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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 - Council Chamber on Monday, 4th February, 2019 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 20)
5. Official Announcements
6. Adjournment of Meeting for Council Photograph

(Page B2254 of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 25th January refers)
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 21 - 68)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 69 - 92)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 93 - 122)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 123 - 134)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 135 - 150)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 151 - 154)
13. Brexit Committee (Pages 155 - 160)
14. Notices of Motion

a) Cycling Infrastructure - North Foreshore

Proposed by Councillor McAllister,

Seconded by Councillor McReynolds,

“Given the ambitious plans behind the North Foreshore and the Giants Park, in particular around the enhancement of tourism and leisure in Giants Park, it is of vital importance that connectivity of active travel between North Belfast and the Giants Park is maximised in the immediate future.

As the Council will continue to have ownership of roads in the area, this is an opportunity to provide leadership to enhance cycling infrastructure in this part of the City, with the long term ambition to better connect North Belfast to the City centre, and beyond.

Therefore, the Council agrees to establish plans to work alongside the Active Travel unit within the Council that will oversee the creation of cycling infrastructure and will write to the Department for Infrastructure calling upon it to enhance the neglected cycling infrastructure in the surrounding area of the North Foreshore and wider North Belfast.”

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

b) Enterprise Zones

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,

Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council:

- notes that Enterprise Zones, Manufacturing Zones and Simplified Planning Zones have been used in Scotland and England to promote housing, business and industry;
- notes that these zones can offer business rates discounts and additional tax breaks, backed by a simplified local planning process which can support businesses, help budding entrepreneurs to start and assist established companies to grow; and
- notes that the first 'Enterprise Zone' in NI, the Atlantic Link Campus in Coleraine, has attracted the global data centre firm [5NINES](#), following a £20 million investment.

The Council agrees to research, scope out and develop options for the development of enterprise, manufacturing and simplified planning zones in Belfast, which will include the possible development of an enterprise zone along the interface corridor from West to North Belfast.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee)

c) Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

Proposed by Councillor Heading,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

“This Council believes that Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships have provided vital services and projects to tackle poverty, disadvantage and regeneration in hard-pressed communities across Belfast.

The Council notes that Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships are facing significant funding cuts.

The Council notes also that the Neighbourhood Renewal Programme used to be the central anti-poverty strategy of the Northern Ireland Executive and that its funding was protected.

The Council calls on the Department for Communities to reverse cuts to the Neighbourhood Renewal budget and agrees to arrange a meeting with the Permanent Secretary of that Department to discuss the budget for Neighbourhood Renewal.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Climate Change

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

Seconded by Councillor McReynolds,

“This Council agrees that Climate Change is one of the biggest global challenges of our time, affirms that the Council has an important leadership role in creating a low carbon future and, accordingly, agrees that officers prepare a report into establishing the carbon footprint of the Council and recommend steps to work towards reducing this.”

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

e) Statues in City Hall Grounds

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,

Seconded by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey),

“This Council agrees to address the imbalance of statues in the grounds of Belfast City Hall, as set out in the EQIA.

The current statues largely represent the Unionist/British tradition, with no reflection afforded to the Republican tradition.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions proposed in writing to the Chief Executive on 2nd March, 2016 that a statue of Winifred Carney be installed, due to her history and success in Belfast.

Accordingly, the Council agrees that a permanent statue of Winifred Carney be installed to address that imbalance.”

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

f) Homelessness in Belfast

Proposed by Councillor Garrett,

Seconded by Councillor Magee,

“This Council recognises that issues relating to homelessness in the city of Belfast are complex, multi-faceted and that they require interventions and solutions from a wide range of statutory organisations, delivery agents, charities and the community and voluntary sector.

The work that all these organisations carry out is to be welcomed and commended at the highest level, however, no single agency working on its own in isolation, including this Council, will solve the many complex issues relating to homelessness.

Too often, we tragically hear about people dying on our city streets and, as leaders of this city, we must do everything that we can to try to help those who are vulnerable and feeling desolate.

The Council can play a pivotal role to enable partnership action and our City’s Ard Mhéara/Mayor, as first citizen, can be a convener and facilitator in taking decisive action to address these issues in partnership with others.

The Council agrees, through the office of the Mayor, to convene a statutory and non-statutory multi-agency task group that will seek to take further partnership actions in addressing all facets of homelessness. This would include those people who find themselves on the streets with complex needs, those suffering from addiction and mental health issues and those who have no place to call home. The task group should seek to increase support services, scope out available and suitable facilities for extra supported bed provision in the city and any further issues which the task group identifies.”

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

g) Street Furniture

Proposed by Councillor Boyle,

Seconded by Councillor Dudgeon,

“This Council recognises that it is difficult to contact those responsible for the maintenance of street furniture, utility boxes, phone boxes and masts, post boxes, advertising facilities and any other structure that sits on or in the footpath or in a public place throughout the City.

The Council supports the need for people to be able to contact those responsible for the cleaning and maintaining of these structures. Accordingly, the Council will undertake a piece of work to identify whose ownership these are in and will encourage those responsible for maintaining and cleaning same to put their details on these structures and ensure their details remain on these structures so that they can be contacted when needed. Furthermore, the Council agrees that any future planning approvals for street furniture, boxes etc. as listed above, will include a condition requiring the contact details of those responsible for cleaning and maintaining and servicing them to be prominently displayed.”

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Planning Committee)

h) Recycling in Colin Neighbourhood
Proposed by Councillor Walsh,

Seconded by Councillor Baker,

“Noting Belfast City Council’s commitment to waste prevention and minimisation and the resulting benefits to the economy in terms of jobs and investment back into community;

Noting Belfast City Council’s commitment to the exploration of opportunities for further reducing waste including the feasibility of a circular economy approach to generate more value and jobs for the local economy through innovative waste solutions;

Noting the contribution of a circular economy to climate change mitigation and a healthy urban environment;

Noting the absence of any dedicated recycling and associated amenities in the Colin neighbourhood;

The Council agrees to immediately commission a report to examine the following:

1. initiate steps to design and procure a circular economy community hub including a repair café to facilitate education and participation in a transition to the circular economy in the Colin neighbourhood; i
2. incorporate best practice and innovative design principles, including: i
 - circular economy education, and training for citizens and interested organisations/businesses;
 - a serviced repair café;
 - a serviced social enterprise business start-up and support hub with a view to enabling and clustering existing eco-enterprises and start-ups (e.g. cycle repair, associated social enterprises linked to greenway/tourism); and
 - comprehensive recycling, repair and remanufacturing facilities, including incentive schemes;
3. initiate an engagement with Lisburn Castlereagh Council, to investigate the replacement of current facilities in Dunmurry’s Recycling Centre at The Cutts and to investigate the statistics on origin of users of this site; and
4. initiate a multi-agency collaboration, led by Belfast City Council in consultation with community-based organisations in the Colin neighbourhood, to design, commission, build and service Belfast’s first Circular Economy Community Enterprise Hub and Repair Café.”

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

i) Traffic Calming

Proposed by Councillor McAteer,

Seconded by Councillor O'Donnell,

“This Council recognises that many of Belfast’s citizens are having their health and wellbeing severely impacted by living in streets which are clearly used as short cuts by heavy volumes of traffic travelling at speed, including HGV vehicles and buses. Currently, the Department for Infrastructure will carry out speed and traffic volume tests to ascertain if traffic calming measures are required. However, it does not also take into consideration the qualitative evidence of local residents and families in making decisions about traffic management.

This Council calls on the Department for Infrastructure to broaden its criterion in relation to traffic management decisions in highly congested streets, to include an assessment of both empirical and local qualitative research, and further calls on the Council to request a cross party meeting to discuss reviewing the criteria.”

(To be debated by the Council)

j) Supermarket Plastic Return Scheme

Proposed by Councillor McReynolds,

Seconded by Councillor McAllister,

“This Council acknowledges the damage caused by single use plastics across the earth; welcomes the leadership of Iceland in introducing a plastic return scheme here in Belfast; acknowledges, with the responsibility of waste collection under our remit, that we must come up with innovative ways to reduce the use of single use plastics; and agrees to write to the major supermarkets in Belfast to ask that they introduce similar schemes.”

(To be debated by the Council)

k) Mental Health

Proposed by Councillor Pankhurst,

Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

"This Council notes the sterling work conducted by a number of youth organisations across Belfast in attempting to break the stigma around mental health by supporting those suffering from illnesses such as depression and anxiety.

The Council agrees to support and promote these youth organisations through providing events, seminars and funding, when required, in order to help combat mental ill-health in Belfast.

The Council understands that the Department for Education is now considering implementing resilience training as part of the school curriculum. The Council welcomes this and agrees to write to the Department for Education to encourage it to implement this as a matter of urgency.

The Council also calls upon the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to consider adopting safe spaces in Accident and Emergency centres, including a pathway of care, for those suffering from severe mental health difficulties who feel suicidal and need urgent care.

Finally, the Council agrees to convene a meeting between these youth organisations and other statutory agencies to try and establish a pilot online chat platform operated by trained staff for those suffering from mental ill-health. This platform will also be available in phone applications, should it be successful, making it much more accessible to young people in particular."

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

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

Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 7th January, 2019
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, L. Patterson, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCusker, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman R. Patterson and Councillors Howard and Nicholl.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in relation to the item under the heading "Amendment to Standing Order 37(d)", in that he owned a number of HMO's within the City but remained in the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

The following Members declared an interest in respect of the minute of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee minute of 14th December, under the heading "Motion – Social Investment Fund" and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed:

- Councillor Reynolds – in that he was a member of the North Belfast Social Investment Fund Panel;
- Councillor Graham – insofar as she worked for Gems NI, which was the delivery agent for a Social Investment Fund programme;
- Councillor Garrett - in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board, which had received funding from the Social Investment Fund;

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- 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 Beattie – in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board;
- Councillors Carson, Corr, Magee, Magennis, McAteer and O'Donnell - insofar as they were members of Partnership Boards or Social Investment Fund Panels;
- Councillor Corr Johnston – in that her wife was on the Board of Directors of the McDonald Centre, which had received funding from the Social Investment Fund;
- Councillor Kyle – insofar that he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- Alderman Kingston – insofar as he was a member of the West Belfast Social Investment Fund Steering Group;
- Councillor Hutchinson – in that he was a member of the Shankill Partnership Board, which had received funding from the Social Investment Fund prior to him joining;
- Councillor Dudgeon – in that he was a member of the South Belfast Partnership Board and the South Belfast Social Investment Panel;
- Councillor Johnston – insofar as he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- Alderman Haire – in that he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- Councillor Armitage – insofar as he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- Councillor McCusker – in that he was the Chair of the PIPS charity, which had received funding through the Social Investment Fund;
- Councillor Long – insofar as he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) in that he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- Councillor Newton – in that he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;
- Alderman Sandford – in that he was a member of the EastSide Partnership;

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- Councillor Collins – insofar as he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board but remained in the Chamber whilst the matter was being discussed; and
- Councillor Lyons - in that in that he was a member of the South Belfast Partnership Board but remained in the Chamber whilst the matter was being discussed.

Aldermen Copeland, Haire and Rodgers declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the People and Communities Committee, under the heading “Request for the Use of Parks and Facilities”, insofar as it related to the use by the Belfast Junior Orange County of CS Lewis Square, in that they were members of the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast, but remained in the Chamber as the matter did not become the subject of discussion.

Councillor Dorrian declared an interest in relation to the item contained within the minutes of the People and Communities Committee, under the heading “Burial Provision Update”, in that he had had dealings with the applicant before becoming an Elected Member and left the Chamber whilst the matter was under consideration.

Alderman Rodgers, together with Councillors Dudgeon and Johnston, declared an interest in respect of the motion on the Half Fare SmartPass Scheme, on the basis that they possessed a SmartPass and left the Chamber whilst the motion was being discussed.

Councillor Mullan sought clarification on whether she was required, as a member of the Planning Committee, to declare an interest in the motion under the heading “Tribeca Belfast”, given that the development could be subject to a planning application at some point in the future.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the aforementioned motion was not a material planning consideration and, as long as the wording was adhered to, there would be no conflict of interest for those members of the Planning Committee.

Minutes of the Council

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 3rd December be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Council agreed to vary the minute of the meeting of 3rd December, under the heading “Official Announcements”, to reflect that the Lord Mayor, together with a number of Members, had thanked Madam Wang Shuying, the outgoing Chinese Consul General to Northern Ireland, for the significant contribution which she had made to the promotion of Belfast and had wished her well in the future.

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Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing variation, the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 3rd December were approved and adopted.

Amendment to Standing Order 37(d)

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

Resolved - That the Council agrees to affirm its 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) Act 2016.

Official Announcements

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor Dorrian and his wife, Lauren, on the occasion of their recent marriage and welcomed Councillors Armitage and McAllister to the meeting following their recent absence.

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that Councillor Howard and her daughter had sustained injuries in a recent vehicle collision and, on behalf of the Council, extended to them her best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Councillor Long, together with a number of Members, paid tribute to the outgoing High Sheriff (Councillor Howard) and wished Councillor Sandford well during his term in Office.

The Lord Mayor, together with a number of Members, extended their sincere condolences to Councillor Pankhurst on the death of his grandmother, Sue.

Councillor Pankhurst thanked the Members for their kind remarks and paid tribute to the nursing staff for the exemplary standard of care which they had provided in the days leading up to his grandmother's death.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated those staff who had contributed to the Council attaining a Level Two Charter Mark Award for Elected Member Development, through the Northern Ireland Local Government Association.

At the request of several Members, the Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Mr. Jim Ferguson, the former Cleansing Operations Manager, who had been recognised in the New Year's Honours List for his services to local government and the community.

Filming of Proceedings

The Council approved a request from the BBC to film the proceedings of the meeting.

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Changes to Committees

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received of the following changes to Committees:

Alliance Party

- Councillor Armitage to replace Councillor Nicholl on the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee; and
- Councillor Armitage to replace the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) on the Planning Committee.

