to:
- attract the interest of real estate investors, developers, occupiers and funders in the context of development and investment that provides for sustainable inclusive growth in the city;

- positively influence perceptions of the city showing its investment potential;
 - create and continue to foster a strong public-private sector collaborative effort; and
 - deliver an initiative which reflects the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda;
- 3.8 MIPIIM is a real estate conference aimed at investment, development and regeneration but it important to note that it is not just about commercial development. It is intended that we will have an increased focus on housing this year in the context of inclusive growth across the city, mixed use developments and increased city centre living.
- 3.9 The 4-day event conference at MIPIIM involves a concentrated programme of events, meetings and engagements which allow us to showcase Belfast as an exciting location for investment. A 4-day programme at MIPIIM based on initial work by officers with the appointed contractor and MIPIIM at Belfast Task Force is being drafted and includes:
- Speaking engagements on and off stand involving high profile speakers from the City and beyond
 - Joint ventures with other Cities from across the UK and Europe
 - BRCD focused session
 - Panel sessions focusing on the following initial proposed themes:
 - City centre living; mixed use developments and housing
 - City of Innovation
 - Smart City
 - Screen Tourism
 - Office Market
 - BRCD
 - Waterfront Cities
 - On and off stand presentations to identified potential city investors, developers and funders
 - Media interviews and social media slots
- 3.10 Officers, along with the MIPIIM at Belfast Task Force and the appointed consultant, will work to firm the event programme, including building the narrative and engaging speakers. There will also be further work undertaken to increase and build on sponsorship. It is also proposed to have a pre MIPIIM Huddle event for February 2019 in advance of the delegation heading out to MIPIIM.

- 3.11 At its meeting in April 2018, approval was given by Members to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand or increasing its size in its current position, with approval for additional investment in a larger stand, subject to final details being presented to Committee. The Council contribution represents less than 20% of the cost of the stand, marketing, speaking events etc that take place at MIPIM. The remainder will be paid for via the business community.
- 3.12 Given the larger Belfast delegation proposed for this year and, in particular, the addition of the BRCD Councils, an increase in size of the stand is considered appropriate. Whilst Reed MIDEM, the MIPIM event organisers have been unable to offer an alternative location for the Belfast stand there is an opportunity to increase the size of the Belfast stand in its original location.
- 3.13 Members may recall that we were limited in previous years as to what events we could hold on stand due to its size and capacity. With 2019 set to have a record number of Belfast delegates the larger stand is required not only to hold the delegation including those from the private sector and City Region Councils but also those from the international and global markets who want to visit and hear the Belfast story. The larger stand will allow Belfast to raise its profile and compete with those regional Cities from across the UK who upped their game in 2018 through increasing their foothold at the conference. Belfast has built a reputation in MIPIM attracting a lot of interest regionally and internationally and the larger stand will enable the accommodation of larger groups and networking, allowing us to get our message across to a bigger audience and removing the need to hire of stand venues. The larger stand will have a dedicated BRCD area whilst showcasing Belfast as the regional driver.
- 3.14 Details of the proposed stand designs have been circulated to the Committee. These designs allow the stand to double in size and with an extended terrace to the rear and an open terrace to the front giving Belfast a more visible presence. The new increased stand incorporates a glazed frontage which gives the feeling of bringing the main thoroughfare of Croisette in, and Belfast out to the Croisette. The designs also include a dedicated BRCD area.

Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs implications

- 3.15 None

Finance and Resources Implications

- 3.16 At the time of writing, £350,000 of private sector sponsorship for Belfast at MIPIM has been raised.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Bikes Scheme – Performance Report

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the performance of the Belfast Bikes public hire scheme with regard to usage to and financial performance. It considers options for a strategic review in the future to maximise the usage and minimise the subvention of the Belfast Bikes Public Hire Scheme while ensuring equity of access for all Belfast residents.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **consider a strategic review of the Belfast Bikes Public Hire Scheme, examining the current operating model and how usage can be increased and commercial revenues enhanced. Members will receive a future report detailing the terms of reference for a strategic review and any associated costs; and**
- **note the performance to date of the Belfast Bikes public hire scheme.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

The Belfast Bikes scheme launched in 2015. The business case used to inform the Council’s projections was commissioned by the Strategic Investment Board and published in 2012. At the time, bike share schemes were in their infancy in the UK and Ireland, and information on the transparency of costs and income was not widely available. In recent years, bike share schemes have expanded rapidly in the UK and in Ireland and experience shows that they require some level of public sector investment. Funding models differ between cities however; the level of investment in the Belfast scheme is similar or lower than other comparator cities. For example, Dublin

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City Council contributes approximately €376,000 per annum towards the operating cost of the Dublin Bikes Scheme.

3.2 Historic Financial Performance

Financial Year	Income		Expenditure		Subsidy	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual
15/16		£212,987		£392,170		£179,183
16/17	£336,340	£251,064	£422,780	£466,474	£56,440	£215,410
17/18	£247,000	£251,667	£456,016	£493,031	£209,016	£241,734

3.3 18/19 Financial Performance Forecast

Financial Year	Income		Expenditure		Subsidy	
	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual
18/19	£305,313	£167,186*	£469,321		£163,918	£302,135*

***forecasted**

3.4 The forecasts articulated in the table above are predicated on the following assumptions. Expenditure is in line with budget at year-end.

**3.5 YTD Financial Performance
18/19 YTD – Revenue £87,342.63
17/18 YTD – Revenue £79,120.94**

Financial Performance Issues

3.5 The forecasted financial performance is primarily due to two factors, namely:

- 1. a delay in securing the sponsorship of the Belfast bikes; and**
- 2. a forecasted failure of the bikes to achieve their rental revenue plan.**

Sponsorship

3.6 Sponsorship of the Belfast Bikes ended in April 2018. A procurement exercise began Mid-April 2018 with a closing date of May 8th 2018. An award was made in August 2018 but, due to ongoing contract negotiations, the contract was signed in October 2018. The 18/19 financial plan assumed the ongoing sponsorship at a value of £110,000 per year, £9,166 per month. Therefore, the delay in

sponsorship between April and September inclusive as resulted in a financial loss of £55,000.

- 3.7** It was agreed by the Committee in September 2017 to introduce new membership and usage charges from 1st April 2018. The annual subscription fee was increased from £20 to £25, the casual subscription was increased from £5 to £6 and a new ‘pay as you go’ option introduced with usage charges of £1 for 30 minutes usage was introduced. The changes have resulted in a drop in income detailed later in the report. In conjunction with the price change, the revenue plan for the Bikes assumed an increase in rental revenue from £114,845 to £194,668, a 69% increase in revenue. It was thought at that time that a combination of increased usage and price would generate the planned increase in revenue.

The table below details historic year on year growth/decline in rental revenues.

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Rental Income	£115,000	£134,000	£114,429	£118,436
Yr on Yr		116.52%	85.39%	103.50%

- 3.8** The increase in planned rental revenue was predicated on an increase in users of 35% linked to the aforementioned increase in rental rates. Members should note the relatively flat growth in the usage of the Belfast Bikes scheme.

Operational issues

Vandalism

- 3.9** Vandalism was an ongoing problem in Year 3 and did affect bike numbers on the street during Year 3 in particular in the last quarter. Extensive work has been ongoing with local communities, elected members, schools and the PSNI to reduce the incidents. There has been a reduction in the last quarter of Year 3 and the first 4 months of Year 4.

- Year 1 (27th April 2015 to 31st March 2016) - £1,800
- Year 2 (1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017) - £19,000
- Year 3 (1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018) -£22,700
- Year 4 (1st April 2018 to present) - £4,425.00 (This is down for the same period last year of £6,440)

3.10 Anti-vandalism initiatives include:

- Increased engagement with the PSNI
- PSNI stickers on the terminals
- Support for the operating team from Council community safety staff
- Increase awareness of customers and citizens in general (crime prevention – phone number to call)
- Continuous work with the operator to make the system more vandal proof
- increased involvement of community organisations
- Schools programme

3.11 NSL (the operator), has arranged, in conjunction with the youth justice agency, to provide training and work experience days for several young persons following youth conferences

Recent community Engagement Event are as follows:

3.12

Date	Event
June	Presentation to school – Corpus Christ
June	School St Joseph's - stall and competition (around 50 kids took part)
June	Presence at community event Roden Street Community Centre
July	Presence at Lower Shankill Community Regeneration event
Spring	Meeting with Ballymac Community group
May	Stall at Girdwood Open Day

Proposals

3.13 Strategic Review – a strategic review of the bike scheme is required, specifically considering, reviewing the performance of the location and operation of Bike Docking stations, with a view to maximising revenue opportunities while ensuring equity of access.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.14 A further report will be provided to Committee detailing any additional cost associated with the proposed strategic review.

Equality or Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications

3.15 None.”

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The Director of Development provided an overview of the scheme's performance to date and pointed to the increase in income and usage on the previous year.

The Committee then raised a number of issues, particularly around the small number of docking stations outside of the City centre and ongoing vandalism.

In response, the Director of Development pointed out that the scheme had applied initially to the City centre to facilitate movement between transport hubs and that a subsequent roll out to several strategic sites beyond there had been due primarily to the acquisition of funding from external sources and the re-siting of underperforming stations. The Chief Executive added that, should the Committee be minded to extend the scheme to outlying areas, there would be subvention costs associated with the purchase and operation of bikes and those would need to be reflected within the Council's financial forecasts.

The Director of Development outlined the measures which were had been put in place to prevent vandalism and referred to the fact that the costs resulting from vandalism had fallen significantly from the previous year.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that the report to be submitted in advance of the review should include a map of all docking stations and usage figures on a station by station basis.

Update on Belfast Region City Deal

The Committee was reminded that the Chancellor had, on 29th October, announced a commitment of £350 million towards the Belfast Region City Deal. That figure would rise to £850 million with contributions from the Northern Ireland Executive, the six councils and two universities involved in the initiative and would be boosted by at least £150 million from the private sector.

The Chief Executive explained that the Belfast Region City Deal was comprised of approximately twenty-two projects, located across the investment pillars of Digital/Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism-led Regeneration and were underpinned by a significant employability and skills programme. Whilst each project would require significant resources in their own right, the benefits of the deal would be realised only when managed and delivered at an overall programme level.

She reported that it was anticipated that the Council would be expected to act as the lead authority and accountable body in terms of the City Deal. It would, therefore, be required to work with the partners to put in place the appropriate structures to manage and deliver the investment programme, oversee the governance and decision-making process, financial planning and management, programme and project management, performance monitoring and assurance and communication and engagement. In addition, specific city region structures needed to be established to develop the digital strand of the programme, given that it was not under the ownership of a specific partner, the specialist nature of the projects and the potential for significant private sector investment.

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The Chief Executive reported further that experience gained from other deals had suggested that it could take up to one year to develop the programme structures and outline business cases. Given the scale of the Programme, it would be necessary to allocate resources to support the development and delivery of the City Deal and officers were liaising currently with other authorities involved in similar deals, to determine the required structures and resources, following which a report would be submitted to the Committee. In terms of next steps, she confirmed that officers were working with their counterparts in the Northern Ireland Office and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to draft a Heads of Terms document, which would set out the funding commitments and be signed by all partners, before being presented to the Council early in 2019 for approval.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Transport Hub

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 provide Committee with an update on progress of the proposals for the Transport Hub.

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;**
- **that, in light of its strategic and economic significance, the Council's SP&R Committee agreed on 23rd November, to provide its 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; and**
- **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 neighbouring 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 and the wider Weavers Cross Regeneration proposal. 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 signaling 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 has been circulated to the Committee.

3.10 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 implemented upon planning approval and appointment of the contractor. This Memorandum of Understanding agrees partnership-working arrangements for Council and Translink to deliver employability and skills interventions that will optimise the ability of those long-term unemployed and economically inactive within Belfast to access employment opportunities arising from the Buy Social requirements within the Belfast Transport Hub. This will initially focus on embedding the Construction Employment Academy model within the enabling works and construction phases of this redevelopment as a demonstrator project for the wider partnership to optimise the employment opportunities resulting from the wider redevelopment of the surrounding area.

3.11 The Construction Employment Academies will involve:

- Stakeholder engagement with the range of employability, community and training providers across the city to prepare individuals for upcoming Construction Employment Academies;
- Targeted animation within local communities close to the vicinity of the development to identify individuals interested in the job opportunities;
- Outreach animation across the city to identify individuals interested in the job opportunities;
- Belfast City Council will provide resources to deliver Construction Employment Academies and co-designed with Translink and the relevant contractor/subcontractor for the identified employment opportunities;
- The Construction Employment Academy includes job roadshows, site visits, training and employability skills development delivered close to the vicinity of the development;
- Guaranteed job interviews with the contractor; and
- Working with the appointed contractor/s to identify wider employment opportunities within the construction of the Belfast Transport Hub and ensure the contractor has access to the Construction Employment Academy model to meet these employment needs;

3.12 This is planned to ensure a focus on achieving sustainable employment outcomes that contribute to achieving the goals of the Belfast Agenda.

3.13 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.

3.14 Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross)

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.

3.15 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.

3.16 Financial & Resource Implications

No direct resource implications associated this report.

3.17 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Long-Term Cultural Strategy for Belfast

(Ms. E. Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th June, it had agreed that officers would develop options for the delivery of a five-year cultural strategy for the City.

The Cultural Regeneration Manager reminded the Members that that decision had been taken in the context of a number of important developments and milestones, such as the cessation of the European Capital of Culture bidding process, initial recommendations arising from the draft Festival and Events Strategy and the conclusion in March 2020 of the current Cultural Framework and Tourism Strategy.

She reported that, following a review of previous approaches and models from other cities, particularly Liverpool's Impacts 18 programme, it was now proposed that a Cultural Transformation Strategy be developed to cover a minimum of ten years and that a year-long programme of activity be delivered in 2023. In addition to supporting the Belfast Agenda, the Strategy would assist in defining the role of culture across priority areas such as the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, the Good Relations Strategy, Tourism Strategy and the Local Development Plan.

She explained that the work around the Cultural Transformation Strategy would commence with the formulation of a cultural statement, which would present a vision for transformation, recognising the value of culture in the City. That would be followed by the establishment of an outward facing narrative, presenting a coherent and authentic story which would resonate both nationally and internationally. A strategic framework would then be created, which would establish a number of crosscutting strategic priorities. That would be followed by the development of an investment programme to support the delivery of strategic priorities, of detailed implementation plans and, importantly, of a bespoke programme of activity centred around 2023. The proposed timeline around this work would be as follows:

December 2018 – March 2019	Ongoing engagement Development of cultural statement, narrative, strategic framework and investment programme
March 2019	Approval for draft strategy to go out to public consultation
April 2019 – June 2019	Public Consultation
August 2019	Approval of final strategy
September 2019 – February 2020	Development of implementation plans
October 2020	Opening of new funding programme
March 2020	Approval of funding recommendations and implementation plans

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The Cultural Regeneration Manager concluded by recommending that the Committee approve the development of a ten-year strategy and the associated timeline, as outlined.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendation and agreed that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee regarding the funding of an interim year for building signature and growth events and festivals.

Update on Eastern Economic Corridor

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th September, it had received an update on the work being undertaken by the Economic Development Unit around the development of a Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor. That update had made reference to plans for a proposed conference, which would seek to highlight co-operation opportunities along the corridor and the Council had been working with the other seven partners, namely, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Louth County Council, Meath County Council and Newry and Mourne and Down District Council, to develop the concept further.

The Director of Development reported that, in order to shape the conference and ensure that all partners agreed with its content, a steering group comprised of senior council officers had been established. It had commissioned the Ulster University and Dublin City University to collectively conduct further research around the economic opportunities along the corridor, which would, amongst other things, form the basis of the conference programme. The steering group was aspiring also to deliver a Memorandum of Understanding between the eight participating councils, which would set out the scope of the joint areas of working, in terms of infrastructure and attracting investment and employment.

He explained that a workshop had been held in September, which had provided the councils with an opportunity to outline the key economic challenges in their area and discuss the future of the partnership. The Chief Executives of the participating councils had, at a steering group meeting in November, been briefed on the themes which had emerged from the research and the strategic themes for the conference and the next steps had been agreed. It was anticipated that the conference would be held in the Belfast Waterfront Hall in late February and that it would include the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, information on the outcome of the research, speakers from the international business community, the outlining by the Chief Executives of Belfast and Dublin City Councils of potential areas of partnership working and panel discussions. The costs of the activities associated with the aforementioned work would be met from within the Economic Development Unit's budget for 2018/2019.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that it would, at its monthly meeting in January, receive a presentation on the findings of the study which had been undertaken around a potential high speed rail connection between Belfast and Dublin.

Strategic and Operational Issues

Closures - Belfast Zoo

The Committee granted approval for the Belfast Zoo to close for a period of four weeks, excluding weekends, over the winter period to allow for essential maintenance and staff training, with the dates to be agreed in consultation with the Property Maintenance and Management Unit.

Belfast Partners

The Director of Development 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 provide an update to Members on progress to date on Belfast Partners and planned events taking place in London in February 2019 and early March 2019 in order to promote engagement between business contacts in Belfast and London and Dublin and to recommend attendance at the event by the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and for aspects which are of a civic nature, the Lord Mayor.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the upcoming Belfast Partners Financial Services Sector event in London on 5 February 2019 and potential event in Dublin early March 2019; and**
- approve attendance at the event by the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or their nominee) and for aspects which are of a civic nature, the Lord Mayor, in London on 5th February, 2019 and potential event in Dublin early March, 2019.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that at the 7th March meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update was provided on a range of business development activities that had taken place in London in previous months. This included the work to secure the City Deal and previous activity with Belfast Partners Network in London. Furthermore a member of Council staff had been seconded to the City of London

Corporation in order to explore opportunities for further collaborative engagement.