Sinn Féin Party

- Councillor McAteer to replace Councillor Black on the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee;
- Councillors Black and Magee to replace Councillors Baker and Corr on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- Councillors Black and McAteer to replace Councillors Canavan and O'Donnell on the People and Communities Committee;
- Councillor Garrett to replace Councillor Black on the Licensing Committee; and
- Councillors Campbell and Canavan to replace Councillors Magee and McAteer on the Planning Committee.

Ulster Unionist Party

- Alderman Rodgers to replace Councillor Johnston on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee; and
- Councillor Johnston to replace Alderman Rodgers on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and as the Chairperson of that Committee.

The Council approved the changes.

Request to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from Mr. Conor Shields, Save CQ Campaign, to address the Council in relation to the motion on Tribeca Belfast which Councillor Reynolds would be proposing later in the meeting.

The Council acceded to the request and Mr. Conor Shields and Dr. Agustina Martire were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

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Mr. Shields informed the Council that he had worked in the Cathedral Quarter for over twenty years and had been a co-founder of the Cathedral Quarter Trust and a founding director of Culture Night Belfast. He explained that he was currently a member of the Steering Committee of the Save CQ Campaign and then proceeded to recite a poem which he had compiled in protest at the proposed Tribeca branding and which, in keeping with the City's motto, was entitled "What Shall We Give in Return for So Much".

Dr. Martire reported that she was the Vice-Chairperson of the Save CQ Campaign. She explained that Save CQ was calling upon Castlebrooke Investments to develop, rather than demolish, the Cathedral Quarter and highlighted a number of issues over and above the branding proposal which needed to be addressed. Those included the twenty-one historic buildings which would be completely or partially demolished across two Conservation Areas, the displacement of at least eight unique art venues, organisations and businesses, a 47% reduction in the area of Writers' Square, the absence of social or affordable housing and of green space and the focus upon retail provision, at a time when there was a 17% vacancy rate across the City centre. Those proposals had, she pointed out, been put forward in spite of thousands of objections from people across the City.

She confirmed that the Save CQ Campaign recognised the importance of investment in this part of the City and was of the view that it was possible to strike a balance between financial viability and the enhancement of the area's heritage and cultural character. It was, therefore, calling upon the Council to work with stakeholders to explore alternative design options for the development of the area.

Dr. Martire and Mr. Shields were thanked by the Lord Mayor.

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

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 7th and 14th December be approved and adopted.

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

Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism

Councillor Craig requested that the Chairperson agree to that portion of the minute of the meeting of 14th December, under the heading "Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism", relating to the definition of anti-Semitism, being taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Chairperson acceded to the request but it was declined by the Council.

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Amendment

Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism

Moved by Councillor Craig,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, under the heading “Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism”, insofar as it relates to the definition of anti-Semitism, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

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

Amendment

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, under the heading “Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20”, be amended to provide 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 recorded vote, thirteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-six against, with five “no votes” and it was declared lost.

<u>For 13</u>	<u>Against 36</u>	<u>No Vote 5</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen Browne, Convery and McGimpsey; and Councillors Armitage, Boyle, Dudgeon, Johnston, Long, McAllister, McReynolds, Mullan and O'Neill.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson and Sandford; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Aldermen Copeland and Rodgers; and Councillors Attwood, Heading and Lyons.

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Amendment

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, under the heading “Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-20”, be amended to provide that the £500k allocated for priority area 7 – Area Based Festivals be re-allocated to an anti-poverty crisis intervention fund.

On a recorded vote, ten Members voted for the amendment and forty-three against and it was declared lost.

<u>For 10</u>	<u>Against 43</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Heading, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McCusker, McReynolds and O’Neill.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Aldermen Browne, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O’Donnell, O’Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Amendment

Motion – Belfast Blitz Memorial

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, under the heading “Motion – Belfast Blitz Memorial”, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees that the Blitz Memorial, as outlined in the motion, be included on the capital programme as an emerging project.

On a recorded vote, twenty-six Members voted for the amendment and twenty-two against, with six “no votes” and it was declared carried.

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<u>For 26</u>	<u>Against 22</u>	<u>No Vote 6</u>
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Mullan, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); and Councillors Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McCusker, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); and Councillors Armitage, Collins, Long, McReynolds and O'Neill.

Amendment

Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, under the heading "Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme", be amended to provide that (1) the budget is not split 50/50 but is allocated on the basis of merit and (2) 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 working groups.

On a recorded vote, thirteen Members voted for the amendment and forty against, with two "no votes" and it was declared lost.

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<u>For 13</u>	<u>Against 40</u>	<u>No Vote 2</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Collins, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McCusker, McReynolds, Mullan and O'Neill.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey) Aldermen Browne, Copeland Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Councillors Dudgeon and Johnston.

Amendment

Request to Make a Drawing of the Council Chamber

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14th December, under the heading "Request to Make a Drawing of the Council Chamber", be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to accede to the request.

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

<u>For 36</u>	<u>Against 19</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Bunting, Collins, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McCusker, McReynolds, Mullan, Newton, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

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Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 7th and 14th December were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor McCusker,
Seconded by Councillor Baker,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 4th December be approved and adopted.

Amendment

**Community Support Programme 2018/2019:
Letter of Variance**

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor McCusker and

Resolved - That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 4th December, under the heading Community Support Programme 2018/2019: Letter of Variance, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees that Option B, to allocate the additional funding of £42,432 to the Belfast City Wide Tribunal Service, be accepted.

Amendment

Burial Provision Update

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Alderman McCoubrey,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 4th December, under the heading "Burial Provision Update, be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees not to provide support to the appellant's application to the Planning Appeals Commission, should that application be made.

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

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 4th December, under the heading "Burial Provision Update, be amended to provide that the Council agrees to provide evidence to the Planning Appeals Commission, if required.

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

Street Naming

At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Council agreed that clarification be obtained around the proposed spelling of Napoleans Gate.

Adoption of Minutes

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

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Alderman Kingston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 28th November and 5th December be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 12th December, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 11th and 13th December, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Applications Referred back to the Committee

(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

A Member referred to possible issues regarding the above-mentioned applications, which had been approved by the Committee at its meeting on 11th December.

The City Solicitor indicated that he was aware of those issues and that, in accordance with Section 15 of the Planning Committee's Operating Protocol, he had referred the applications back to that Committee.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing omission, the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 11th and 13th December were thereupon approved and adopted.

Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 6th December be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Inter-Generational Loneliness

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

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

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Alderman Spence.

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

Tribeca Belfast

(Prior to this motion being considered, a letter was circulated to Members on behalf of Castlebrooke Investments, the developer, outlining the rationale behind the Tribeca Belfast branding and highlighting the negative message which the motion, if passed, would portray to international investors and the wider business community.)

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

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

In the absence of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown), the motion was seconded by Councillor O’Neill.

The motion was put to the meeting and passed.

At the request of Councillor McAteer, the Council agreed that officers would seek to facilitate a meeting between Elected Members and the developers, the Cathedral Quarter Trust, Save CQ, local businesses and residents and heritage organisations to discuss the Tribeca name and branding.

Gambling Addiction

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

“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

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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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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

Half Fare SmartPass Scheme

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

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

The motion was seconded by Alderman Copeland.

At the request of Councillor Baker, the proposer agreed to amend her motion to provide for the addition of the following wording "and to authorise the use of the SmartPass on all public transport services, such as the Belfast Taxis Community Interest Company and Shankill Road Taxis."

Amendment

Moved by Alderman Kingston,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the motion under the heading "Half Fare SmartPass Scheme, as amended, be replaced with the following wording: "This Council calls for

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the immediate restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive so that, among other things, it can consider the possibility of extending the eligibility of the half fare SmartPass scheme to all Universal Credit claimants.”

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

The original motion, as proposed by Councillor Corr Johnston and seconded by Alderman Copeland, as amended and set out below, was thereupon put to the meeting and passed:

“This Council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure to extend the eligibility criteria for the Half Fare SmartPass scheme to all Universal Credit claimants and to authorise the use of the SmartPass on all public transport services, such as the Belfast Taxis Community Interest Company and Shankill Road Taxis.”

Standing Order 23

During debate on the previous motion, the Council’s attention was drawn to the fact that, in accordance with Standing Order 23, any meeting of the Council which has lasted continuously for five hours shall stand adjourned unless the Council shall by resolution decide to continue sitting.

The Council resolved to continue to sit until the remaining business had been concluded.

Councillors’ Code of Conduct

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mullan.

Councillor Boyle sought and was granted approval by the Council to amend his motion to reflect that the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards be invited to meet with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to discuss the issues raised within his motion.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the motion under the heading "Councillors' Code of Conduct", as amended, be amended to provide for the addition of the following wording "and, in order to increase clarity and transparency and in consideration of many of the public realm projects which the Council undertakes, resolves that each Member will immediately publish on point 6 of their mandatory register of interests the full postal address of each property in which they have a beneficial interest, along with any land in which they have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for twenty-eight days or longer, which is located within the Belfast City Council boundary, with the exception of their permanent home address, for which a postcode will suffice, and that they shall provide/renew this information before the end of each financial year.

Councillor Boyle confirmed that he did not wish to incorporate the amendment into his motion.

The Chief Executive informed the Council that Councillor Lyons' amendment would, if adopted, be subject to officers confirming that it did not extend beyond the Council's legal remit, as defined within the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Lord Mayor informed Councillor Boyle that he could, subject to Council approval, request that the motion be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to allow for legal advice to be sought on the amendment which had been proposed by Councillor Lyons.

Accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor Boyle,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Council agrees that the motion standing in his name, as amended, be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to allow for legal advice to be sought on the additional amendment which had been proposed by Councillor Lyons.

On a recorded vote, forty-two Members voted for the proposal and three against and it was declared carried.

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<u>For 42</u>	<u>Against 3</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); Aldermen Convery, Copeland, Haire, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clark, Corr, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Councillors Attwood, Collins and Lyons.

Social Clauses

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

“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.”

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The motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

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

Robinson Centre

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

"This Council opposes the naming of the new Council leisure facility on the land at Montgomery Road as "The Robinson Centre" and agrees that this facility be renamed in accordance with Council policy.

The naming of any Council facility must be inclusive and welcoming to all. The previous centre on this land was named "The Robinson Centre" and was within the Castlereagh Borough Council area before the changes in council boundaries when councils reduced in number from twenty-six to eleven. This is a new facility and must come under existing Council policy.

Belfast City Council's policy is clear. A person must be deceased for at least five years before any park or leisure facility can be named after them."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 25th January, 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also Attended: Councillors Boyle and Dudgeon.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 7th and 14th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.

Declarations of Interest

Item 3(a) Motion: Social Investment Fund (SIF)

The following members declared an interest in respect of this item and left the meeting while the matter was under consideration:

Councillor Graham – in that she worked for Gems NI which was the delivery agent for Employment East which was funded by SIF;

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

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Councillor Beattie – insofar as he was on the West Belfast Partnership Board which had had delivered a SIF programme;

Councillor O'Donnell – insofar as she was employed by the Short Strand Partnership which had delivered a SIF programme;

Councillor Garrett - in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board which had delivered a SIF programme;

Councillor McAteer – in that she was a lead partner through her organisation on one of the SIF programmes and, as such, part of her salary would have been derived from that. Currently her organisation delivered education programmes which were funded by SIF;

Councillor Carson – in that he was the manager of an organisation (Tar Anall) which had benefitted directly from the SIF Programme in terms of staff and programmes;

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 SIF;

Councillor Haire in that he was a member of the Eastside Partnership;

Councillor Johnston in that he was a member of the Eastside Partnership;

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

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

The following members declared an interest in respect of this item but remained in the room while the matter was under consideration:

Councillor Attwood in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board;

Councillor Long in that he was a member of the Eastside Partnership; and

Councillor McDonough-Browne insofar as he was a member of the South Belfast Partnership Board.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 10 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

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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 14th December, it had agreed the cash limit for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2019/20 and the recommended cash limits for the People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees, subject to consultation with the other Committees prior to this meeting. The Director of Finance and Resources reported that the other Committees had all considered and agreed their cash limits and accordingly he recommended that the Committee:

1. confirm the cash limits agreed by the Committee at its meeting on the 14 December 2018 as follows:
 - 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
2. agree that the increase in the district rate for 2019/20 should be 1.98%, based on an estimated penny product of £5,953,980 meaning a non-domestic rate of 27.4035 and a domestic rate of 0.3327 and that the amount raised through the district rate in 2019/20 will be £157,796,334.
3. note the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources statement on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and the robustness of the revenue estimates as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011.
4. note the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement as required by the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (NI) 2011.
5. agree that, in accordance with Standing Order 47(2)(c), these decisions (as indicated above) 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 15th February, 2019.

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Proposal

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Alderman Brown,

That the £500k set aside for the Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme 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 four members voted for the proposal and thirteen against and it was declared lost.

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Craig,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations in relation to the setting of the District Rate as set out in points 1 through to 5.

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

Sprucefield Application - Update and Next Steps

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the retail planning application for Sprucefield which had recently been submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. The report outlined the assessed deficiencies in the current submission and the initial assessment of the potential impacts a large unrestricted retail proposal could have on vitality and vibrancy of Belfast City Centre and other centres.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to:

1. continue the work on a retail analysis survey;
2. seek a formal position from those organisations which would be affected by the application;
3. defer, until next month, consideration of whether or not to move to a formal objection stage.

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

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Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood and

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to:

1. submit a formal objection to the Sprucefield planning application;
2. continue work on a retail analysis survey; and
3. seek a formal position from those organisations which would be affected by the application.

Changes to Current Catering arrangements

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to adopt a revised business model for the Catering Services business unit. The new model, if approved, could affect the in-house catering operation and could also alter the scale/scope of any new franchise arrangement for the Bobbin and also the arrangements for the provision of catering and bar services in the three function rooms in the City Hall.