- 3.2 One of the areas of particular joint interest that has emerged is support for the financial services sector post Brexit. There is both a sectoral ecosystem which should be leveraged and promoted between London and Belfast as well as Belfast and Dublin.**
- 3.3 In regard to this, Members will be aware that the City of London now has a regional strategy for financial and professional services which features Belfast and that the Lord Mayor of London is promoting this internationally, and in this vein have invited the City of Belfast to be hosted by the City of London in early 2019.**
- 3.4 Members will also be aware that Belfast City Council has been supporting the Belfast Partners Network in London for the last two years. Belfast Partners is a network of London-based companies within the Financial Services, and Fintech with an interest in Belfast – focusing on the city as a business and investment location.**
- 3.5 As part of our engagement within this network, we have now hosted two major receptions in the City of London, at Mansion House on 23 November 2017 and a business mission for six local tech companies to engage with London based partners on 22 and 23 November 2017.**
- 3.6 Further to this an inward investment visit to Belfast for 10 Venture Capital companies based in London took place in March 2018 in collaboration with Belfast Partners and British Business Bank, as well as local partners including Invest NI, CSIT, Novosco, and KPMG. Local Belfast companies were given the opportunity to engage directly with Venture Capitalists to explore opportunities for obtaining Venture Capital finance and to grow their business.**
- 3.7 To follow on from these activities, and in order to sustain the networks and relationships that have been developed and to respond to an invitation that has been offered by City of London Corporation, an event for up to 150 senior representatives within the Financial Services Sector is currently being finalised for February 2019.**
- 3.8 City of London Corporation have offered to host the evening in the Crypt, Central London which will be hosted by Catherine McGuinness Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London Corporation (a specialist in**

financial law) and Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Belfast. The proposed running order will include speeches from Catherine Maginness, Lord Mayor of Belfast, a Chief Executive Officer Belfast City Council, and a representative from Financial Services for example Danny Colligan who was involved in setting up Chicago Mercantile Exchange Belfast. There will be senior ambassadors from Belfast Financial Services invited including, Maginnis Consulting, Ernest Young and PA Consulting.

- 3.9 Speeches will focus on the business benefits of locating a business within the sector in Belfast, and how the city can offer a positive solution for a range of support services for a business working in a global operating environment. Belfast provides very similar accolades to London and it is an opportunity to describe the stand-outs which are particularly important bearing in mind post Brexit as it has been reported that a number of financial institutions are considering moving operations out of London and Belfast can provide an alternative proposition. Following the formal speeches there will be an opportunity for networking with those in attendance and the ambassadors from Belfast.
- 3.10 Equally firms based in Dublin within the financial services sector have an opportunity to locate a second site or new site in Northern Ireland and still support European passporting.
- 3.11 The proposed event in Dublin in March 2019 will follow a similar methodology, the detail of this is still to be confirmed however Glandore have offered to host the event. The focus will again be on Financial Services and the promotion of Belfast as an investment location. A date for early March is to be finalised in early December.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2018/19 Economic Development budget previously agreed by this Committee in March 2018.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure that consideration is given to equality and good relations impacts throughout the development and delivery of this project. Both urban and rural areas are involved in this work.”

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The Committee adopted the recommendations

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting 2018/2019

The Committee considered a report which set out the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for the second quarter of 2018/2019. The report confirmed that there had, during that period, been an overspend of £157,000, with a year-end underspend of £24,000 being forecast. The overspend could be attributed primarily to additional staffing costs across a number of services, a loss of sponsorship income through the Belfast Bikes scheme, additional health and safety expenditure in City Markets and programme expenditure ahead of the budget profile.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

20x20 Campaign for Women's Sport

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

"This Council supports and endorses the 20x20 campaign for women's sport which aims to achieve:

- 20 per cent more media coverage of women in sport by the end of 2020;
- 20 per cent more female participation, whether at player, coach, referee or administration level, by the end of 2020; and
- 20 per cent more attendance at women's' games and events by the end of 2020.

By supporting this, the council will actively seek opportunities to highlight women's' roles within sport, and opportunities to showcase women in sport through our marketing and promotion of events. Building on our successful hosting of the Women's Rugby World Cup and UEFA under 19 women's' championships, the Council will, through our ambitious city events programme, seek to attract major women's' sporting events where possible."

After discussion, the Committee endorsed Councillor O'Hara's proposal and agreed that a report be submitted to the relevant Committee, outlining ways in which the Council could support the campaign, including any associated costs.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday 12th December, 2018

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland and Spence, and
Councillors Black, Boyle, Clarke, Craig, Dudgeon,
Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Magennis,
McReynolds and Nic Biorna.

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 Alderman L. Patterson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th November 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 December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in relation to Item 2 (a) – Licenses issued under Delegated Authority, in that he was an honorary member of Forthriver Bowling Club.

Delegated Matters

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.

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**Application for Variation of Licence –
The Speak-Easy, QUB Student Union Bar,
92-96 Lisburn Road**

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received for the variation of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of The Speak-Easy, based upon the Council's standard condition to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

He reported that entertainment was provided currently Monday to Sunday from 11.00am till 1.00 a.m. The licensee had now applied to provide entertainment till 2.00 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. In addition, the applicant had specified six occasions during the year for which approval was sought to provide entertainment to 2.00am should the occurrences fall on either a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening. The occasions specified by the applicant include Boxing Night, New Year's Eve, Saint Patrick's night, Easter Monday, May Day and Halloween.

The Building Control Manager confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. In such circumstances, it was normal practice for the Entertainments Licence to be issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, given that the application related to the extension of the hours of entertainment beyond 1.00 a.m., it was being presented to the Committee for consideration.

He provided details of the two inspections which had been undertaken since the Entertainments Licence had been granted in September 2018 and confirmed that all technical requirements and associated procedures had been found to be satisfactory.

He reported that there had been four noise complaints received in relation to the premises since it had been operating and that the applicant had undertaken an investigation into the noise complaints and had put in place in an effort to resolve the noise disturbance local residents had experienced.

He added that Mr. Brian Horgan, acting on behalf of the applicant organisation, was in attendance should the Committee require additional information.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. B. Horgan, Head of Campus Food and Drink at Queen's University, and he was welcomed to the meeting.

A Member asked Mr. Horgan what he had done in relation to the four noise complaints that had been received from local residents. Mr. Horgan informed the Committee that the complaints had been received in the first four weeks of operation, during a period of settling in. He said that he had subsequently taken advice from Building Control officers to mitigate the noise complaints and had taken a number of measures including adjusting the sound system to reduce the bass levels, installed a noise meter and taking regular readings which were recorded in a log book. Mr. Horgan also informed

**Licensing Committee,
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the Committee that a noise limiter had been installed which, if the noise output reached a critical level, the PA system would cut out.

The Committee agreed to vary the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for The Speak-Easy, QUB Students' Union Bar, 92-96 Lisburn Road thereby permitting entertainment to take place till 2.00 a.m. the following morning on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and that a condition be attached to the licence to require that the noise limiting device be set at a level as agreed with Officers to prevent excess noise nuisance.

In addition, the Committee agreed to approve the application to provide entertainment to 2.00am on six specified occasions, should the occurrences fall on either a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday evening. The occasions specified were Boxing Night, New Year's Eve, Saint Patrick's Day, Easter Monday, May Day and Halloween.

**Revocation of Stationary Street Trading Licences –
Fountain Lane**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th May, it had agreed that it was minded to revoke two Stationary Street Trading Licences held by Mr. J. Kerr for designated sites in Fountain Lane and Fountain Street, on the basis that he had failed to pay the annual licence fee for each site and that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding that decision. At its meetings on 15th August and 16th September, it had, due to Mr. Kerr's inability to attend on each occasion, agreed to defer the matter.

The Committee was reminded further that, at its meeting on 17th October, it had agreed to revoke the Stationary Street Trading Licence for Fountain Street, on the basis that it was the least utilised of Mr. Kerr's two sites, and agreed to defer, until its meeting in November, consideration of the site in Fountain Lane, to allow Mr. Kerr to establish a plan for the repayment of his outstanding licence fees.

At its meeting on 20th November, 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.

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that, since its meeting in November, Mr. Kerr had made a payment of £250 towards the arrears he owed to the Council from failure to pay Stationary Street Trading Licence fees for his site in Fountain Lane and former site in Fountain Street. In addition, Mr. Kerr had paid £104.16 towards the licence fee for his Fountain Lane site.

He added that Mr. Kerr and his wife, Mrs. Kerr, were in attendance should the Committee require additional information.

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The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. and Mrs. Kerr and they were welcomed to the meeting.

A Member asked Mr. Kerr if they were willing to enter into a repayment plan with the Council and Mrs. Kerr informed the Committee that they had set up a direct debit with the Central Transactions Unit to pay the licence fee and the arrears accrued from non-payment of fees and that they would be willing to enter into a formal agreement with the Council to pay the remaining arrears.

The Committee agreed to rescind its decision of 16th May to revoke a Stationary Street Trading Licence for a designated site in Fountain Lane, on condition that Mr. Kerr meets with officers and enters into and signs a formal agreement with the Council to pay the outstanding monies and the monthly licence fees.

**Application for Provisional Grant of a
7 Day-Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence
for The Link (formerly Arnott's Fruit Warehouse)**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the provisional grant of a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the former Arnott's fruit warehouse building, now known as The Link, based on the Council's standard conditions to provide indoor music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind and theatrical performances.**

Premises and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant
Arnott's Fruit Warehouse	WK/201801726	Mr. Alan Simms
16-20 Dunbar Link		Limelight Belfast
Belfast, BT1 2LH		Limited
		17 Clarendon Road
		Belfast, BT1 3BG

- 1.2 A copy of the application form is attached as Appendix 1.**

- 1.3 A location map is attached as Appendix 2.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the application and to either:**

- 1. Approve the application for the provisional grant of 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence, or**

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- 2. Approve the application for the provisional grant of 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence with Special Conditions, or**
 - 3. Refuse the application for the provisional grant of 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence.**
- 2.2** If the application is refused, or Special Conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.
- 2.3** If you are of a mind to refuse the application or attach Special Conditions to the licence within 7 days from the date of the Council's decision the applicant will be advised in writing of their right to an opportunity of appearing before and of being heard by the Committee.
- 3.0** Main report
- Key Issues
- Provisional grant of a licence
- 3.1** There is provision within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order (the Order) to make application for the grant of an entertainments licence in respect of premises which are to be, or are in the course of being, constructed, extended or altered.
- 3.2** If the Council is satisfied that the premises would, if completed in accordance with plans deposited in accordance with the requirements of the Council, be such that it would grant the licence, the Council may grant the licence subject to a Condition that it shall be of no effect until confirmed by the Council.
- 3.3** This is described as the provisional grant of a licence.
- 3.4** The Order stipulates that the Council must confirm any licence granted provisionally when it is satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the plans deposited with the application or in accordance with those plans as modified with the approval of the council.
- 3.5** Should Members be of mind to grant the licence provisionally, Committee is requested to consider delegating authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control in consultation

with the City Solicitor to issue the licence once all necessary technical requirements relating to health, safety, welfare and amenity have been completed to the satisfaction of the Building Control Service.

Extended hours of entertainment

- 3.6** Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with an Entertainments Licence application which is not the subject of objections is that the licence will be granted as provided for in the Council's Scheme of Delegation.
- 3.7** The applicant has applied to provide entertainment beyond the latest hour to which licences are normally granted. As such, the application is being presented before Committee for your consideration.
- 3.8** The applicant has applied to provide entertainment on the following days and hours:
- Monday to Sunday: 12.00 pm to 3.00 am the following morning.
- 3.8** The applicant has provided a rationale to support their application for the extended hours of entertainment which, in summary, includes:-
- The desire to provide entertainment in line with the operation of other city centre licensed premises, which offer similar entertainment.
 - There is an expectation amongst young people that certain events should end at 3.00am and that a 1.00am finish is not value for money. This is particularly true for customers travelling from other countries with more relaxed licensing laws.
 - The additional hours will help them attract more international acts to the City.
- 3.10** A copy of the applicant's rationale for a 3.00 am Entertainment Licence is appended to this report as Appendix 3.

Venue details

- 3.11** The area where indoor entertainment is proposed to be provided is the:

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- **Ground floor area with a maximum capacity of 1500 persons.**
- 3.12 The ground floor is a flexible space that will be used to provide a variety of events. Whilst the maximum numbers for the area will be approximately 1500 persons an occupancy will be agreed for each event by the Service after an assessment of individual event details and layout.**
- 3.13 The applicant proposes to provide entertainment in the form of live bands, DJ's and theatre. During these occasions, they will operate a public bar facility via an Occasional Liquor Licence.**
- 3.14 The applicant has provided additional information advising of the types of events they propose to hold in the premises, which include: -**
- **Live music performances**
 - **Comedy**
 - **Filming**
 - **Award ceremonies**
 - **Podcasts**
 - **Fashion Shows**
 - **Film Festivals**
 - **Conferences**
- 3.15 Members are advised that not all these events will fall within the scope of entertainments licensing.**
- 3.16 A copy of the applicant's submission is included on the application form attached in Appendix 4.**
- 3.17 Layout plans of the venue are attached as Appendix 5.**

Representations

- 3.18 Notice of the application has been advertised and one written representation in support of the application has been lodged which is attached as Appendix 6.**
- 3.19 At the time of writing this report no written representations have been received objecting to the application. However, as the 28-day statutory objection period does not expire until 11th December 2018 Members will be advised at your meeting on 12th December if any objections have been received.**

PSNI

- 3.20 The PSNI has been consulted and has confirmed that they have no objection to the application. A copy of their correspondence is attached as Appendix 7.

Health, safety and welfare inspections

- 3.21 This building was previously used by Arnott's for fruit and vegetable storage. The applicant has submitted a Building Regulations application for the change of use to an assembly building. It is envisaged that the building works to refurbish this space will commence in January 2019.
- 3.22 Before the Entertainments Licence can be confirmed as outlined in 3.4 the Building Regulations application must be approved, and all site works must be completed to the satisfaction of the Service in accordance with the Regulations. This will ensure compliance, amongst other matters, with all fire safety, structural and access requirements.
- 3.23 All certification pre-requisite to the grant of a licence will also be required before the licence can be confirmed.

NIFRS

- 3.24 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to the application and we are awaiting their response. Officers will advise of the NIFRS response at the Committee meeting on 12th December 2018.

Noise Issues

- 3.25 Given the nature of the entertainment in the venue, an acoustic report outlining the measures to be taken to ensure minimal disturbance to persons in the neighbourhood, either due to noise breakout or from patron activity, has been requested from the applicant. The acoustic report has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Unit and consultations are ongoing to ensure all relevant steps are taken to address any noise issues.
- 3.26 If Members are of the mind to grant the provisional application for the Entertainments Licence delegated authority is sought, before confirming the licence, to attach any Terms and Conditions to the Licence regarding the management of noise. Such conditions will only be attached with the full agreement of the licensee.

Applicant

- 3.27 The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.28 Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment this is catered for within existing budgets.**

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.29 There are no issues associated with this report.”**

The Building Control Manager informed the Members that this was an application for the provisional grant of an entertainments licence and that Committee was being asked to consider the application in principle and on the basis of plans that had been submitted. He added, that should the Committee be minded to grant a provisional entertainments licence, the applicant would not be able to commence operations until all technical matters had been addressed to the satisfaction of the Council, such as fire safety issues and measures to prevent noise breakout.

He informed the Committee that no objections had been received in response to the published legal notice, that the PSNI had also indicated it had no objections to the granting of the licence and that the Building Control Service were in the process of consulting with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

The Building Control Manager advised the Committee that, should it be minded to grant the provisional entertainments licence, it must be confirmed once all technical matters had been dealt with and that the licence must then be issued. If provisionally granted he suggested Committee might wish to consider that the licence be confirmed under Delegated Authority of the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor.

He informed the Members that Mr. Alan Simms and Ms. Orla Farquharson were in attendance should the Committee require any additional information.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. Simms and Ms. Farquharson and they were welcomed to the meeting.

A Member raised concern with regard to the premises' proximity to the Salvation Army Hostel and suggested that Mr. Simms should consult with the hostel to ensure that its operations were not affected by the venue, should a licence be granted.

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Mr. Simms informed the Committee that the venue would be a temporary venture and that that he had secured tenancy at the premises for 18 months. He advised that his reason for applying for a provisional grant was that, within the industry, the booking of acts and entertainment can be a lengthy process and he was keen to begin the booking process to potentially commence operations in early 2019.

He also informed the Committee that he had assigned almost half of his renovation budget to noise mitigation measures and he was planning to import specialised sound proofing doors and install acoustic board in the roof of the building. He also advised that he had professional standard noise monitoring equipment and that he would monitor the noise levels within the proximity of the premises.

Mr. Simms added that he regularly held events in Custom House Square and, because of its proximity to the Salvation Army Hostel, he had established a good working relationship with its management and had previously arranged to collect charitable donations for the Salvation Army at his events and had been contributing in this way for over ten years.

Mr. Simms also confirmed to Committee that the escape route to the rear of the building adjacent to the stage opened into the adjacent Council Cleansing depot but that there was a permitted right of way to facilitate escape for patrons of the venue.

The Committee agreed to approve the application for the provisional grant of a 7-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence and that authority to approve the final grant of the licence be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor, subject to the applicant having regard for any relevant comments received from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, and to adhere to any licensing conditions with regard to the management of noise as required by Council Officers.

Non-Delegated Matters

Notice of Motion – Sexual Harassment

The Committee was reminded that at the meeting of Council on 3rd December, a notice of motion in relation Sexual Harassment was referred to the Licensing Committee.

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

“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.”

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The motion was seconded by Councillor Nicholl.

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

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Nic Biorna,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the wording of the motion be amended with the replacement of the final sentence with the following:

Accordingly, the Council will undertake to meet with our universities, hospitality sector and the PSNI to explore any industry led initiatives that we can support, to tackle sexual harassment within our night time economy, keeping in mind that this is a global societal issue that needs tackled.

The Committee agreed to the amendment.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Building Control Manager would undertake research and would bring a report back to the Committee and invite Hospitality Ulster and any other organisations who may have an interest in an industry led initiative to deter sexual harassment to the meeting.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 11th December, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Carson, Dorrian, Hussey,
Hutchinson, Johnston, Lyons, Magee,
McAteer, Mullan and Nicholl.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th November 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 December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Magee declared an interest in Item 8a - LA04/2018/0040/F, King's Hall application, in that he knew people who were involved in the construction of the site, and he left the room for the duration of the discussion.

Councillor Nicholl declared an interest in Item 8a - LA04/2018/0040/F, King's Hall application, in that she had met with a developer in relation to the site but that she had reserved judgement on the application and so did not withdraw from the discussion.

Councillor Magee declared an interest in Item 8j – LA04/2018/1832/F, St. Gemma's School and The Flax Centre, in that he had made representation on the application and he removed himself from the discussion while the application was under discussion.

Alderman McGimpsey and Councillor Mullan declared an interest in Item 8l – LA04/2018/1881/F, 28 Cregagh Park, in that they had engaged with residents previously

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relating to anti-social behaviour in the area, but, as neither had engaged with residents in relation to the planning application, they did not withdraw from the discussion.

Councillors Lyons and McAteer declared an interest in item 8w – LA04/2018/0009/F, Lands at 35-37 Diamond Gardens, in that they had met with residents but that they had reserved judgement on the application and so did not withdraw with the discussion.

Committee Site Visit

Pursuant to its decision of 13th November, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 26th November in respect of planning application 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.

Financial Reporting - Quarter 2, 2018/2019

The Committee noted the Quarter 2 financial position for the Planning Committee, which was a net underspend of £326,000, with the forecast year end position being an underspend of £236,000.