The City Solicitor reported there were up to three decisions which the Committee was required to take, namely: the business model option; the Bobbin franchise contract; and whether to proceed with the creation of a select list for the provision of catering and liquor functions and he requested that the Committee consider each in turn as one decision could have an impact on the next.

Business Model Options

He reported that, following debate at the Committee's meeting on 25th November, 2017, Party group briefings and discussions with the Trade Unions, the following options were being presented for the Committee's consideration:

Option	Nett savings	Rationale
Option One <i>Make no changes to the existing structures, practices or scale of the Catering Unit's operations.</i>	£Nil	<i>No changes needed, including no select list for the events in the 3 City Hall function rooms etc and no change to Bobbin role (new contract is still required however).</i>
Option Two <i>rationalize internal service to consist only of a restaurant service plus trolleys for CWB & 9AD, with all other services provided externally</i>	£105,000 - £126,000	<i>Retain an in-house restaurant & trolley service and retain internal budgets. Limit this service to CWB/9AD only, let new commercial contracts for Bobbin, functions and bar services to generate additional income. Reduction in staffing of up to 1.5 x FTE Catering staff required to realise savings.</i>

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Proposal

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option One.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option Two.

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

Select List for the Provision of Catering and Liquor at Functions

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Alderman Brown,

That the Committee agrees to establish a Select List for the provision of catering services and liquor at functions in the City Hall, to exclude voluntary/community groups.

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

Contract for the Bobbin Franchise

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Long and

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to seek from interested parties a new Bobbin franchise contract on enhanced terms (to include all Council and Committee catering plus all trolley services in the City Hall) which would be limited solely to social enterprise organisations.

Recruitment and Selection of Senior Posts

The Committee considered a report in relation to the names of Elected Members to constitute the selection panels for the following replacement posts:

1. Director (Operational) of City Regeneration and Development
2. Head of Human Resources (HR)

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3. Director (Operational) of Physical Programmes
4. Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS)
5. Head of Finance (Head of Profession)

It was pointed out that these were not new posts but were all replacement posts following post-holders' resignations and/or structural reviews. They were a combination of Director (Operational) and Head of Service posts that had already been budgeted for in the revenue estimates.

The Committee agreed:

- That the selection panel for the post of Director (Operational) of City Regeneration and Development comprise the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or their nominees); together with one other elected member from the City Growth and Regeneration Committee from a political party not already represented by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson; along with the Chief Executive and Strategic Director of Place and Economy – and that this matter be tabled for agreement at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 13 February 2019.
- That the selection panel for the post of Head of Human Resources comprise the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or their nominees); together with a representative of either the SDLP or DUP; along with the Chief Executive and the Director of City and Organisational Strategy.
- That the selection panel for the post of Director (Operational) of Physical Programmes comprise the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or their nominees); together with a representative of either the SDLP or DUP; along with the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive; with the Director of Property and Projects to act as Technical Advisor.
- That the selection panel for the post of Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services comprise the three Elected Members from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee who were also Members of the Council's Audit and Risk Panel, that is, the Chairperson of the Audit Panel, Councillor Graham Craig, and Councillors Arder Carson and Billy Hutchinson; along with the Deputy Chief Executive and the Interim Programme Director – Customer Focus.
- That the selection panel for the post of Head of Finance comprise what was previously agreed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 14th December 2018, that is, *“the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees) together with Councillor Hutchinson”* and that, given that the Deputy Chairperson has since confirmed her availability to the Deputy Chief Executive to participate on this selection panel, that the name of the

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Chairperson (or his nominee) now be agreed. The Deputy Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would also be on this selection panel.

- That the Elected Members on the selection panels for these posts, along with the Chief Executive and Directors who will accompany them, provide a balance where practicable in terms of both gender and community background.

The Committee approved also the recruitment schedules for the above-mentioned posts.

The Committee noted that the Chief Executive would be submitting to the next monthly meeting of the Committee a report on the organisational structure and improvement programme.

**Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces
and Services – Capital Update**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current status of Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services under Peace IV which had been designed to support capital projects and specifically an update on the status of the two projects, Shankill Women’s Centre (SWC) and Black Mountain Shared Space (BMSS), for which the Council had previously agreed to act as lead partner.

After discussion, the Committee noted that:

- a letter of offer (LOO) for €6.3m has been received from the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) for the Black Mountain Shared Space project and there were positive indications that a similar LOO for the Shankill Women’s Centre would follow in March. That represented a potentially significant investment of up to €12.5m in the area which would build on the £3.1m already secured under the Peace IV Local Action Plan for the Springfield Road regeneration area. It therefore marked a significant further step towards the realisation of the ‘Peace Corridor’ stretching from Black Mountain to the city centre;
- the LOO amount was however significantly lower than the original amount sought through the application (€6.3m vs €8.3m) and that a number of key elements from the original application had not received funding;
- acting as the lead partner effectively required the Council to be the ‘guarantor’ for projects meaning that the Council would be responsible for underwriting construction costs, meeting any ongoing revenue deficits etc. Those conditions were contained within the LOO and if the Council signed that it was bound to adhere to those conditions;
- a detailed due diligence was currently being undertaken on the potential implications for the Council, particularly from an ongoing revenue perspective – those had not yet been fully quantified;

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- the SEUPB had requested additional information on the Shankill Women's Centre (SWC) project and a final decision was due on that project in March. The same letter of offer conditions would apply to that project; and
- officers were seeking a meeting with the SEUPB to go through the LOO. Given that and other emerging implications, the Committee agreed to await the outcome of the SWC application so that the overall financial implications to the Council could be assessed – all monies under this funding stream must be spent by March 2023 which gave Members a short window of opportunity to consider these further. In considering that, the Committee noted that neither of these projects were originally Council proposals so no financial provision had been agreed for either project (either from a capital or a revenue perspective).

Asset Management

The Committee agreed that this item be withdrawn from the agenda.

Summer Community Diversionary Festivals Programme

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th December, 2018, it had agreed to allocate £500k to a summer community diversionary and festival programme, which was in context of the Revenue Estimates and District Rate report agreed as part of the rate setting process. The recommendation had been approved at the January Council meeting and officers were currently working up the scheme for 2019, which would be advertised as an open call programme.

The Committee considered a further report which provided details of the decisions agreed at January's Council meeting and an initial update on the development of the programme, including an updated option on how successful projects received a recommendation for funding.

In this regard, at the December meeting, the Committee had agreed that following preliminary assessment by officers, area working groups would consider relevant applications and make a recommendation to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on proposed successful applications. Following further scoping of that process, officers were requesting the Committee to reconsider and update this recommendation as follows:

Following preliminary assessment by officers against the agreed criteria, projects will be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to make a recommendation to the Council on proposed successful applications.

It was pointed out that this removed the requirement to go through the Area Working Groups. The reason for that change was due to the fact that, at the previous Committee meeting, there was no agreement to develop a geographical funding model for the programme, thus removing the requirement for Area Working Groups to have an

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input. The Committee was then provided with the details in relations to the current position and the timeline for the implementation of the funding programme.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of a report;
2. agreed the updated process for developing the programme, including how successful projects received a recommendation for funding; and
3. agreed the indicative timelines.

Application to Join 100RC City Challenge – City Currency

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to apply to join a ‘city challenge’ through the 100 Resilient Cities network.

The Committee was reminded that Belfast’s membership of the 100 Resilient Cities global network gave the Council the opportunity to apply to join ‘city challenges’ which aimed to solve particular problems within the city. Earlier in the month, the Council had been invited to join a ‘city challenge’ that aimed to explore the potential to design and deliver a ‘city currency’ for Belfast - essentially to run a pilot programme for one year, commencing in April 2019. 100 Resilient Cities had identified Colu as the partner for the challenge. Colu had designed a digital currency platform and was currently developing that in four cities globally. Colu had visited Belfast and was extremely interested in designing a currency for the city, and it was understood that they were prepared to invest heavily in the city - potentially opening their European Headquarters in Belfast.

It was pointed out that the Council would not be responsible for regulating the currency. The role of the Council would be to endorse and promote the use of the currency. A city currency was effectively a reward or loyalty scheme, which would enable the Council to incentivise or reward particular behaviours throughout the city.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed to accede to the request to apply to join a 100 Resilient Cities Challenge to explore opportunities to develop a city currency for Belfast;
2. approved a funding requirement of £25k if successful in applying to join the challenge;
3. separately, and depending on the success of the challenge, approved the potential to spend up to £250k in 2019/20, as the programme was developed. Noted that this was conditional on achievement of key deliverables by the partner organisation (Colu) and on their investment of £1m into the city currency programme; and
4. agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 47(2)(c), that the above decisions be not subject to call-in on the basis that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or public's interest.

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The Committee agreed further that Party briefings be undertaken in relation to the programme prior to a report being brought back to the Committee in March in relation to Colu's and the Council's investment.

Urban Innovative Actions: X-Change Project

The Committee considered a report in relation to a request for the Council to be the lead applicant to an Urban Innovative Actions fund (UIA) project developed in partnership between Queen's University Belfast, the Greater Shankill Partnership and the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to support the request for the Council to proceed at this stage as the lead applicant to the Urban Innovative Action fund but that the Council receives a robust letter of comfort from Queen's University of Belfast on match-funding and non-compliance. In addition, the partners be advised that if the application is successful it will be subject to due diligence before it is progressed further.

City Hall Grounds

The Committee was reminded that the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) on the *'Belfast City Hall: promoting a good and harmonious environment'* in November 2012, referred to the City Hall and grounds and not just the building. It was underpinned by the principle that the Council should move towards a more balanced and inclusive displays in the City Hall and these should be welcoming, attractive, interesting, representative of the history and heritage of Belfast, and representative of the of the diversity of the City.

In summary the policy aspired to meet the following aim – *"To manage Belfast City Hall and its grounds in order to help promote a good and harmonious environment for those who visit and work in the building, while reflecting both the diverse identities of its users and the several functions served by the City Hall, and acknowledging its prominent role in the civic life and history of Belfast."*

The Committee was reminded that, following previous agreement at the Party Group Leaders' Forum, Redhead Exhibition had been commissioned to undertake a piece of work to provide an historical overview of the current context of the City Hall Grounds, in addition to making suggestions for potential relocation of statues and artefacts located therein. A series of Party Group Briefings and discussions at the Party Group Leaders' Forum have taken place following receipt of that report.

The Party Group Leaders, at its meeting on 24 January 2019, had discussed a range of proposals which had been put forward in relation to this area and a copy of those proposals are set out hereunder:

"Public Representation Programme

Non-political issues for consideration

- **Symmetry in city hall grounds and inside city hall.**
- **There is presently no budget for this spending and a backlog of requests.**

Issues of under-representation

This programme must address issues of under-representation identified in the EQIA and in keeping with existing policies and principles established.

Areas of under-representation are:

- Nationalism.
- Women.
- Minority ethnic communities.
- Working class.

Principles

- Contribution – Individuals identified must have made a clear and long-standing connection to the city and Northern Ireland, contributed to its physical, economic and social development and/or a significant place in history.
- Respect - the present statues are to remain and remain where they are. This is in line with the EQIA.
- Addition – there will be a programme of additions in the area of public statues and representations inside City Hall, in the Grounds, the city centre and beyond the city centre. This is in line with the EQIA and approach taken inside City Hall.
- Inclusion – The total package will contribute to making the city more inclusive and address areas of under-representation.
- Co-funding – opportunities for non-Council funding are to be pursued for permanent statues.

Programme

The Council will commit to a public representation programme that will apply to inside City Hall, City Hall grounds and in public spaces across the city. The following elements will be progressed over the next council term.

This programme takes account of the pressures upon Council finances and therefore spreads it across a number of years to ensure it remains manageable and deliverable through the non-recurring capital expenditure budget and fully explore cofunding opportunities.

No new proposals on the issues of matters covered in this programme are to be accepted during the next Council term.

In any ceremony/launch event there will be due recognition to those councillors who proposed and seconded it (regardless of whether their term has ended or not).

The timings are broadly indicative but the programme must be completed within the next Council term.

The statues, benches and bust will comply with the Council policy of a person must be deceased for more than 5 years before they can be considered for inclusion.

Inside City Hall

Year 1

1. Carson Tile – Commemorative tile in entrance hall floor.
2. Bomb Disposal Squad – Commemorative panels added either side of the Operation Banner window and memorial seat placed in the Cenotaph area. This will provide symmetry in the Cenotaph area for seating. The Operation Banner window would also be adapted to include representations of the Royal Navy and Royal Airforce insignia because of their contribution to it.

Year 2

1. WW1 Units of Irish nationalists – in Rotunda and this included in the Remembrance Day commemorations.
2. Health workers – a stained glass window in the ground floor corridor.

Year 3

1. Minority–Ethnic Communities – a stained glass window in the ground floor corridor.
2. Bust of Tommy Henderson – Former Councillor, High Sheriff and Stormont MP and instrumental figure in Independent Unionism.

City Hall Grounds - Permanent representations

Year 2

1. Inez McCormack Statue – Trade Union Leader, first female Chair of ICTU, Human Rights campaigner. Opportunities for donations will be explored.

Year 4

1. Paddy Devlin Statue – Civil Rights Campaigner, Councillor, Stormont MP and member of the Sunningdale Executive. Opportunities for donations will be explored.

Time Limited installations – Bench Statues with explanatory panel.

These benches would be placed in City Hall grounds for exactly two years and replaced by the next bench in the programme i.e. year 3 replaces year 1. After its display in City Hall grounds for 2 years it must be moved to an appropriate public space in the city.

Year 1

Winifred Carney and her husband George.

Proposed site – Northumberland Street and Falls Road – She owned a shop in Northumberland Street.

Year 2

Grace Bannister – first female Lord Mayor

Proposed site – TBD

Year 3

Robert McAdam – Businessman, Inventor, Folklorist and Gaelic Language Revivalist.

Proposed site – TBD

Year 4

Mary Ann McCracken

Proposed Site – TBD

Additional provisions

Existing statues would have explanatory signage added.

Greater prominence to the Jaffe painting, as recognition of the contribution of the Jewish community to Belfast, through a suitable and prominent ground floor location.

City Centre

Year 1/2

Belfast Blitz Memorial

Proposed site - Buoy Park.

Co-funded between BCC and the NI War Memorial.

Year 2/3

Fire Brigade Union Memorial

Co-funding with FBU, other NI Councils and NI Executive. This will be a statue of a generic firefighter and non-gender specific.

Proposed site - The public space between the law courts (closest site to old fire station).

Year 3/4

Belfast and Ant-Slavery Movement

Celebrate Belfast's role and opposition to slavery through an appropriate installation in the Rosemary Street area with particular engagement with First Presbyterian Church. This will include recognition of Thomas McCabe (led campaign against a Belfast Slave Company), Olaudah Equiano (former slave who campaigned in Belfast in 1790s), John Whitehead (member of 1st Presbyterian who was enslaved), Frederick Douglass and William Lloyd Garrison (abolitionists who campaigned in Belfast in 1840s).

Potential Site – Rosemary Street area.

Commemorations and the civic programme

This is based on the existing memorials and proposals within this programme.

FBU memorial services – offer of City Hall to facilitate commemoration events at the new statue.

Council workers – Co-organised event by Lord Mayor's office and Trade Unions to commemorate all those staff who lost their lives. Measures to highlight the commemorative nature of the fountain should be considered.

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Bloody Friday – An appropriate civic ceremony of commemoration at the Bloody Friday memorial plaque in the rotunda, based upon a consultation with the Bloody Friday families.

A Day of Reflection – A paper on a ‘Day of Reflection’ for all those who suffered as a result of the Troubles to be brought to SP&R.”

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer,

That the Committee agrees that a statue of Winifred Carney be located in a permanent position in the City Hall grounds.

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

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the Committee agrees to approve the proposals for the City Hall grounds and the City Hall as set out in the Public Representation Programme paper, subject to the omission of the following: *“No new proposals on the issues of matters covered in this programme are to be accepted during the next Council term”*; and

That the Committee agrees also to consult with the families as appropriate and a full public consultation process on the proposals would be undertaken.

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

Adjournment

At this stage of the meeting, the Committee agreed to adjourn for a period of 10 minutes.

(The Committee stood adjourned from 12.43 pm to 12.55 pm)

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion: Social Investment Fund

(The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Campbell, in the Chair.)

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd December, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Long:

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“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.”

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration at its meeting on 14th December. However, due to the number of Members who declared an interest in the item, the meeting had become inquorate and therefore the motion was not able to be considered.

Accordingly, the motion was resubmitted for the Committee’s consideration.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion and agreed that officers look at the findings of the Northern Ireland Audit report into the Social Investment Fund and submit a report to the Committee in due course.

It was agreed also that the Comptroller and Auditor General of the Audit Office be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee.

(The Chairperson, Councillor Johnston, in the Chair.)

Motion: Social Clauses

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council held on 7th January, the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Murphy, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.

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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."

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion, subject to the omission of the establishment of a working group, and agreed that a report on timeframes for the development of a social value strategy be submitted to the next monthly meeting of the Committee.

Motion: Councillors' Code of Conduct

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 7th January, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Boyle and 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."

It was reported that Councillor Boyle had sought and was granted approval by the Council to amend his motion to reflect that the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards be invited to meet with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to discuss the issues raised with the motion.

Subsequent to that, the following amendment to the motion had been moved by Councillor Lyons and seconded by Councillor Attwood.

"That the motion under the heading 'Councillors' Code of Conduct', as amended, be amended to provide for the addition of the following wording 'and, in order to increase clarity and transparency and in consideration of many of the public realm projects which the Council undertakes, resolves that each Member will immediately publish on point 6 of their mandatory

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register of interests the full postal address of each property in which they have a beneficial interest, along with any land in which they have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for twenty-eight days or longer, which is located within the Belfast City Council boundary, with the exception of their permanent home address, for which a postcode will suffice, and that they shall provide/renew this information before the end of each financial year.”

Councillor Boyle had confirmed that he did not wish to incorporate the amendment into his motion.

The Chief Executive had informed the Council that Councillor Lyons' amendment would, if adopted, be subject to officers confirming that it did not extend beyond the Council's legal remit, as defined within the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

The Lord Mayor had informed Councillor Boyle that he could, subject to Council approval, request that the motion be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to allow for legal advice to be sought on the amendment which had been proposed by Councillor Lyons.

Following a recorded vote, the Council had agreed that the matter be referred back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The City Solicitor reported that the proposed amendment of the motion was not competent. The Code, which had a statutory root, did not prescribe the necessity of providing a postcode when registering an interest. Accordingly, a declaration could be made in respect of ownership or beneficial interest without the postcode being provided. He reminded the Members that Article 8 of European Convention on Human Rights created a qualified right in respect of privacy. The requirement to provide information and the extent of the information to be provided must be established through the Code of Conduct which had a statutory footing.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion.

Motion: Definition of anti-Semitism

The Committee agreed that consideration of the definition of anti-Semitism, as outlined in the motion, be referred to the Shared City Partnership for consideration.

Governance

**Date of Annual Meeting of the Council and
Committee Schedule for April**

The Committee was advised that the Annual Meeting of the Council, under the provisions of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, must be held within 21 days from the day of the local election. As polling would be on Thursday, 2nd May, the Annual meeting must be held no later than 23rd May.

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The Democratic Services Manager reported that there was a significant amount of work which would be required to be undertaken immediately after the election to sort out the governance arrangements, including the nominations for Positions of Responsibility, the appointment of Committees etc. and it was anticipated that this work will continue up until 15th or 16th May. It was suggested, therefore, that the Annual meeting be held on Tuesday 21st May at 6.00pm.

It was accepted that all political parties would be extremely busy with canvassing in the lead up to polling day, and particularly during the month of April. It would be necessary to continue with the Standing Committees in that month and the Committee has already agreed that the May Council meeting would be brought forward to Monday, 29th April.

There were a number of Working Group meetings scheduled to be held in April and it was suggested that the Committee:

- agrees to cancel the scheduled meetings of the Area-Based Working Groups in April;
- agrees to cancel the Party Group Briefings scheduled for April;
- agrees that the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel scheduled for 4th April would only take place if essential;
- requests the People and Communities Committee to cancel the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group on 15th April;
- requests the Shared City Partnership and the Board of Active Belfast Ltd. to consider cancelling their scheduled meetings for April; and
- requests the Policing and Community Safety Partnership not to schedule any meetings for April.

The Committee:

1. agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 21st May; and
2. agreed to cancel the Area-Based Working Group meetings and Party briefings scheduled for April and requests that all working group meetings are also cancelled for that month.

Conflicts of Interest

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 establish procedures for noting interests declared following a recent adjudication by the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Background

The Commissioner for Local Government Standards made a number of recommendations in respect of a recent adjudication in relation to a complaint relating to declarations of interest. Analysis of the adjudication has also led the City Solicitor to make recommendations which he believes necessary to assist members to comply with the code.

You are asked to:

1. Agree the recommendations in respect of administrative arrangements for declarations and absence from meetings, to include late arrival at meetings after a matter in which you may have had an interest has been discussed
2. Note that Members must declare interests in relation to the suspension/closing of funding if they have an interest in any active application being considered through that funding stream.
3. Note that the City Solicitor will establish workshop type training for party groups on declarations of interest to enhance members understanding of their obligations

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Following a recent adjudication by the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards, the City Solicitor wishes to establish a procedure for declarations of interest.

- 3.2 The adjudication establishes the necessity of not only declaring an interest but also recording the fact that the member has left the room whilst the matter is under consideration. The committee clerk will routinely record the declaration and will also note that those members have left the room for the duration of the discussion on that item. It is necessary not only to declare the interest but the nature of the interest. If a member seeks to rely on a dispensation which would allow them to take part in the discussion then this must also be declared. If a member arrives late to a meeting and an item has been dealt with in respect of which they would have had to declare an interest if present they must make the

committee clerk aware of this fact and it will be noted. This will be published with the minute. Members should be alert to checking minutes to ensure that the declarations and absence from the meeting have been properly recorded.

- 3.3 On the Commissioner's current interpretation of the Code your participation in a decision to close or suspend funding may be perceived as advantaging any active application which you may have promoted or in which you have an interest. Members will be reminded that declarations are required if they have any interest in active applications under consideration. The City Solicitor has written to the Commissioner to seek clarity in respect of this issue and that of dispensations relating to participation in decision making and decisions.
- 3.4 The rules relating to declarations of interest appear relatively straightforward but are much more complex in their practical application. In addition no meaningful guidance is offered allowing members to know with any degree of certainty those interests which might be deemed to be significant. As members may have various scenarios they wish to explore with regard to their own situations it is suggested that workshop type training be given to groups with particular issues on which advice is sought made known in advance.
- 3.5 Financial & Resource Implications
- None.
- 3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
- None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**NI Local Government Commissioner for
Standards – Annual Report 2017-2018**

The Committee was advised that the Commissioner for Standards had issued her annual report for 2017/18. The report was a synopsis of the work undertaken with regard to the Code of Conduct for that year. In terms of promoting the Code, the Commissioner referred to the guidance published, guidance given in the use of social media and information sessions which her staff had hosted. A limited number of case summaries were contained within the report of the 32 complaints that were closed out in that year. Two of those dealt with the relationship between Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights and comments made by Councillors which were the subject of complaints. The other two case summaries dealt with lobbying in relation to planning

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applications and a breach of the respect principle arising out of criticism by a Councillor of a Council official.

The report itself was not particularly illuminating in terms of declarations of interest. By far the greater number of complaints related to behaviour. It was, however, clear that the trend towards complaints in relation to declarations was on the rise with six in 2016/17 and nine 2017/18. In 2017/18 Belfast had the greatest number of complaints of any of the councils (20).

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

**Service Level Agreement for a New Local
Government Resilience Resourcing Model**

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 ask Members to consider a proposed new regional resourcing model for the local government civil contingencies function. The proposed resourcing model was initially presented to the NI branch of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) at its meeting in May of this year and reported to this Committee in June.**
- 1.2 Following local government reform and recent restructuring of the areas for local government civil contingencies there are now three sub-regions in Northern Ireland, North, South and Belfast. Each sub-region has a multi-agency Emergency Preparedness Group. The proposed regional resourcing model will provide civil contingencies programme management in the three new sub-regional areas. Members approved the proposed approach at that time.**
- 1.3 In brief, the proposed model is a regional service, fully funded by the Department for Communities (DfC), with a single employing authority and a service level agreement between it and the other ten councils. DfC funding will be drawn down via the host council, reducing duplication of financial and HR resources and enhancing accountability and governance arrangements. This concept has been successfully employed for other shared service functions, for example, animal welfare.**

1.4 A subsequent paper was presented to SOLACE at its December Meeting; the proposal remains unchanged but now incorporates a draft Service Level Agreement (SLA), which was developed in consultation with Belfast City Council's Legal Service.

1.5 The SLA is an essential element to progress the implementation of the model and enable the adoption of a regional approach.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the terms of the SLA and recommend that Belfast City Council signs it to enable the implementation of the regional resourcing model for local government civil contingencies.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The desired outcomes of this proposed new resourcing model are to:

- Provide confidence and assurance for Councils and their Chief Executives that multi-agency plans are in place which complement arrangements existing within councils;
- Have sufficient resilience to provide adequate cover, particularly during response to emergencies;
- Embed adequate governance arrangements to ensure consistency and performance management across all EPG areas;
- Align as best as possible with other organisations planning and response structures to allow for effective planning and response

3.2 Currently Belfast City Council employs a Programme Manager for the Belfast EPG; the Council also hosts the Regional Officer for local government civil contingencies and a regional support officer post. DfC funds these posts and the support costs for the Belfast EPG.

3.3 Under the proposed new arrangements, the Regional Officer will report to a director in the host council, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council (ABC) and to a regional

steering group comprising Chief Executives from the three sub-regions and the SOLACE lead for the Civil Contingencies function.

- 3.4 For the Belfast area, the proposal is to increase resourcing from one existing Programme Manager and a 50% administration post to two full time posts. The new posts will be referred to as a Resilience Manager and a Resilience Officer. These posts will be 100% funded by DfC and the SLA permits BCC to charge reasonable expenses associated with hosting staff. The post of the Resilience Manager will be a permanent post and the Resilience Officer a fixed term post. These posts will continue to be located in Belfast City Council but will be employed by the lead council, ABC.
- 3.5 On Call Arrangements will be incorporated into the post of the Resilience Manager and because it will be a regional service, Belfast will be in a position to avail of additional regional on call capacity for multi-agency response.
- 3.6 Financial & Resource Implications
- A business plan was agreed in 2016 to fully fund the local government civil contingencies function until 2021. The business case was updated to reflect the proposed regional model and DfC recently agreed annual regional funding of £680,000 up until 31st March 2021.
- 3.7 The SLA states that should there be a withdrawal or shortfall in funding, the shortfall shall be made up by councils in equal amounts. This does not place BCC at an increased risk because we currently employ the Belfast Programme Manager and have done so for eight years. In terms of a worst case scenario, where funding is withdrawn, BCCs share of the shortfall would equate to the cost of this current post should we continue with existing arrangements and therefore a recurring budget exists.
- 3.8 Many of the complex staffing issues, legacy structures and associated costs referred to in the attached paper should not apply to Belfast City Council as it remains a single council in a sub-region.
- 3.9 Implementation of the new model can be progressed using a TUPE transfer, as the work is deemed to fall within the review of public administration and thus the staff transfer scheme and circulars are applicable.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Council Improvement Plan and Corporate Planning 2019-20

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Committee on the proposed approach to the 2019 - 2020 corporate planning cycle and publication of the council Improvement Plan. The proposed approach takes account of the local government elections in May and feedback from the Local Government Auditor.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- agree to the production of an annual SP&R Committee Plan, commencing in 2019/ 20. This will be similar to the committee plans that are produced for both City Growth & Regeneration Committee and People & Communities Committee;
- to note that Committee Plans will form the basis of the Council’s annual action plan and will be published on a revamped strategic planning webpage with links to the Belfast Agenda, our Corporate Plan 2017-21 and the annual Council Improvement Plan; and
- to note the timetable in paragraph 3.5 for completing the 2019/20 Corporate Improvement Plan and Committee Plans.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 Corporate Plan 2017 - 2021: Annual Update

Last year as part of the corporate planning and update process, council undertook a light touch refresh of the corporate plan and produced a Year 2 update document, the look and feel of which remained broadly the same. At the beginning of the 2019-20 planning cycle, the Strategic Hub reassessed this approach and agreed a more effective and efficient method for communicating the planned work of council for the year ahead. As a result, it is recommended that the existing committee plans, which are produced and presented to committee on an annual basis, and which in effect constitute our annual operational update, should form the basis of our annual corporate plan update.