The Committee was advised that the main reasons for the underspend related to planning fees received having exceeded the anticipated level and underspends across expenditure budgets in Building Control. The Members noted that the underspend position for the Committee had been offset by underachievement of Building Control income by £152,000 and other planning related income streams by £13,000.

Abandonments

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure which related to the proposal to abandon:

- Land/footpath at the Westlink backpath between Albert Street and Cullingtree Road; and
- Land/footpath at Whitla Street.

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 6th November and 3rd December, 2018.

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that the following items had been withdrawn from the agenda:

- LA04/2018/0005/F – 6 Detached and 8 Semi-detached dwellings and associated parking, lands south and east of 148 – 163 Lagmore View Lane & 20-26 Lagmore View Road and north and west of 37 81 82 105 – 114 Lagmore Glen; and
- LA04/2017/2733/A – Erection of a light emitting diode (LED) display unit A2 Sydenham Bypass adjacent to footbridge at the former Belfast City Airport access 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)

(Reconsidered Item) LA04/2018/0040/F, LA04/2018/0047/DCA and LA04/2018/0048/LBC - 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;

(Councillor Magee declared an interest and left the room whilst this item was under discussion.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th November, before presentation of the applications had commenced, it had deferred consideration so that the Committee could undertake a site visit in order to acquaint Members with the site.

The case officer outlined the details of the three linked applications for the site. She explained that the application sought the demolition of 29 Balmoral Avenue and buildings adjacent to and surrounding the listed King's Hall. The proposals included the restoration and refurbishment of the King's Hall building, the creation of a new floorspace within it, and the construction of a two storey side extension to facilitate a primary healthcare centre. The Committee was advised that an alteration of the Balmoral Avenue access was sought, a repositioned main access onto the Lisburn Road, an internal access road, surface level car parks, public realm and landscaping works and associated works, including boundary treatment.

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She drew the Committee's attention to the main issues of consideration which were outlined within the report.

The Committee was advised that three letters of support and sixteen letters of objection had been received before the publication of the Committee report, with another nine letters of support and one letter of objection having been received since its publication.

The Committee noted a late objection which had outlined the following issues:

- traffic congestion on Balmoral Avenue and Lisburn Road,
- responding to emergency and out of hours calls would be challenging,
- centralisation of primary care and nursing services was detrimental to local communities; and
- the development was not supported by the Commissioner of primary care services and was counter strategic to the implementation of the Bengoa recommendations.

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

The case officer explained that the consultees were content with the proposals, subject to the conditions which were set out within the report.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Attwood. He explained that he was a member of the Belfast Local Commissioning Group and that he had concerns about the centralisation of a number of GP practices in south Belfast as a result of the proposals. He expressed concerns about the withdrawal of GP services from areas such as Sandy Row, Seymour Hill and the Lower Lisburn Rd and stated that this would be detrimental to the health and care of residents in those areas. He stated that the Health and Social Care Board was unlikely to be able to fund the relocation of those GP practices.

The Committee received representation from Mr. K. McCabe and Ms. A. Millar, NIPSA. Mr. McCabe stated that he had concerns with the possible relocation of GP practices from areas of social deprivation to the King's Hall site, as it would leave those areas with no local health services. Ms. Millar added that she believed there to be flooding issues within the site and stated that she felt that the masterplan for the entire site should be considered before making a decision on the three applications.

The Committee received representation from Mr. M. Gordon, Turley, Mr. J. Compton, advisor to the applicant, and Ms. K. McShane, Transport Consultant.

In response to the queries raised by objectors regarding the phased approach to the development of the site, Mr. Gordon explained that it was considered appropriate due to the size and scale of the site. He advised the Committee that the three applications related to Phase 1 of the development and that it would not prejudice the redevelopment of the remainder of the site.

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Mr. Compton stated that there were no plans for the Sandy Row GP Practice to move to the King's Hall development. He added that there were no private facilities planned for the site, and that Land and Property Services determined the rental value for GP practices. He advised the Committee that health and social care hubs were crucial in fulfilling the aims of the Bengoa Report.

In response to questions from Members regarding the impact of higher traffic volume surrounding the site, Ms. McShane explained that a detailed transport assessment had been carried out for both the wider site and for the Phase 1 applications. She confirmed that the implications from those assessments had been taken on board in the design of the access points for the site.

In response to a Member's question, the case officer clarified that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) had not been required for the three applications but that an EIA would be required for the wider site, which would be brought before the Committee at a later date.

The Director of Planning and Building Control clarified that, on balance, the application was considered acceptable in terms of its community benefits and the wider public interest.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor McAteer
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That applications LA04/2018/0040/F and LA04/2018/0047/DCA be refused on the grounds of the unjustified demolition of No. 29 Balmoral Avenue, which was contrary to Policy BH14 of PPS6.

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

The case officer's recommendation to approve applications LA04/2018/0040/F and LA04/2018/0047/DCA was then put to the Committee, when seven Members voted in favour and four against and it was declared carried.

Thereafter, the Committee granted approval to the application LA04/2018/0048/LBC.

**(Reconsidered Item) LA04/2016/1915/F and LA04/2016/1884/LBC –
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**

(Councillor Magee returned to the Committee at this point.)

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(Alderman McGimpsey and the Chairperson had left the room whilst the item was under consideration.)

Councillor Hussey took the Chair at this point.)

(The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown) and Councillors Dorrian and Nicholl took no part in the discussion or decision making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 13th November when it had been originally been considered.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th November, given the issues which had been raised regarding the insufficient amenity space, an unsatisfactory living environment for the six apartments facing onto the courtyard in terms of outlook and lack of daylight and inadequate information to demonstrate mitigation of drainage impacts as discussed in the planning report, it had agreed to defer consideration of the applications to enable potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

The Development Engagement Manager outlined to the Committee two possible reasons for refusal in relation to the Full Planning Application and one in relation to the Listed Building Consent element, as outlined in the Late Items report. However, he confirmed that the officer recommendation remained that the applications should be approved.

The reasons for refusal for the Committee's consideration were:

Full Planning Application:

1. The proposal was contrary to Policy QD1 of the Planning Policy Statement 7 in that the proposal would, if permitted, result in overdevelopment of the site due to its inappropriate layout and design, would create an unacceptable living environment for prospective residents through poor outlook and inadequate daylighting resulting in a loss of residential amenity and failed to provide adequate private amenity space. The proposal would fail to provide a quality and sustainable residential environment.
2. The proposal was contrary to Policy FLD 3 of the Department's Planning Policy Statement 15: "Planning and Flood Risk" in that it had not been demonstrated that the proposal would provide satisfactory measures for the mitigation of flood risk and, in particular, drainage.

Listed Building Consent:

1. In the absence of a valid planning permission for the conversion of the building to the intended use, the proposed works are unjustifiable and unacceptable, having regard to Policies BH7 and BH8 of Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning, Archaeology, and Built Heritage.

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Proposal

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the Committee does not grant approval to the applications due to the reasons for refusal as outlined within the report.

(Reconsidered Item) LA04/2017/1153/F - 4 storey apartment development, comprising 31 apartments, car parking, amenity space and associated works at 10 Lorne Street

(The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown) took no part in the discussion or decision making of the application since he had not been in attendance at the meeting on 16th October when it had been originally been considered.)

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had considered the application at its meeting on 16th October, 2018, when it had agreed to defer consideration to provide the applicant with an opportunity to provide clarification on outstanding issues including drainage and overshadowing.

She outlined to the Committee that, in addition to a shadow assessment and further drainage information having since been submitted to the Planning Service, further amendments had been made to the design and layout of the proposed building. The amendments included a reduction by 5 dwelling units from 36 to 31, and a reduction by 5 parking spaces from 36 to 31.

The Committee was advised that the amendments to the design included the replacement of the proposed mansard roof with a flat roof and the set back of the fourth floor utilising red/brown Belfast brick. The Members were advised that three apartments on the third floor would benefit from an additional area of private amenity space. The case officer explained that the main lift would only go to the third floor, thereby removing additional built form from the roof, but that a platform lift would be provided from the third floor to the rooftop amenity area to meet the needs of less mobile residents and visitors.

The shadow analysis showed that each apartment would receive direct sunlight at some point during the day, which was acceptable in a tight, urban area.

A letter from NI Water regarding a requisition for a storm sewer had been submitted as an addendum to the Drainage Assessment. The case officer outlined that the Council was now confident that an acceptable drainage plan could be agreed with the Rivers Agency.

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

(Councillor Garrett, Chairperson, resumed the Chair at this point)

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LA04/2018/0951/F - 4 Storey Block containing 20 Apartments and roof terrace, with 8 in curtilage parking bays and associated landscaping at 2-6 Castlereagh Place

The case officer presented the details of the application to the Committee. She outlined that the building was L-shaped, with a total height of 13.3metres from ground level. The proposal included eight parking spaces at the rear of the building with external bin and cycle storage.

The Committee was advised that two representations had been received.

The case officer explained to the Committee the key issues in the assessment of the proposed development as outlined within the report.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. W. Shields, an objector to the application.

Mr. Shields expressed concern at the proposed height of the building, in that it would create a loss of light within his dwelling. He also stated that current traffic levels were high in the area and that there were not enough parking spaces provided with the development.

The Chairperson clarified to the Committee that Mr. Shields had not originally submitted a written objection to the application but that he had since submitted a late objection to the Planning Service.

The Committee then received representation from Mr. S. McKee, the agent for the application. He stated that the proposed height of the building was lower than the adjacent apartment block which also fronted onto Castlereagh Place. He explained that appropriate separation distances had been used to mitigate against the potential for overlooking as well as a loss of light.