3.2 Committee Plans

Committee Plans were introduced in 2015-16 to enable Members to more effectively plan, prioritise and monitor activity for the year ahead. Committee plans are currently produced for the City Growth & Regeneration and People & Communities committees; and it is recommended that a new bespoke SP&R 'Committee Plan' be developed commencing 2019-20. The SP&R Committee Plan will detail internal actions and specific project activity not already assigned to the other committees e.g. the continuous improvement, customer focus and efficiency programmes, the people strategy and the enabling and infrastructure support tasks for the Belfast Agenda. SP&R's role in providing strategic oversight across all council will not change; rather the document will capture SP&R's specific areas of focus for the year ahead. This will not only improve communications with the public but will also support the delivery and performance management of specific corporate projects.

3.3 As the routine standing committee will not be held in May, officers will organise extended meetings in June with the new committees to discuss the priorities for the upcoming year and sign off final committee plans. In the meantime, the Strategic Hub will continue to work with Departments to prepare the committee plans in line with the Belfast Agenda and corporate planning and monitoring requirements. Furthermore, the Strategic Hub will provide consistent guidance on the departmental planning process for the organisation.

3.4 Council Improvement Plan

The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 introduced an 'improvement duty' on councils and a statutory obligation to publish an annual Improvement Plan. The Auditor expects to see a clear rationale for why we chose our improvement objectives, including evidence of political input and public consultation. CMT will therefore undertake a thorough review of the Improvement Objectives before bringing proposals to the Budget & Transformation Panel for consideration. Following this, an 8-week public consultation will be undertaken.

3.5 Key Dates: 2019-20 Planning Cycle

Council is legally required to publish the Improvement Plan by 30th June each year. Given the alignment between this and the other council planning processes, all the corporate planning documents will be approved and published by the same date. The following timetable reflects this and the local government elections:

CMT - Review of Improvement Objectives	29 Jan 2019
Improvement Objectives - Consultation with Budget Panel	14 Feb 2019
Improvement Objectives - 8 week consultation period opens	15 Feb 2019
Improvement Objectives - 8 week consultation period ends	12 Apr 2019
Preparation of draft Committee Plans and Improvement Plan	Apr - May 2019
Committee planning workshops / Committee Plans approved	June 2019
SP&R approve Council Improvement Plan for online publication	21 June 2019
Publish Improvement Plan 2019 - 20 and Committee Plans	30 June 2019

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no equality or rural need implications arising directly from this report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee was reminded that the Council's Capital Programme was a rolling programme of investment which either improved existing Council facilities or provided new Council facilities. Accordingly, the Committee considered a report which highlighted the current status of projects under the Programme, along with projects recommended to be moved to different Stages.

Additions to the Capital Programme

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 7th January, had agreed that the Belfast Blitz memorial be added to the Capital Programme as an Emerging project. In accordance with that decision, the Committee was requested to note that this had now been added as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project.

Project Updates

The Committee was reminded also that, in April 2016, it had agreed to move the Navarra Place project, which would see the development of a new playground, Multi Use Games Area and the removal of an interface structure at the boundary with Serpentine Road, to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme. At this time it was held at Tier 0 pending the resolution of a number of outstanding issues. Those had now been resolved as outlined below:

Confirmation of funding from the DoJ	A letter of offer for 50% match funding has been received from DoJ
Agreement on the land transfer from NIHE	The Council has received confirmation that the land will transfer from NIHE
Planning approval	Planning approval was received in January 2019
Satisfactory tender return	A satisfactory tender return has been received which is within the affordability limits.

It was pointed out that the project was now progressing and that a maximum budget of £186,000 had been allocated under the Capital Programme. That would be match-funded by the Department of Justice. The Director of Finance and Resources had confirmed that that was within the affordability limits of the Council. The work were due to commence on-site in February.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Area Working Update

Area Working Group Minutes

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

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West Area Working Group 22nd November;
East Area Working Group 29th November;
North Area Working Groups 18th December; and
East Area Working Group 3rd January.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee agreed to the recommendations from the North Area Working Group as set out below, subject to the omission of the Braeheid project which was referred back to the Working Group for further consideration:

PROJECT	CURRENT STAGE	PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS
Basement youth Club/Elim Church Ireland	Stage 3 –Committed	Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £1,500,000 - <i>Subject to the return of a satisfactory tender and confirmation of any match funding</i> <i>(This funding is out of the £2.25m which was originally ringfenced by the North AWG for projects emerging from the Old Grove Masterplan and the Ballysillan Masterplan)</i>
Braeheid project (Ulster Scots Hub)	Stage 1 – Emerging	Maximum allocation of £750,000 to be ringfenced <i>(This funding is out of the £2.25m which was originally ringfenced by the North AWG for projects emerging from the Old Grove Masterplan and the Ballysillan Masterplan)</i>
Malgrove	N/A	Add as Stage 1 –Emerging with a maximum allocation of £500,000 to be ring-fenced

Finance, Resources and Procurement

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to award the most economically advantageous tender;
- allowed month by month extensions where contracts are under review as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55(b) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts laid out in 3.7 and Appendix 1, Table 3
- noted contracts which have been awarded in the last quarter as listed in Appendix 1, Table 4

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Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Email Filtering	R Cregan	3 years
Supply of fresh meat and poultry (T1929)	J Walsh	3 years plus 2

Table 2 - Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension
T1605 Fresh Food (Lot 3 Meat & Poultry)	J Walsh	Extension to 31 March 2019 and monthly thereafter to allow for a new tender exercise to be completed

Table 3 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System/Product	Supplier	Annual estimate
Media Campaign in response to Bank Building Fire	Visit Belfast	£300,000

Table 4 - Contracts Awarded (September - December 2018 inclusive)

Title	Successful Contractor	Senior Reporting Officer	Duration
T1836 Provision of a mobile closed circuit TV vehicle	Mercury Security management Ltd	N Grimshaw	4 years
T1856 Facilities management service at Mary Peters Track	Athletics NI Ltd	N Grimshaw	5 years

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T1860a Peace IV Tech to connect	Ashton Community Trust	N Grimshaw	3 years
T1846 Mixed Material , Collection, Treatment and Recycling from HRC	McNabb Bros Ltd: R Heatrick Ltd	N Grimshaw	4 years
T1792 Temporary Agency Resources	Matrix SCM	R Cregan	4 years
T1859 Peace IV Playing our part in the City	Active Communities Network	N Grimshaw	3 years
T1889 Provision of creative music development	Ross Graham	J Greer	3 years
T1851 Provision of young tree maintenance, planting and minor horticultural works	Clive Richardson Ltd	N Grimshaw	5 years
T1873 provision of toilet hygiene services	The Concept Group	G Millar	5 years
T1858 Peace IV Supporting minorities	Northern Ireland Alternatives	N Grimshaw	3 years
T1895 Supply of fertilisers, grass seed and pesticides	John Lindsay, Nomix and Agrigem Ltd	N Grimshaw	5 years
T1905 Supply, delivery and fitting of hydraulic hoses	The Hose Doctor NI	N Grimshaw	4 years
T1891 Provision of transport academy	Ashton Community Trust	J Greer	2 years
T1901 Provision of a hospitality employment academy	Workforce training services	J Greer	2 years
T1906 Delivery of St Patricks day parade	Beat Trading Ltd	A Reid	3 years

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T1896 Collection and treatment of Paint	Irish Waste Services Ltd	N Grimshaw	4 years
T1914 Supply of fruit and veg to catering unit	North Down Group	G Millar	3 years
T1923 conversion of Autodesk software	Pentagon Solutions Ltd	R Cregan	5 years
T1919 Supply and delivery of park benches	David Ogalvie Engineering Ltd	N Grimshaw	5 years
T1912 Delivery of a construction employment academy	Workforce training services	A Reid	2 years

Audit and Risk Report and Minutes of Meeting of 4th December 2018

The Committee:

- approved the updated Risk Strategy;
- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 4th December, 2018

Appreciative Inquiry into Health and Wellbeing in North Belfast

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 On 4 September 2018, Ashton in partnership with Lighthouse, Ulster University (UU), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT), Public Health Agency (PHA) and Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) launched an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) into health and wellbeing in North Belfast. The event was formally launched by UU Deputy Vice Chancellor Alastair Adair, Belfast City Council (BCC) and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Deirdre Hargey.**

This report presents an update on the work of the inquiry and informs members of a request from Ashton for financial support.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the request to make a match funding contribution of £10,000 to support the work of the Appreciative Inquiry. This request should be considered in the context of the SP&R Committee decision noted on 23rd November 2018; 'that no further in year budget reallocations should be considered until the year-end position is presented to Committee in June 2019'.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Background

AI is a four-stage process of searching, developing and creating a desired future for an organisation or community, the inquiry underpins a larger Healthy North Belfast (HNB) project. AI was selected as a model for taking the HNB project forward because it seeks to engage stakeholders in self-determined change in a positive holistic focused way with the goal of co-designing and co-producing a transformational plan for North Belfast.

3.2 This AI process is led by a HNB Task Group established on the 8 October 2018 (see Appendix 1). Members are drawn from:

- Community-based organisations
- Politicians
- Public sector departments and agencies
- Decision makers/senior staff members.

3.3 The purpose of the HNB Task Group is to:

- Co-produce an imaginative and innovative whole system approach to change aimed at improving health and wellbeing outcomes for people of North Belfast
- Engage and involve the North Belfast community in a process of positive inquiry that builds on community strengths, assets & resources to change how health and wellbeing is experienced.
- Involve the community and stakeholders around two key questions: What Works Well and What Can Be Done to Make it Better?

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- Use the Appreciative Inquiry to drive a culture change process at community and agency levels.
 - Collectively make recommendations and help implement decisions emerging as a result of the Appreciative Inquiry process.
- 3.4 A steering group is in place to guide the process (see Appendix 2), this group is convened before the wider Task Group meetings to coordinate, monitor and report on the progress of Task & Finish Groups.
- 3.5 The first task of the Steering group was to conduct a map of current assets, systems and connections. This work has recently been completed and will be reported to the Task Group at the end of January.
- 3.6 BCC are represented on both the Task Group and the Steering Group. It is the intention of Chief Officers to revisit membership to reflect the appointment of the new area manager for North Belfast.
- 3.7 The terms of reference states that the inquiry will be delivered over four stages by October 2019 (see below).

Stages and expected timings	
Stage 1	Discovery 1 (October–December 2018)
Stage 1	Discovery 2 (January–March 2019)
Stage 2	Dream (April–June 2019)
Stage 3	Design & Co-produce (July–Sept. 2019)
Stage 4	Destiny & Do (October 2019)

3.8 Funding

Ashton have estimated the total cost of the Inquiry to be £98,500. To date they have secured £10,000 from the Victims and Survivors Service and a further commitment of £10,000 from the Health and Social Care Board (subject to match funding from other partners).

Ashton have approached BCC, in its role as a member of the Task Group, to provide £10,000 of match funding. This match funding is in addition to the in-kind support provided by Senior Officers to support the work of the inquiry.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

There is currently no funding ring-fenced to meet this request. Members are reminded of the decision noted by SP&R Committee in November 2018 that no further in year budget

reallocations should be considered until the year end position is presented to Committee in June 2019.

3.10 Equality Or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

No implications.”

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the request to make a match-funding contribution of £10,000 to support the work of the Appreciative Inquiry and agreed that this request should be considered in the context of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decision of 23rd November 2018; *‘that no further in year budget reallocations should be considered until the year-end position is presented to Committee in June 2019’* and accordingly agreed that no funding could be made available at this stage; and
- agreed that a letter be forwarded to the organisation indicating that the request would be considered again in June, subject to funding being available.

Equality and Good Relations

Seachtain na Gaeilge/ Irish-Language Festival

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of the events planned as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish-language Festival.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Approve plans for an event to launch Seachtain na Gaeilge in Belfast and any associated expenditure.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Seachtain na Gaeilge is the yearly Irish-language festival held all over Ireland between the 1st and 17th of March. Events include concerts, book launches, public discussions etc. Seachtain na Gaeilge is co-ordinated by Conradh na Gaeilge, the advocacy group for the Irish language.

3.2 Conradh na Gaeilge has contacted the Council and made a number of requests to demonstrate support of Seachtain na Gaeilge 2019, these are outlined below with recommendations on an appropriate response.

3.3

(i) Request for a specific fund to be made available to local groups to promote the event - as the 2018/2019 funding rounds are now closed it is unlikely we can meet this request within the current financial year. The Language Strategy will consider all future options and financial implications. We would recommend that the commitment to the event should be demonstrated through working in partnership with Conradh na Gaeilge to host a launch event in City Hall. The 2019 launch would provide an opportunity to show case the work done on through the Language Strategy and highlight the Council's commitment to the Irish language and languages in general. It is also planned to hold a good relations event as part of the two week festival.

3.4

(ii) Request to encourage engagement with Irish language groups: this is a key aim of the Irish Language Officer and will be ongoing as implementation of the Language Strategy is rolled out. Consultation with Irish speakers in the period leading up to the launch of the Language Strategy showed a strong desire for more events linked to the Irish language to be held at council venues. Inviting local Irish students and groups would help strengthen relationships with the Irish-language community in the city considerably.

3.5

(iii) Request to distribute the bi-lingual booklet about Seachtain na Gaeilge to all elected Members: the booklet can be circulated by email to all elected Members.

3.6 Financial Implications

The cost of the launch event in City Hall and the good relations event will be covered within existing budgets.

3.7 Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications

The promotion of Irish is within the aims of the Language Strategy 2018-2023 and its associated actions plans.

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A screening was undertaken for the year one action plan and a further screening on the year two action plan is underway.”

The Committee approved the plans for an event to launch Seachtain na Gaeilge in Belfast and any associated expenditure.

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

The Committee was advised that one of the main requirements of the Council’s Equality Scheme was to carry out the screening of new and revised policies. That allowed any impacts related to equality of opportunity and/or good relations to be identified and addressed.

In addition, the Council now had a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions and was required to ensure that the annual reporting returns were submitted to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

The Committee noted the summary of equality screening and rural needs impact assessments which had been undertaken from April till September, 2018.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Shared City Partnership 10th December**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 10th December, 2018 and approved also the Good Relations Monitoring Report Action Plan.

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shared City Partnership 14th January**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of Shared City Partnership of 14th January, 2019 and approved the draft Good Relations Action Plan, 2019/2020 for submission to The Executive Office.

International Women’s Day 2019

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd December, 2013, had unanimously passed the following motion:

“International Women’s Day on 8th March is acknowledged globally as a day on which to celebrate the achievements of women across the world. For the past four years, the women’s sector in Belfast has marked this special day with a public rally to the City Hall. This public event has become popular recently and, for the past 3 years since 2013, the Council has provided some financial support for it. Providing support to an annual public event would be a simple way of demonstrating our

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acknowledgement of this special day and pledging our commitment to working towards greater equality of opportunity for all women in Belfast.”

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting in January, 2014, had recognised that this was likely to be recurring annual expenditure.

It was reported that the 2019 event would take place on Saturday 9th March, with the rally arriving at City Hall at 1.00 pm for speeches, music etc. on the cobbled area outside the front gates of the City Hall. The theme of the event was ‘The Time is Now – Women Rise Up’. There would be a light lunch for 200 people in the City Hall at the close of the rally.

The Committee was advised that the women’s sector in Belfast was very keen that the Council should maintain its support for the International Women’s Day and had provided estimated costs for similar provision this year. It was expected that the Council funding contribution would be allocated to cover the costs of a temporary stage and sound system for the public rally and a lunch for 200 participants in the City Hall. The budget was £6,500, which would be provided through the existing Organisational Development budget.

The Committee approved the award of financial support in respect of International Women’s Day as outlined for March 2019.

Operational Issues

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 11th January, 2019 as set out in the following appendix, subject to a drinks reception being provided for the North Belfast Interface Network/TASCIT event:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Sustrans	28 January 2019	Launch of Bike Life 2040 project – Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, has completed research about cycling and future plans. Bike Life 2040 report is aligned with Belfast Agenda to encourage cycling.	C	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers attending –50				
Nepalese Community NI	20 February 2019	Nepal Day – a cultural event to celebrate Nepali food and culture. This event is jointly organised by the Embassy of Nepal and Nepali Community NI. Numbers attending – 300	C & D	No (Community)	No (they provide their own themed menu)	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, No hospitality
Northern Ireland Institute for the Disabled	21 February 2019	Celebration of 140 years of NIID – an event to celebrate the work of NIID over the past 140 years, allow people to know more about the charity, its history and work and unveil new branding. Numbers attending –200	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
Victim Support NI	22 February 2019	Showcase and networking event to highlight the rise of cybercrime and scams with talks, workshops and advice. Numbers attending –150	C	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers	28 February 2019	Showcase and networking event to discuss, learn and share refugee women experiences across UK and Ireland.	C	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers attending –200				
Malaysian Student Society of Northern Ireland	2 March 2019	Malaysian Night – a cultural showcase event to promote and celebrate Malaysian culture with entertainers, dance, music and food. Numbers attending – 300	C & D	No (Community)	No (they provide their own themed menu)	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, No hospitality
Soroptimist International	5 March 2019	Showcase of Maternal Mental Health in NI – raise awareness of mental health with emphasis on mothers with post-natal depression. Reduce the stigma, encourage talking and seeking help for them and their families. The event is linked to Women’s Day events. Numbers attending - 100	C	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
European Youth Parliament	16 March 2019	NI Regional Session of Youth Parliament - teams of secondary students debate and present their ideas and solutions on current topics. Numbers attending - 80	B & D	No (Charity)	No (they provide their own lunches for attendees)	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, No hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Womens Tec Student Gala Awards	21 March 2019	2019 Women's Tec Gala Awards – part of 21 st anniversary year of events, this event will be a celebration of education and learning and will recognize student achievement. Numbers attending - 100	C	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
North Belfast Interface Network/ TASCIT	26 March 2019	Exploring Cultural Identities Celebration – Event to celebrate the end of cross community training event and present certificates to participates. Numbers attending - 100	C&D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
The Boys Brigade NI District	18 April 2019	Queen's Badge Celebration – celebration and presentation ceremony for those who completed their Queens Badge Award, highest award in the Boys Brigade. Numbers attending - 500	C&D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
The Open University	15 or 23 May 2019	Open University 50th Anniversary Dinner – this event will be part of the year long celebration of 50 years of open access to education. The event will be a	C	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		drinks reception, dinner and networking. Numbers attending - 100				
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful	5 June 2019	Translink Eco-Schools Travel Challenge 10th Anniversary An event for school children to announce the winners of Travel Challenge 2019, showcase 10 years of this campaign and promote use of public transport. Numbers attending – 150	C	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast Islamic Centre	8 June 2019	Celebration of Eid Al-Fitr – is the biggest Muslim celebration to mark the end of Ramadan. The format will include dinner and speeches. Numbers attending – 300	C & D	No (Charity)	Soft Drinks Reception	Recommend to approve, No charge, Soft Drinks reception
Common Purpose	12 June 2019	Meridian Award Ceremony – final day of the Meridian Programme to review progress made and present awards to participants of the course. Numbers attending – 40	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits Or NO	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
British Medical Association	23 June 2019	Chair of Representative Body Welcome Reception and Dinner - BMA annual meeting takes place at ICC Belfast for 5 days and this event is the opening celebration. Numbers attending – 250	A&B	No <i>(£825 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
Queens University Belfast	22 August 2019	5th IFAC Conference on Intelligent Control and Automation Sciences - Dinner with speeches and entertainment as part of 3 day conference. Numbers attending – 200	A&B	No <i>(£825 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
The British Institute of Cleaning Science	6 September 2019	NI Cleaning Operative of the Year Awards – Awards Ceremony recognising excellence across the industry. Numbers attending - 100	C	Yes Charge £115	No - as commercial	Approve Charge £115 No Hospitality
Law Society of Northern Ireland	12 September 2019	Annual Council Dinner 2019 – Networking event for the legal community. Numbers attending – 200 – 300	A&B 1 in 3 rule be applied	Yes charge £825	No	Recommend to approve, 1 in 3 rule be applied Charge £825 No Hospitality

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
International Association of Insolvency Regulators	18 September 2019	Formal Conference Dinner – dinner and musical entertainment as part of a 4 day conference taking place in Merchant Hotel. Numbers attending - 70	A&B	No (£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
National Organisation for the Treatment of Abuse (NOTA)	19 September 2019	International Conference Closing dinner Annual meeting takes place at Europa Hotel for 3 days and this event is the opening event. Numbers attending – 250	A&B	No (£825 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception
Dods Parliamentary Communications Ltd	31 October 2019	NICS Awards 2019 – Awards ceremony and dinner to celebrate the very best of the NI Civil Service. Numbers attending - 250	C	Yes charge £825	No (commercial company)	Recommend to approve, Charge £825 No Hospitality
Irish Football Association Foundation	6 November 2019	IFA McDonalds Community Football Awards – Celebrating the volunteers who help deliver their programs – reception, dinner, entertainment and awards. Numbers attending - 190	C & D	No (Charity)	No Hospitality	Recommend to approve, No Charge, No Hospitality
40 (NIH) Signal Squadron	4 April 2020	100 year Centenary of the Royal Corps of Signals – – dinner and musical evening	C & D	No (Community/ not for profit)	Yes Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, No Charge, Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		celebration event. Numbers attending – 150				

Request for the use of City Hall to host and provide hospitality for the annual City of Belfast International Rose Trials Civic Luncheon from 2019 – 2023

The Committee was reminded that Rose Week had been held each year to coincide with the judging of the rose trials in the City of Belfast International Rose Garden at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park. The rose trials were renowned worldwide for attracting international rose growers in addition to attracting a significant number of visitors. The trials, which were judged by a panel of Local and International Judges, was then followed by a civic luncheon and drinks reception in the City Hall.

The Lord Mayor's Office had hosted this function for over four decades and it had proven to be beneficial in promoting Belfast to an international audience. International Judges had attended from the USA, Europe, New Zealand, Australia, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland. The function was attended by approximately 150 guests which included Elected Members, Judges, The Rose Society of Northern Ireland, rose breeders, awards' sponsors and relevant Council staff.

It was proposed that this function would continue to be held annually in July in the City Hall and hospitality would include room hire, a drinks reception, civic luncheon and provision of musicians, a Toastmaster, first Aid cover and floral table decorations. The date for the function this year was Friday, 19th July, 2019 and the dates for subsequent years would be agreed with the organisers in due course. The cost was approximately £4,500 which would be funded by the civic budget.

The Committee approved the request for the use of the City Hall to host and provide hospitality for the City of Belfast International Rose Trials civic luncheon and drinks reception from 2019 - 2023

Minutes of Meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting, 14/12/2018

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 6th December, 2018 and 17th January, 2019.

Minutes of Meetings of Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board of 10th December, 2018 and 2nd January, 2019.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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**Minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore
Members Steering Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Members Steering Group of 8th January, 2019.

Electric Vehicle Study Visit

The Committee was advised that an invitation had been extended to the Sustainable Development Manager to participate in a 100% funded study visit to examine world-class electric vehicle infrastructure and associated smart technology in California. The study visit would also examine the wider role of City Authorities in promoting the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs). The invitation was from the UK Consulate General in California.

The Committee agreed that the Sustainable Development Manager accept the invitation to participate in the aforementioned study visit.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Council Photograph - Alderman Browne

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Browne raised the issue of a Council photograph.

The Committee agreed to affirm its previous decision for arrangements to be made for the taking of a Council photograph and that the meeting of the Council on 4th February be adjourned for a period following official announcements to enable this to take place.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 8th January, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McCusker (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Baker, Black, Corr, Corr Johnston, Heading,
Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McAllister, McReynolds,
Newton and Pankhurst.

Also attended: Councillors Boyle, Craig, O'Hara 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

An apology was recorded on behalf of Councillor Nicholl.

Minutes

It was reported that the minutes of the meeting of 4th December had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 7th January, subject to officers seeking clarity regarding the spelling of one of the street names that had been agreed at the December Committee Meeting under Street Naming. The Committee was advised that the developer had submitted an incorrect spelling in his application. He had since been contacted and had confirmed, via e-mail, that he wished to amend the spelling from Napoleans Gate to Napoleons Gate.

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th December were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations were reported.

Restricted Items

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion on these items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of

**People and Communities,
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exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019/2020

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

The Committee considered a report, which had been prepared by the Director of Finance and Resources, in relation to the establishment of the District Rate and the compilation of the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure for the year 2019/2020.

The Director outlined that the paper would not be subject to call-in as it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council and the public's interest in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2019.

He referred to the cash limit for the People and Communities Committee for 2019/2020, as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 14th December, and outlined the next steps in the rate setting process leading to the setting of the district rate by Council at its meeting in February, 2019.

The Director highlighted to the Members that the cash limits included an increase of financial funding to Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) amounting to £25,000 to assist with its core costs.

A Member advised that, at a previous meeting of the Committee, she had raised the removal of the entrance fee charge to the Adventure Playground at Cavehill and she had understood that consideration was to be given to this during the budget setting process and she queried why it had not been progressed.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that, whilst this matter had not been included in this year's budget, officers were considering the various options available for the future operation of the facility.

During discussion, the Member requested that a report be submitted to the February meeting of the Committee, which would provide clarity around the request and the future operation of the Adventure Playground, to enable the Members to consider it in more detail.

Following consideration, the Committee:

- agreed that the report would not be subject to call-in, given that it would cause an unreasonable delay and would be prejudicial to both the Council and the public's interests in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2019;
- agreed a cash limit for the People and Communities Committee for 2019/20 of £80,614,500 and the individual service cash limits;
- noted that the cash limits included an increase of financial funding to Lagan Valley Regional Park amounting to £25,000;
- noted the next steps in the rate setting process; and

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- agreed that a report would be submitted to the February meeting of the Committee which would give consideration to the possible removal of the current entrance fee and future operation of the Adventure Playground.

**Community Development Grants Programme
2019/2020 Proposed Allocation**

The Committee considered a report which detailed the proposed Community Development Grant Allocation for 2019/20 to each recipient group. This included the level of grant funding to each group as per the current allocation for Generalist Advice, Capacity Support and Community Building Revenue Grants. It also included the allocation of non-grant revenue community support contracts.