In relation to the concerns raised about traffic, he confirmed to the Committee that a transport assessment form and parking survey were submitted by a transport consultant in support of the application and that adequate on-street parking capacity existed in the locality.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Dorrian
Seconded by Councillor Mullan and

Resolved - That the Committee agrees to defer consideration to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

LA04/2017/2776/F - 2 storey McDonalds restaurant Land to a section of existing Tesco's car park Knocknagoney Road

(Alderman McGimpsey returned to the meeting at this point.)

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

LA04/2015/0674/F and LA04/2015/0672/DCA - Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new 8 storey office building, with roof plant, and associated public realm works comprising upgrade to existing footpaths on Linenhall Street and Clarence Street at 13-23 Clarence Street and 26-28 Linenhall Street

(Councillors Carson and McAteer left the room at this point.)

The Development Engagement Manager outlined the details of the major planning application to the Committee.

He pointed out that a number of revised schemes had been submitted following discourse between the applicant and the Council, the most recent of which had been received on 13th November.

He referred to the Late Items Pack and advised the Committee that a late objection had been received from the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS) in relation to the most recent scheme. The comments included:

- UAHS was unable to access Conservation officer's comments on the portal;
- the case officer had overturned the original Conservation Officer's advice in favour of the agent's advice;
- UAHS considered that the building made an historical contribution to the conservation area;
- that previous efforts to retain historic fabric were not being replicated in the application; and
- that the proposed design was pastiche and unbecoming of the conservation area.

He outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Pack.

The Committee also noted correspondence from the agent in response to the UAHS concerns, as set out in the Late Items Pack.

He advised the Committee that, as the site was within the Linen Conservation Area, the key policies which were under consideration were Policy BH14 – Demolition in a Conservation Area, and Policy BH10 – Demolition of a Listed Building, of PPS6.

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He outlined that officers felt that the two single storey buildings on Linenhall Street were of little architectural merit and that they, in fact, detracted from the overall character and appearance of the Conservation Area. He stated that they had no objection to their removal in principle, provided that the replacement scheme was acceptable.

He advised the Committee that the Clarence Gallery Building made a material contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The Committee was advised that officers had concluded that, having given regard to all of the submitted information and consultee responses, an exceptional case had been made for its demolition. He outlined that consideration had been given to its structural condition, loss of historic fabric, the applicant's unsuccessful marketing of the premises and viability.

He stated that officers felt that the proposal would enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. It would also result in inward investment and would bring a corner of the Conservation Area back into active use. He explained why officers were of the view that the proposal would not harm the setting of nearby Listed Buildings.

The Committee was advised that, should it grant planning permission, the application would require notification to the Department for Infrastructure, in view of comments received from the HED which had sought the building to be lowered.

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 to grant conditional planning permission and demolition consent, subject to clarification of consultation responses from DfI Roads and the NIEA, and a satisfactory public realm enhancement scheme.

LA04/2018/1415/F - Demolition of former derelict Police Station for mixed use development comprising 2 buildings with a total of 57 apartments. Block A comprises 33 apartment units with 3 ground floor café/restaurant/retail units. Block B comprises 24 apartment units, development includes communal landscaped courtyards, landscaping, basement car parking and all associated site and access works on Former Ballynafeigh Police Station, 332 Ormeau Road

(Councillors Carson and McAteer returned to the room at this point.)

The Development Engagement Manager presented the details of the major planning application to the Committee.

The Committee noted that seven letters of support and two letters of objection had been received. He advised the Members that the proposal had been amended to address concerns in terms of the impact on amenity of a neighbouring residential property and the design of the façade onto the Ormeau Road.

He advised the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, three objections had been received:

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- the proposal would dominate and form a competing focus to the listed buildings in terms of scale, height, massing and alignment;
- overdevelopment in the area; and
- should approval be granted, a condition should be added to ensure there was no recreational use of any external terracing.

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

The Committee was advised that the application would require notification to the Department for Infrastructure as HED had objected regarding the impact on the setting of listed buildings.

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

LA04/2018/1832/F - Demolition of existing school buildings and erection of a community-led mixed use regeneration scheme comprising the erection of a community hub; 3 retail units (class A1) and 2 retail service units (sui generis); 54 residential units in a mix of 30 dwellings and 24 apartments; the retention, refurbishment and change of use of the Flax Centre to provide business incubation space and education facilities; public realm improvements along Ardoyne Avenue, the creation of a public space, and associated landscaping; car parking; and other ancillary development. Lands at and surrounding St Gemma's School and The Flax Centre Ardoyne Avenue

(Councillor Magee declared an interest in this item and left the room while the application was under consideration.)

(Councillor Nicholl left the room at this point.)

The case officer provided the Committee with the details of the application. He explained that the site was on unzoned land and that the principle of the mixed use development including housing, retail and community use was acceptable.

The Committee noted that the applicant had carried out their duty under Section 27 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 to consult the community in advance of submitting an application. The case officer pointed out that nine letters of support had been received, and no objections.

The case officer outlined to the Members that the Planning Service was awaiting a response from the Department for Infrastructure Roads.

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.

LA04/2017/1216/F - Residential development comprising 45 dwellings and 8 apartments and associated access road, parking and landscaping on lands at Upper Dunmurry Lane

(Councillor Nicholl returned to the meeting at this point.)

The case officer provided the Committee with an overview of the report, which was for a social residential development of 45 dwellings and 8 apartments with an associated access road, parking and landscaping.

He outlined that Environmental Health, Rivers Agency, NIEA, HED and NI Water had no objections to the proposals subject to the conditions.

The Committee noted a late objection letter which had been received after the agenda had been published and the response of the Planning Department to the issues which were also set out in the Late Items Pack.

The Committee was advised that a late response from DfI Roads had been received immediately before the meeting had commenced, which stated that it had no objection in principle but had some concerns with the low number of car parking spaces included within the scheme.

The case officer advised the Committee that it was considered that the proposal would provide a shortfall of two spaces within the curtilage of the apartment block but that it was considered acceptable in this case, due to the benefits of an increased amenity space, in addition to the site's proximity to a bus and Glider route on the Stewartstown Road.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Heading. He advised the Committee that he had held numerous meetings with residents in relation to the proposals. He stated that, while social housing was much needed and was to be welcomed in the area, he still had concerns regarding the shortfall in the number of car parking spaces which were being provided. He stated that he had concerns that, if the application was to be granted, future private housing developments with a shortfall of parking spaces would become acceptable.

The Committee received representation from Mr. S. McKee, the agent. In relation to the queries raised regarding the parking provision, he advised the Committee that the 12 units of the accommodation in question were for "Cat1 - active elderly", where generally the uptake for parking spaces was lower than average. He also pointed out that the general provision for social housing outside of city centres was 1 parking space per unit, and that Choice Housing was providing 1.25 spaces per unit in this case.

Arising out of discussion, the Committee agreed that the Department for Infrastructure Roads be invited to a future Thursday Planning Workshop in order to discuss their policies in relation to sufficient car parking provision for planning applications, and their response times as a consultee.

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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.

LA04/2018/1881/F - 2 detached dwellings and 4 semi-detached dwellings, associated access and landscaping works on site immediately east of 28 Cregagh Park

(Alderman McGimpsey and Councillor Mullan stated that they had previously engaged with residents of Cregagh Park in relation to anti-social behaviour in the area, but that neither had engaged with residents in relation to this planning application so they did not withdraw from the discussion.)

The case officer outlined the details of an application for 2 detached and 4 semi-detached dwellings with associated works to the Committee. She advised the Members that the Council had an estate in the land.

The Committee noted that the proposal involved the loss of open space but that it was considered that an exceptional case had been made in that the proposal would deliver substantial community benefits which would outweigh that loss. The case officer highlighted that the applicant had offered to enter a legal agreement to bring forward an offset provision of works to benefit the wider community.

She outlined that Transport NI, HED, DAERA, Rivers Agency, Environmental Health and Tree officers had been consulted about the proposals and had offered no objections.

The Committee was advised that two petitions of support and three letters of objection had been received. The Committee noted that the issues raised had been considered within the case officer's report.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control to grant conditional planning permission, and delegated power to the City Solicitor for the completion of a legal agreement to secure the upgrade works to the Cregagh Glen.

LA04/2018/2187/F - Proposed replacement of existing 15m telecommunications mast with 20m column, including shroud enclosed antenna and associated works including 1No. equipment cabinet at edge of public footpath c 42m south of the junction of Malone Road and Cranmore Park

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the replacement of a 15metre high telecoms column with a 20metre high column, including shroud enclosed antenna and associated works and an equipment cabinet.

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She explained that, as a 15m mast already existed on the site, it was difficult to conclude that the proposal would have any further impact on the Conservation Area. The Conservation Area officer had offered no objection.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Boyle. He stated that he felt measures should be taken to disguise the mast to ensure that it fitted in with the surroundings, given its location within the Malone Conservation Area. He requested that the Committee would consider adding a condition which would require the applicant to remove graffiti from the cabinet within a defined timeframe.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the issues which were also set out in the Late Items Pack.

The Committee received representation from the agent, Mr. L. Ross. He highlighted the necessity of the upgrade of the telecommunication masts across the city. He stated that the site was low lying and that it was necessary to raise the height of the mast in order to upgrade the signal. He added that the slightly different location of the new mast allowed it to be installed before the old mast was removed, to ensure uninterrupted coverage.

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, to include a regular programme of maintenance.

LA04/2018/1999/F - Installation of a 15m high telecoms street pole with integrated antenna and 2 no. 300mm dishes plus 4 no. ground based equipment cabinets and all other ancillary equipment on public footpath 1 -3 Glenmachan Street

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the installation of a 15metre high telecoms street pole with integrated antenna and two 300mm dishes plus four ground based equipment cabinets and ancillary equipment. She explained that it would replace an existing base station at 67-73 Glenmachan Street. The Members were advised that the new location was adjacent to a McDonald's hot food sit in-takeaway diner and drive-through.

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

LA04/2018/2169/F - Replacement of a 17.5m high telecommunications column with 20m column, including shroud enclosed antenna associated works including 2 no. equipment cabinets at edge of public footpath 13m north of the junction of Blacks Road and M1 (north bound slip)

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the installation of a 20metre telecoms column, including shroud enclosed antenna and associated works and

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two equipment cabinets. She explained that it would replace an existing 17.5metre high column.

The Committee was advised that the site was on the corner of the slip-road connecting the Blacks Road to the M1 motorway.

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

LA04/2018/2297/F - Replacement telecommunication mast with a new 20m telecommunications mast on a site located c. 16m south east of the existing mast. 2 no. equipment cabinets proposed on footpath (1 no. meter cabinet c. 8m from base of proposed mast and 1 no. Lancaster cabinet c. 18m from the base of the proposed mast) On lands on Milltown Road 100m NW of the junction of Hospital Road and Purdysburn Road

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the replacement of a 15metre high telecoms column with a 20metre high column, including shroud enclosed antenna and associated works and an equipment cabinet.

The Committee was advised that the site was located along the footpath of the Milltown Road, in an area designated as whiteland within BUAP 2001 and dBMAP 2015.

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

LA04/2018/2367/F - Replacement of existing 15m telecommunication mast with a new 17.5m telecommunications mast on a site located c.22m south east of the existing mast. 1 No. equipment cabinet proposed on footpath c.11m NE of the base of proposed mast On footpath south east of no 125 Upper Malone Road

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the replacement of a 15metre high telecoms mast with a 17.5metre mast, with an equipment cabinet.

The Committee was advised that the site was located 22metres from the current mast, on a footpath south east of 125 Upper Malone Road. The case officer outlined to the Committee that the site was on a busy road with a well-established backdrop of trees.

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

LA04/2018/1939/F - Proposed extension of existing telecommunications mast from 15m to 20m, with shroud enclosed antenna and associated works including 1 no. equipment cabinet On grass verge of Belvoir Road approx. 91 m south west of Newtownbreda Baptist Church 43 Newtownbreda Road

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the replacement of a 15metre high telecoms column with a 20metre high column, including shroud enclosed antenna and associated works and an equipment cabinet.

The Committee was advised that the site was located along the footpath of the Belvoir Road, in an area identified as being on the Strategic Road Network.

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

LA04/2018/0123/F - Proposed change of house types of planning permission Z/2010/1250/F relating to sites 1-13, 44-46, 60-69 and 86-107, car parking, landscaping and associated site works (38 dwellings in total) Lands located to the rear of 29 to 36 Mill Valley Place

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

LA04/2018/0009/F - Residential development comprising 5 no. detached dwellings and 10 no. semi-detached dwellings, associated landscaping, access and car parking Lands at 35-37 Diamond Gardens

(Councillors Carson and Dorrian left the room at this point.)

(Councillors Lyons and McAteer declared an interest in this item, in that they had met with residents in relation to this application, but stated that they had reserved judgement on the application, so they so they did not withdraw from the discussion)

The case officer outlined the details of the report to the Committee, which was for 5 detached dwellings and 10 semi-detached dwellings on the site of a former dairy storage depot.

She explained that six representations had been received raising objections which had been considered within the report. The Committee was advised that NIEA, NI Water, Rivers Agency, DfI Roads, Environmental Health and Tree Officers had been consulted and had raised no objections.

The Committee was advised that a Noise Impact Assessment had been carried out, given the site's location near to the railway line, and that the results had raised no concerns.

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She highlighted that, since the publication of the report, two letters of objection had been received, which stated:

- concerns regarding the impact of development on sewage infrastructure;
- impact on traffic as Diamond Gardens was already congested area;
- negative impact on human health as result of fumes and air pollution;
and
- flooding concerns.

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

That Committee agreed to grant 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, to include the commissioning of a brick boundary wall with Diamond Grove.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Thursday, 13th December, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Carson, Hussey,
Hutchinson, Johnston, Magee,
McAteer, Mullan and Nicholl.
- In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Miscellaneous Items

Belfast Housing Land Availability Summary Report

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- “1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
- 1.1 To provide an overview of the Council’s Housing Land Availability Summary Report for the 2017/18 monitoring period.**
- 1.2 The report presents the outcomes of annual housing land monitoring and helps inform the preparation of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the District. It provides a snapshot of the amount of land available for new residential development as of 01 April 2018, and will be supported by an online map portal showing the status of all existing housing monitor sites. The map portal will also spatially reflect key information contained within the tables of the report.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Note the outcomes of the annual Housing Monitor report for 2017/18 contained at Appendix 1 and the intention to publish this summary document and accompanying online map portal on the Council's website.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Members are reminded that the Planning Act (NI) 2011 requires the Council to make an annual report to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) outlining the extent to which the objectives set out in the LDP are being achieved. As the Council are currently preparing the first new LDP for Belfast under this new legislation, the production of Annual Monitoring Reports has not yet commenced. Instead, annual Housing Land Availability Monitor reports (referred to as the 'Housing Monitor' reports) are being prepared by the Council until the new LDP is adopted.

3.2 Housing Land Availability Reports

The primary purpose of the Housing Monitor is to inform the formulation of the Council's new LDP. However, it will also help the Council identify where a shortfall in potential land supply might exist and can inform house-builders on the availability of land that may be suitable for housing.

- 3.3 The Housing Land Availability Summary Report contained at Appendix 1 presents the headline figures from a register of potential housing land maintained by the Council, based on current planning policy designations and planning permissions. This provides a snapshot of the amount of land available for new homes and capacity for future housing units as of 1st April 2018, as well as providing the net gains in housing units for the 2017/18 period. This differs from the new dwelling completion statistics published routinely by central Government which only provide a total for new build homes, without accounting for units lost as a result of redevelopment.**

- 3.4 This information is summarised within the report in relation to:**

- Each settlement within the District, including settlement areas in the case of Belfast City;

- Whether land falls within the existing urban footprint (the continuous built-up area of the settlement) or is classified as greenfield land; and
 - The type of land use zoning (i.e. land zoned for housing or land zoned for mixed use development) or all other land.
- 3.5 During the 2017/18 monitoring year 659 units were completed on 19.4 ha of land across the District. 408.9 ha of land remains, with potential capacity for 22,354 residential units. The total number of dwellings completed in the district has fallen by 7.7% from 714 in 2016/17 to 659 in the current monitor year. The proportion of dwellings completed within the Urban Footprint is recorded at 82.1% and, as at 1 April 2018, almost 40% of the remaining potential available for future dwellings is on land zoned for housing or mixed use development.
- 3.6 It is emphasised that the monitor represents a register of housing land based on current policy designations and planning permissions, rather than an accurate picture of viable housing land. It is the role of an Urban Capacity Study to assess the suitability, availability and achievability of land, alongside the identification of new sites that could be later zoned for residential use as part of the LDP process. As an Urban Capacity Study was completed in March 2018, this report also contains a summary of its findings, focussing on new sites identified that are not included within the housing monitor.
- Online Map Portal**
- 3.7 It is intended that the Housing Monitor report will be published alongside an online map portal showing the status of the existing housing monitor sites and key information contained within the tables of this report, for example: the site area developed and the remaining area potential; and the number of dwelling units complete and the remaining unit potential.
- Recommendations**
- 3.8 Members are asked to note the outcomes of the annual Housing Monitor report for 2017/18 contained at Appendix 1 and the intention to publish this summary document and accompanying online map portal on the Council's website.
- Financial & Resource Implications**
- 3.9 There are no financial or other resource implications arising from this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.10 The Housing Monitor report presents factual information and makes no recommendations relating to the future allocation of land for housing. There are therefore no equality or good relations implications arising from this report. “

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation (PBMSA)

At the request of a Member, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the PBMSA throughout the city and the issues surrounding it being used for other purposes.

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)

LA04/2018/2096/F - Variation of planning condition No's 6, 7 +17 of approval Z/2014/1665/F to facilitate relocation of parking spaces + amendments to internal boundary treatments Peter Pan Complex, 90-120 Springfield Road, adjoining Springfield Avenue

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, which included the relocation of parking spaces and amendments to internal boundary treatments.

The case officer highlighted to the Committee that the proposed internal changes to boundary treatments from walls to close boarded fencing was acceptable, in that the main views into, or within, the development would be unaffected.

He pointed out that there would be no loss of car parking as a result of the changes and that DFI Roads had offered no objections to the relocation of the one car parking space from Springfield Avenue to Springfield Road.

The case officer outlined that correspondence had been received after the agenda had been published, stating that the drawing numbers in the three conditions in the Committee report were incorrect.

He provided the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Pack.

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

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LA04/2018/1453/F - 6 storey Grade A office development, incorporating a ground floor coffee bar, associated car parking, part retention and reconfiguration of existing car park, and all ancillary site works and landscaping on Lands at and adjacent to plot 4 Cromac Place, The Gas Works

(Councillor Nicholl joined the meeting at this point.)