Several Members expressed concern at the allocations to their respective electoral areas and undertook to discuss the matter in further detail with the officers.

The Committee noted the report.

**Assertion of Two Public Rights of Way at Pineview Park
and Pineview Road to the Antrim Road**

The Committee considered a report seeking its approval to assert two Public Rights of Way as per the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

The Committee agreed to the assertion of two Public Rights of Way from Pineview Road to Antrim Road and from Pineview Park to Antrim Road, over which the only public right of passage, is on foot, under the duties of Article 3 of the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

Presentation

**Belfast Youth Forum - Mental Health
Research Report Findings**

The Committee was reminded that, at its last meeting, it had agreed to invite the Belfast Youth Forum to present its mental health research report findings and recommendations: 'Elephant in the Room: Exploring young people's awareness of mental health in Northern Ireland' to the Committee.

Accordingly, Miss. N. Mallaghan and Miss. B. Vance, representing the Belfast Youth Forum, were welcomed to the meeting by the Chairperson.

The representatives commenced by advising that, in July 2016, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child had recommended that the Northern Ireland Assembly should invest heavily in children and young people's mental health services. Subsequently, at a follow up event in October 2016, organised by the Belfast Youth Forum, NI Youth Forum and youth@clc, over one hundred young people had expressed their frustration at the lack

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of mental health education and support services in Northern Ireland (NI). At that meeting, they had called for the UN's recommendations to be fully implemented by the NI Assembly.

The Committee was advised that the Youth Forum, with the assistance of a local researcher, undertook a research report which was entitled 'Elephant in the Room'. The project had been completed in partnership with young people from the NI Youth Forum and the Children's Law Centre. They had conducted surveys and participated in focus groups that had engaged almost 1,300 young people NI wide. The data collected had then been used to create a research report and to make recommendations to the Assembly about the future of mental health advice and support for young people. This report had been launched on 4th October, 2018 in Stormont Buildings.

The representatives advised that the key findings could be broken down into three broad themes:

- Stigma - young people had reported that there was a huge negative stigma attached to mental health which in turn often led to a culture of silence, where young people were afraid to talk about mental health;
- Safe Spaces – 76% of those surveyed stated that young people were afraid to talk about mental health and the lack of safe spaces available to talk about it. Young people in the focus groups had stated that they felt that online was a good place to access mental health information. However, it was also noted that all of the young people who had taken part also felt that social media was responsible for increasing the negative stigma; and
- Schools and information – the young people had stated that the three most common places they would source information about mental health were online (59%), a family member (48%) and friends (45%). However, it was noted that the quality of this information was often inconsistent and often framed in a negative way.

The representatives explained that a key part of the youth led focus groups had involved asking the young people what solutions they would like to give the Government in the campaign to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. The following recommendations for Government had been compiled:

- Stigma – to support the creation of a youth led mental health campaign challenging the culture of silence and negative stigma. Working with young people to create a new and positive language around mental health by creating a mental health dictionary;
- Safe Spaces – to engage with young people to create and fund safe digital solutions to receive mental health information and support. The solutions would be designed by young people for young people; and
- Schools – to create a compulsory curriculum programme for all schools and colleges on mental health and wellbeing that would help to raise awareness and to challenge the stigma and one that enables young people to access consistent mental health information. This would be a long-term programme and be embedded in schools.

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The representatives addressed a number of questions and concluded by advising that, following the launch of the report, the Youth Forum, along with its partner organisations, had commenced work to raise awareness of the campaign with young people and would be engaging with decision makers around the report's recommendations, hence the reason for their attendance at Committee.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, commended the Youth Forum representatives for their enthusiasm and for the role that the Youth Forum had played in the delivery of the report and promotion of mental health awareness.

Noted.

Matters referred Back from Council/ Motions

Inter-Generational Loneliness

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 7th January, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Alderman Spence, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"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."

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Mullan addressed the Committee and outlined her concern regarding the widespread problems associated with inter-generational loneliness and social isolation. She stated that, whilst she commended the good work already being undertaken by the Council, she urged it to develop this work further by developing an interagency approach to help address this emerging issue.

The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would give consideration as to how the Council could develop its current partnership working to further support the problems associated with inter-generational loneliness and social isolation.

Robinson Centre

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 7th January, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council opposes the naming of the new Council leisure facility on the land at Montgomery Road as "The Robinson Centre" and agrees that this facility be renamed in accordance with Council policy.

The naming of any Council facility must be inclusive and welcoming to all. The previous centre on this land was named "The Robinson Centre" and was within the Castlereagh Borough Council area before the changes in council boundaries when councils reduced in number from twenty-six to eleven. This is a new facility and must come under existing Council policy.

Belfast City Council's policy is clear. A person must be deceased for at least five years before any park or leisure facility can be named after them."

Councillor O'Hara, the proposer of the motion, addressed the Committee and outlined her reasons as to why she felt that the facility should be given a new name. She explained that, as it was a new facility, it should be named in line with the Council's Naming Policy to ensure it was a unique, inclusive and welcoming space for all.

A number of the Members disputed that this was a new centre and stated that it was instead a replacement facility, therefore, there was no justification or need for it to be renamed. A Member stated that the centre had been referred to as the Robinson Centre in all promotional material throughout the Leisure Transformation Programme.

Another Member suggested that the proposal to rename the facility was politically motivated.

The City Solicitor referred to the Council's Naming Policy (2008) and stated that the provisions for naming and renaming of a facility were contained within the same appendix. He advised that they were broadly the same, however, where there was to be a renaming, consideration would have to be given to the historical context of the original name before seeking to change it. He confirmed that, from a legal position, the Council had absolute discretion in regard to the naming/renaming of any of its facilities, subject to consultation and to an equality assessment.

A number of Members referred to Belfast City Council's naming policy and highlighted that it stated that 'a person must be deceased for at least five years before any park or leisure facility can be named after them', therefore, in their opinion, the current name did not comply with the Policy. They also highlighted that it had repeatedly been referred to as a new facility on the Council's website.

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Following a further query, the City Solicitor clarified that, if the Council was to proceed with a public consultation, it would take into consideration the public's comments and recommendations but, ultimately, the final naming would be a Council decision.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

That the wording of the motion be amended with the replacement of the final sentence with the following:

“Mindful of Belfast City Council’s Naming Policy in regard to naming its facilities and the criteria as stipulated within it”.

The Committee agreed to the motion as amended.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Magennis,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

“That a City-wide consultation would be undertaken to enable ratepayers to have an input into the naming of the facility.”

On a recorded vote, eleven Members voted for the proposal and seven against, and it was declared carried.

<u>For 11</u>	<u>Against 7</u>
Councillors Baker, Black, Corr, Heading, Lyons, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCusker, McReynolds and Magee.	Aldermen Copeland, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Corr, Johnston, Newton and Pankhurst.

After discussion it was further agreed that, prior to the consultation, a report would be submitted to the Committee which would outline the detail of the consultation exercise to be undertaken.

Committee/Strategic Issues

**Minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries & Crematorium
Development Working Group**

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 19th December, the following key items had been considered:

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- update on the Headstone Foundation Policy;
- update in respect of the National Association of Funeral Directors. The Committee was advised the President of the N. I. Federation of National Association of Funeral Directors had been invited to attend the next Strategic Cemeteries Working Group to discuss the Federation's concerns regarding the current legislation relating to all aspects of bereavement. All Members of the People and Communities Committee would receive an invitation to attend; and
- update on the capital works associated with the new crematorium facility at Roselawn.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 19th December 2018.

Update on the Reference Group on Older People

The Committee was advised that a meeting of the Reference Group on Older People had been held on 12th December and the Director of City Services had provided a brief overview of the items that had been considered, which included:

- Walking Football - Danderball;
- Age-friendly Belfast Convention and launch of the Age-friendly Belfast Plan;
- Korber Foundation Symposium on Demographic Change;
- Welcome Meeting Room;
- UK Network of Age-Friendly Communities Steering Group;
- Age-Friendly Belfast Communities Steering Group;
- Age-friendly Belfast Positive Ageing Month 2018;
- Age-friendly Belfast Older Volunteer Awards; and
- Age-friendly Belfast Events;

The Director advised that members of the Greater Belfast Seniors' Forum had requested the use of a City centre meeting area to be used as a discussion platform and as a means to coordinate its work and to help combat isolation. The group had asked officers to explore the possibility of a room in the City Hall.

The Committee was advised that the Reference Group had suggested that the Welcome Room in the City Hall might be a suitable location but this idea needed to be further explored.

The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Reference Group on Older People held on 12th December 2018; and
- agreed that a detailed proposal be developed to pilot the use of the Welcome Room in the City Hall as a drop-in space for older people on two days per week, which would then be submitted to the relevant Committee for its consideration.

Physical Programme/Asset Management

Partner Agreement - Ulidia Playing Fields

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

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise committee of additional challenges faced by the Partner Agreement holder following development of the site, to seek permission to revise the current Partner Agreement at Ulidia Playing Fields for the duration of the Agreement and to advise committee that Rosario YC intends to seek an alternative management model in the form of a long term lease.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is asked to consider the requested additional support by Rosario YC and the two options as outlined below and:

- to agree to option 2 based on the budgetary impact outlined at 3.8
- to note Rosario YC’s desire to submit a detailed proposal to Council describing their proposed Management model based on a long term lease. A proposal will be brought to a future committee.

Option 1

2.2 Revise the terms within the existing Partner Agreement at Ulidia Playing Fields to include an additional financial payment of up to £2,000 per month for staff costs subject to vouching of fully evidenced expenditure or

Option 2

2.3 Revise the terms within the existing Partner Agreement at Ulidia Playing Fields to review keyholding requirements and provide additional facility management through Mobile Facilities Attendants

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** Ulidia Playing Fields is subject to a Partner Agreement with Rosario YC. The Agreement is for a term of five years to the last day of August 2020 with an option to extend for a further two years. The Partner Agreement requires the Club to deliver sports development outcomes based on the Club's annual plan and to assume responsibility for day to day operation of the site including key holding, cleaning, security, health and safety duties etc. Council supports the Club in the form of four quarterly payments of £5,000 based on satisfactory delivery of the sports development plan and compliance with operational requirements.
- 3.2** Over the last number of months the site has been closed and Rosario YC's development programmes have been displaced to other venues. This closure was to facilitate Council's redevelopment of the site with the installation of a floodlit synthetic pitch which, subject to completion of planned works, will be available for use in January 2019.
- 3.3** A meeting was held at the beginning of December 2018, attended by political representatives, club representatives and officers. Rosario YC made a presentation highlighting the scale and scope of the Club's activities, how their activities support the Belfast Agenda and other relevant strategies, their vision for further development of the site in the future and their ambition to assume full responsibility for running the site.
- 3.4** The Club highlighted their concerns that the development of the site to include the synthetic floodlit pitch will now require them to operate well beyond their original commitment due to the intensified hourly use, extended opening hours and the move from seasonal to yearlong programming. They further identified additional risks to site users in particular control of parking due to higher volumes of traffic with concurrent bookings at evenings, weekends and outside daylight hours.
- 3.5** The Club has requested that Council provide an additional monthly amount of £2,000 to support them in creating part-time posts to operate the site to Council's standards for the term of the Partner Agreement. These duties are currently carried out by Club volunteers as such costs are not eligible as part of the Sports Plan budget.
- 3.6** An alternative solution would be for Council to review the Club's keyholding requirement and provide additional requirements through our Mobile Facilities Attendants. The table below indicates the current typical usage levels and the anticipated usage levels from the redeveloped facility.

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	No. of weeks per annum	No. of hours per week (per year)	No. of vehicle movements per week (per year)
Current	36	14 (504)	150 (5,400)
Anticipated	52	60 (3,120)	1,500 (78,000)
Additional	16	46 (2,392)	1,350 (70,200)

- 3.7 The Club's presentation described their vision for the site to include a new changing pavilion and meeting rooms. They requested that Council permits a long term lease which would allow them to access significant external funding to deliver their vision. They further stated that they have secured commitment for a loan in the amount of £250,000 from the Ulster Community Investment Trust and that through their own prudent financial management have accumulated reserves of £100,000 which they will contribute to this development.
- 3.8 Based on this, the Club has advised Council of their intention to develop a detailed long term business plan for Ulidia Playing Fields with a view to them, subject to the necessary approvals, taking a long term lease of the site from January 2020. A further report will be brought to committee with a detailed proposal.
- 3.9 **Financial Implications**
- Option 1** - An amount of £24,000 per annum will be required to support this request, there is no allowance for this within existing estimates.
- Option 2** - The cost of providing Mobile Facility Attendant cover is within existing Parks budgets.
- 3.11 The financial impact of offering a lease of the site will be determined following assessment of the Club's proposal and detailed business plan
- 3.12 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no additional impacts related to this report."

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided the Committee with an update report in respect of the Council's current Partner Agreement with Rosario Youth Football Club for Ulidia Playing Fields. She referred to the request from Rosario Youth Football Club to revise the current arrangements that had arisen as a direct result of the recently completed redevelopment works, which had included the installation of a floodlit synthetic pitch. She detailed that, during recent discussion, the Club had advised that the redeveloped site would now require greater operational responsibility that was beyond those agreed in the original partner agreement.

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The Director referred the Members to the two proposed options as outlined in the report. She highlighted that no budget existed within the estimates for Option 1 and that an amount of £24,000 per annum would be required to support this option. She further advised the Members that it was Rosario's intention to develop and submit to the Council a detailed long term business plan for Ulidia Playing fields with a view to the Club, subject to the necessary approval, taking on a long term lease of the site from January 2020, therefore, any decision taken currently would be an interim measure.

The Director of Finance and Resources reiterated that this expenditure had not been included within the proposed estimates for 2019/20 therefore option 2 was the only viable option.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillors Boyle and Craig addressed the Committee and outlined their support for Option 1.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which a number of the Members voiced their support for Option 1. Whilst the Members recognised that no allowance had been made in the current estimates for the increased expenditure, it was suggested that, given that this would be an interim measure, the required expenditure could be met from in-year departmental budgets.