The case officer provided the details of the application to the Committee.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the landowner.

The case officer advised the Committee that a consultation response from the DAERA Land and Groundwater Team had been received after the agenda had been published. He pointed out that, as per the Late Items pack, the Team had no objections, subject to conditions.

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.

LA04/2018/1079/F - Public realm improvements along Albert St, Cullingtree Road and at St Peters Close

(Councillor McAteer joined the meeting at this point.)

The case officer outlined the details of the application to the Committee, which included new kerbs, footpath resurfacing, new street lighting columns, safety bollards and speed reduction measures.

The Committee was advised that DFI Roads had no objections, in principle, but required some technical amendments. He explained that DFI Roads had been re-consulted with the amended plans and that the Planning Department was awaiting its final response. The Members noted that the application had been advertised and neighbor-notified, and that no objections had been received.

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.

LA04/2018/1810/F - Change of use from single occupancy dwelling to HMO at 20 Templemore Avenue

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 was applicable in this case, given that the area was outside a designated HM Development Node or Policy Area.

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The Committee was advised that, as there were 41 domestic properties in this section of Templemore Avenue, two of which were recorded as HMOs, that the 10% threshold would not be exceeded and was therefore acceptable.

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

LA04/2015/0686/F - Renewal of Z/2008/1418/F 2 blocks - 1 block consisting of 22 no. apartments, 1 no. block with office and community use 56-76 Townsend Street

The case officer outlined the details of the application to the Committee. She explained to the Committee that a previous approval had been granted at the site, for the erection of a block of 30 apartments with 2 ground floor retail units and 30 basement parking spaces, and another block for office use. The Committee was advised that the previous consent formed a material consideration.

She outlined, however, that objections to the renewal application had been received and that it was considered that the scale proposed was excessive and the Council had therefore invited amendments from the applicant in order to address concerns.

The Committee noted that the revised scheme omitted the basement car park and the two ground floor retail units and included eight less apartments, meaning that the first block was reduced to four stories from six, and the office block reduced from five stories to four.

The case officer advised the Committee that the revised scheme had been re-neighbour notified and re-advertised and no objections had been received.

The Members noted that Transport NI, NI Water, Rivers Agency and Environmental Health had all been consulted and had offered no objections.

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.

LA04/2018/2314/F - Internal refurbishment to sub-divide open plan office and amalgamate existing Education Rooms. Enlargement of community shop with independent ramped access to new entrance door. New window to IT suite. 84a Colinmill Poleglass

The case officer provided the Committee with an overview of the application. She explained that it included internal refurbishment works, ramped access to a new entrance door and a new window in the IT suite.

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It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the applicant was in receipt of Council funding.

She explained to the Members that no objections had been received and that the proposal was considered acceptable.

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

LA04/2018/2280/F - Canopy at front entrance with boot cleaning facility, double doors from training kitchen to access existing external terrace, internal refurbishments to create 2 additional WCs and additional storage within the kitchen at 25 to 27 Colin Glen Road

The case officer presented the details of the application to the Committee as detailed within the report.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was applicant.

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

LA04/2018/2577/F - public square to include boundary fences (2.2m & 1.1m high) and pedestrian gates gabion retaining walls and associated landscaping at Pairc Lamh Dhearg 168 Upper Springfield Road

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, which included environmental improvements to a 0.08 hectare space within the curtilage of the existing Lamh Dhearg Gaelic Grounds, set behind a palisade fence which bounded the grounds frontage with the Upper Springfield Road.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the applicant was in receipt of Council funding.

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.

Chairperson

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Brexit Committee

Thursday, 6th December, 2018

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and Spence;
Councillors, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Dudgeon, Hutchinson, Lyons, McAteer, Nichol,
O'Hara and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Ms K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development
Manager;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Attwood, McAllister and Pankhurst.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th November 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 December.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Intertrade Ireland Support Update

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 InterTrade Ireland Voucher Scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the update provided and to indicate if they wish to receive a presentation from InterTrade Ireland.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Members are reminded that at its meeting in November, the Brexit Committee requested that a report be brought back regarding the InterTrade Ireland Voucher Scheme.

Details of InterTrade Ireland's support for SMEs is available on their website <https://intertradeireland.com/brexit>. Among the support available for SMEs is financial support up to £2,000 towards professional advice in relation to Brexit matters. This support is available to companies based on the island of Ireland. The eligibility criteria for applying for the support is:

- Applications must be from an SME (250 employees or less) and Turnover < €40M (£ equivalent);
- The business must have a satisfactory trading record (we reserve the right to request submission of Financial Accounts for the business);
- The assistance requested must relate to a Brexit issue;
- Companies based in Ireland must submit a valid tax clearance access number along with this application form.

A copy of the application form that companies need to complete is attached as appendix 1.

InterTrade Ireland has indicated that they are willing to come to speak to the Brexit Committee, if they would like to obtain more information on the work they are doing. They have also indicated that they are willing to present at any events that the Council may organise for businesses and officers will liaise them to identify any potential opportunities.

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 report and agreed to extend an invite to InterTrade Ireland to make a presentation at a future meeting.

Youth Forum Engagement

The Members were reminded that, at its meeting in November, the Brexit Committee had requested that a report be brought back regarding potential engagement with the Youth Forum regarding Brexit.

The Business, Research and Development Manager informed the Committee that the Youth Forum, at its November meeting, considered the options around engaging with the Brexit Committee and it welcomed the opportunity to engage with Members. The Youth Forum had proposed that they attend a meeting of the Brexit Committee in the New Year.

The Members were informed that the Youth Forum was also working with other organisations in relation to Brexit and had suggested that representatives from NI Youth Forum, the Children's Commissioner's Youth Panel and Children's Law Centre's Youth Panel also attend the Committee meeting.

The Committee noted the content of the report and agreed to receive representation from the Youth Forum, NI Youth Forum, the Children's Commissioner's Youth Panel and the Children's Law Centre's Youth Panel.

Proposal

Arising out of discussion in the matter, it was

Moved by Councillor Lyons
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

That representatives from the student campaign group, 'Our Future, Our Choice' be also invited to engage with the Brexit Committee.

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

Delegation to Strasbourg Update

The Members were reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 3rd December, the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November, under the heading "Visit to Brussels", was amended to provide that the visit take place to Brussels, as originally planned, but that it be postponed until the New Year.

The Business, Research and Development Manager informed Members that it was hoped that the delegation would take place during the week commencing 28th January, 2019 for a period of one to two days.

The Committee was advised that the Members who had been nominated by the Party Group Leaders to visit Brussels would be kept abreast of preparations for the delegation and that an update report would be presented at its January meeting.

Noted

Update on the EU Settlement Scheme

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the EU Settlement Scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the update provided.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Members are reminded that a report was brought to the September meeting of this Committee providing information on the EU Settlement Scheme. Since this last update the Home Office has issued further information and Officers participated in a teleconference in relation to the Scheme on 4th December. A representative of the Home Office also attended the meeting of the Migrant Forum on 3rd December and provided an update on the Scheme.

In summary the background to the Scheme is:

- In December 2017 the UK government reached an agreement with the European Union on citizens' rights. In March this was extended to cover those arriving during the implementation period (to 31 December 2020).
- The agreement protects the rights of EU citizens after the UK leaves the EU and enables them to continue to live their lives as now. It also covers their family members.
- EU citizens in the UK and their family members will need to apply to secure their rights through a simple digital system to get settled or pre-settled status
- The Home Office has said that the application process will be as quick and user-friendly as possible and they will use existing government data to reduce the amount of evidence applicants will need to provide.
- The settlement scheme will be phased in until it is fully open by the end of March 2019. EU citizens do not need to do anything now.
- The scheme will remain open until 2021 so there will be no need to rush to apply.

A briefing document on the EU Settlement Scheme is attached as appendix 1 which includes information on the difference between settled and pre-settled status.

Recently published information

In the period since the last update was brought to Committee there have been several developments in relation to this Scheme including:

Employer's toolkit

A toolkit has been published to assist employers, this includes briefing information on what EU citizens need to know and do. This information is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit>

Local authorities/community leader's toolkit

The Home Office have developed a toolkit for local authorities and community leaders to provide them with sufficient information and tools to support EU citizens and at-risk local communities in their networks. This toolkit was published on 3rd December and is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-leaders-toolkit>

Availability of a grant scheme for Community & Voluntary sector organisations to support this work

The Home Office has up to £9 million funding for voluntary and community organisations to provide support to vulnerable EU citizens and their family members with making EU Settlement Scheme applications. The funding scheme opened on 30 November and will close on 1st February 2019. There are 2 categories of funding available:

- Projects between £5,000 up to £39,999 (aimed at small locally based organisations)
- Projects between £40,000 up to £750,000 (aimed at large, nationally based organisations)

Information on the funding is available at:

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/dcc90ff7-c416-465a-ad92-9dd7f15bcce7>

Officers will disseminate this information to businesses and community and voluntary organisations through existing networks. We will also continue to participate in the Home Office teleconferences in relation to the Scheme and update Members as appropriate.

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.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed to send a letter to Mr David Sterling, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service to consider the provision of an advice service to support EU citizens and their family members resident in Northern Ireland, with making EU Settlement Scheme applications.

It was further agreed that Belfast City Council would facilitate an information day in the City Hall to provide advice and guidance on the EU Settlement Scheme to EU citizens who reside in Belfast, and that officers would work with the Migrant Forum to support communication with those affected by the scheme.

Chairperson