The Committee agreed:

- to revise the terms within the existing Partner Agreement at Ulidia Playing Fields to include an additional financial payment of up to £2,000 per month for staff costs for the period 2019/20 to be met from in-year departmental budgets;
- that the funding would be subject to vouching of fully evidenced expenditure;
- that all future funding (post 2019/20) would be considered within the context of the rate setting process; and
- noted that Rosario Youth Football Club had agreed to submit a detailed proposal describing its proposed Management model based on a long term lease and that this would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Operational Issues

Proposal for Naming New Streets

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Hawthornden Grange, off Hawthornden Road, BT4 and Belmore Way, off Shore Road, BT14.

Dual Language

A Member suggested that a standalone dual language street naming policy be introduced for the Gaeltacht Quarter and asked officers to investigate this further.

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The Building Control Manager undertook to discuss the legalities of a standalone policy for this area with Legal Services and the Equality and Diversity Unit and to provide an update to the Committee in due course.

The Committee further approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Hawthorn Hill, Shanlieve Road, Benraw Green, Benraw Terrace, Benraw Road, Glen Manor, Glencourt and Brooke Manor.

Responsible Dog Ownership

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Dog fouling remains a persistent problem in parts of the city and the purpose of this report is to provide the update required by Members at the August 2018 meeting on the work that is carried out by the Community Awareness Team and the Dog Warden Service to tackle the issue of dog fouling.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Note the contents of the report.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Dog fouling can impact neighbourhoods and whilst the majority of dog owners exercise responsible dog management there are a small number of owners who do not and this can have a detrimental impact on areas of the city. Dog fouling requires on going resources to address in terms of its removal from the streets, as well as providing a wide range of education and awareness programmes together with the use of fines where infringements are detected.

The Dog Warden Service deploy routine monitoring patrols, to detect dog fouling incidents, however, it is widely recognised that the problem of dog fouling cannot be addressed solely by enforcement intervention. To encourage a change in behaviour, a wider programme supporting responsible dog ownership is an essential element of the Council’s approach to reducing levels of dog fouling throughout the city. This report summarises the activities undertaken by the Community Awareness Team and the Dog Warden Service to address the issue of dog fouling.

3.2 Community awareness

The Community Awareness Team has a project plan detailing a range of activities through educational, promotional and community based programmes scheduled throughout the course of each year, which aims to highlight the problems of dog fouling and includes the following.

3.3 Dog fouling advertising campaign

The advertising associated with the dog-fouling element of the council's anti-litter campaign for this year commenced in July and will run in cycles through until 31 March 2019. A budget of £74,120 has been allocated to marketing the anti-dog fouling message. The campaign utilises general activity throughout the whole of the council area, e.g. bus T sides, commuter cards and radio. In addition, a targeted blitz was organised in four geographical areas, north, south, east and west, consisting of newspaper adverts, adshels, 48 sheets for billboards, etc. with the message 'Dog Wardens are patrolling in (e.g. south) Belfast'.

Targeted area based activity was undertaken during the following dates:

South Monday 24th Sept – Sat 6th Oct 2018
West Monday 8th Oct – Sat 20th Oct 2018
North Monday 22nd Oct – Sat 3rd Nov 2018
East Monday 5th Nov – Sat 17th Nov 2018

In addition, all cleansing vehicles have been branded with the current campaign graphics reinforcing the fine for dog fouling; this allows for a consistent campaign message to be delivered into neighbourhoods throughout the year.

3.4 Community outreach activities

The Community Awareness Team has attended 38 events throughout the summer months, in our parks and open spaces, reinforcing the anti-fouling message, this has included the use of our animated characters 'Captain Clean Up' and 'Scoop Dog' which have been very successful at engaging the community and encouraging responsible dog ownership.

The Community Awareness team deliver a supply of bags to all our community centres routinely throughout the year and direct requests for bags to the centres for local collection. In addition, dog bags can be collected from the Cecil Ward Building.

We have provision to supply dog bags to specific community groups – e.g. Half Moon Lake requested bags for users of the park; we are able to extend provision of bags to other interested groups on request.

The team undertake a number of planned community targeted programmes throughout the year. 'The Bill Board Challenge' is scheduled for early 2019, this encourages groups to design a billboard highlighting environmental issues which impact on their local area. In doing so the community takes ownership of their local area and as the winning designs are placed in the group's own area they are given an opportunity to change behaviour in their neighbourhood. From previous projects, we anticipate that communities will use this opportunity to challenge their neighbours to be responsible dog owners.

3.5 Education provision

The risks and consequences of dog fouling is included in all our school's workshops and specific projects. Last year the Team undertook 268 school visits.

3.6 Targeted enforcement by the Dog Warden Service

The Dog Warden Service operates from 08.00 hours to 20.00 hours seven days a week and undertakes a range of legislative duties relating to dog control including stray dogs, dog attack investigations, dangerous dogs and dog fouling. The Team is organised on a geographical area basis to ensure that resources are targeted efficiently and effectively. This approach enhances Dog Wardens' local geographical knowledge of hot spot and problematic areas that can be targeted on a proactive basis, thus increasing opportunities to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling. In order to enhance the patrols undertaken by the Dog Wardens, the following operational arrangements have been introduced:

- The Dog Control Manager and the Dog Wardens liaise with the area cleansing management teams and other enforcement staff in their respective areas to discuss priority areas and hotspots.
- A structured area-working plan was implemented earlier this year to optimise resources to assist in improving targeted performance management. This involves a dedicated dog fouling patrol for the duration of each shift as well as other patrols in the mornings and evenings where resources permit.
- There has been an increased focus on signage throughout the city with all of the signage being updated

and located in areas where dog-fouling hotspots are identified by the Cleansing Management teams.

3.7 Dog fouling campaign evaluation

Independent research undertaken by Kantar Millward Brown in March 2017 to evaluate the impact and awareness of the dog fouling campaign reported a very low incidence of individuals admitting to have allowed their dog to foul in the previous six months. In terms of awareness of advertising on the subject of dog fouling 72% of dog owners said they had heard or seen something. The key themes recalled were features of the recent campaign, in particular, pick up or pay up / £80 fine, demonstrating a strong cut through in current messaging. Recall of the correct fine amount was improved compared to that seen in previous evaluation undertaken in 2014 (45%, compared with 38%) and three-fifths (63%) said they thought the campaign was effective, again an increase from previous research. The success of the campaign and the increased awareness of the level of fines and the risk associated with dog fouling through our education provision appears to be having a positive impact on the increased level of responsible dog ownership observed by our officers. This is further evidenced by the reducing number of complaints of fouling received per month by the Dog Warden Service over the period of the campaign as set out in the table below.

Table 1: Number of complaints of dog fouling per month (average) received by Dog Warden Service since April 2016.

2016/2017	2017/2018	2018 (until Nov)
120	109	84

3.8 Dog control in parks and cemeteries

Members will be aware that dog fouling in our parks and cemeteries is also an issue and a phased approach to dealing with this was set out in a report to Committee in August of this year. Planning for Phase 1 is ongoing and the anticipated timeframe is spring 2019. It will incorporate the following elements:

- An education and awareness campaign targeted at hotspots, emphasising that our parks are shared spaces and that dogs need to be kept on leads
- That off lead dog enclosures are piloted in Falls, Orangefield and Clement Wilson Parks

- An enforcement campaign in City Cemetery to combat dog fouling and to raise awareness that dogs are not permitted in cemeteries.

3.9 Additional proposed community project for 2019

The Green Dog Walkers scheme is a UK wide community-based campaign to change attitudes about dog fouling. The Community Awareness Team are researching the scheme with a proposed launch date in early 2019. Dog owners and dog walkers support the scheme by signing a pledge to clean up after their pets. They support other owners to do the same by giving dog bags on request. Participants in the schemes are identified by a tag or lead indicating that they are responsible dog owners demonstrating the importance of cleaning up dog fouling. Although this will be a city wide scheme it will tie in with the education and awareness campaign being planned for parks and cemeteries.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no additional financial implications associated with the programme of work already planned in the revenue budget aimed at reducing levels of dog fouling through behavioural change and enforcement. The financial implications in relation to the development of dogs off lead enclosures will, as far as possible, be met within existing resources.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the report.

Listening Post re: 'Home for Insects and Memories' at Botanic Gardens & Waterworks

The Committee considered a report which sought permission to site a temporary listening post as part of the 'Home for Insects and Memories' project at both Botanic Gardens and the Waterworks Park.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that, as part of the Council's bid for City of Culture 2022, the Council had commissioned a number of projects, one of which included a 'Homes for insects and memories' project. She explained that the project worked with older people across the City and supported them in sharing their stories and memoirs of nature past and present.

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Working with local artists, participants had developed their stories to be included on ten interactive listening points across the City area. Each would provide access for the public to listen to participant's experiences of growing up in and around the nature of the City.

The Committee authorised the temporary installation of two listening stations over a five day period during February 2019, to coincide with Science Week, within Botanic Gardens and the Waterworks Park.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Bin Collections over Christmas Period – Councillor Lyons to Raise

The Committee was provided with an overview of a situation that had arisen prior to Christmas which had given rise to some missed bin collections over the festive period.

Following a query, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services provided a brief overview and confirmed that management were due to commence discussions with the Trade Unions to try to resolve any outstanding issues.

The Members asked that the Committee's thanks be recorded to the staff who had worked extremely hard in attempting to resume the waste collections as quickly as possible.

Noted.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Monday, 21st January, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland, Rodgers, Sandford; and
Councillors Black, Corr, Heading, Magennis,
Magee and McCusker.

Also attended: Councillor McGimpsey.

In attendance: 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 Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor Baker, McReynolds, Newton and Pankhurst.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

The Front Row Union

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 9th October, it was reported that Mr. John McMurtry, Miss. Beth Cregan and Miss. Vicky Irwin, representing The Front Row Union (FRU), were in attendance to provide an overview of the organisation's work in regard to the Promotion and Development of Women in Sport.

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

Mr. McMurtry proceeded to outline the background to the organisation. He explained that the FRU provided coverage of rugby in Ireland via its website www.frontrowunion.com and through its various social media outlets. Under the headline coverage of Ulster Rugby and Irish Rugby, the organisation provided comprehensive media coverage of Women's Rugby, Club Rugby, U20 Rugby and Schools Rugby in Ireland. It was fully Media Accredited by the sport's governing body, World Rugby, and it promoted Irish male and female participation in World Rugby events.

The representative advised that the FRU was currently supporting three Elite Ulster Women Players by providing financial assistance, training equipment and individual development and welfare plans which included access to personal training facilities and

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sports therapy treatment. He advised that two of those players, Beth and Vicky, were in attendance and the third was currently away on Ireland 7s duties in Australia.

The representative advised that women in sport were generally underrepresented in media coverage, therefore, since 2010 it had either directly or indirectly, through clubs, provided financial assistance to every Ulster based Irish Women's International. This was particularly the case with Women's Rugby in Ulster and the rest of Ireland.

He explained that, as well as financial assistance, the FRU had also been able to offer development opportunities through media. It had sponsored two Elite Ulster Women's Players and an undergraduate journalism student as part of its media team for the recent coverage of the 2018 U20 World Championships in Narbonne and the 2018 HSBC Rugby World Sevens Series in Paris. This had been a particularly successful venture as one of the players was now a fully accredited photographer. The other player and the journalism student had also gained full media accreditation and had interviewed four current Women's Rugby World Championships and three Women's Sevens Olympic Champions, amongst others.

Mr. McMurtry advised that the FRU felt that it was important that today's youth understood the impact and influence of the media and how to use it to promote positive stories for their communities.

In terms of rugby, he detailed the expanding opportunities that existed for the Front Row Union Team as follows:

- the smooth transition of young players from underage rugby to senior rugby;
- to showcase the talents of older players who had recently taken up the sport;
- to challenge all the players through increased leadership responsibilities within the team environment; and
- to highlight areas of improvement in their individual and collective games.

He also detailed the many opportunities that existed for the players in both rugby and media as follows:

- International Club U18 7 a side tournament in Belfast;
- International Club U20 10 a side tournament in Belfast;
- Invitational International standard side (U23) to play International opposition throughout Ulster;
- Ireland Women's Home Six Nations – media coverage;
- Ireland U20 Home Six Nations - media coverage;
- World Rugby Women's Sevens Series – media coverage in Canada; and
- World Rugby Women's Sevens Series – media coverage in Paris.

Ms. Cregan and Ms. Irwin addressed the Committee and provided a brief overview of the many opportunities that they had received, through both rugby and media, as a result of their involvement with the FRU.

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Mr. McMurtry concluded by stating that the FRU was a progressive, forward thinking organisation, with a commitment to the promotion of women in sport. It was fully committed to supporting the development of women's rugby and it sought the assistance of the Council in delivering this vision. He suggested that, should the FRU secure International Tournaments, the Council could assist with the provision of facilities and with the promotion of events.

The deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members, during which several of the Members commended the work of the FRU and suggested that the FRU representatives liaise with the Council's Sports Development Unit to ascertain if any funding opportunities existed through the Council's Support for Sport Scheme.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

The Community Rescue Service

The Committee was advised that, in accordance with the decision of 4th September, Mr. Sean McCarry, Regional Commander and Miss. Sharon Gibson, Regional Fundraising Officer, representing the Community Rescue Service, were in attendance to provide an update on the voluntary work of the Community Rescue Service.

Mr. McCarry commenced by explaining that the service carried out search operations between the sea and the mountains in partnership with the police and emergency services. The majority of calls that the teams of volunteers dealt with concerned vulnerable people or emergency situations. He detailed that the organisation was:

- part of the UK Structure Activity Relationship (SAR);
- a member of the Association of Lowland Search and Rescue (ALSAR);
- a regional organisation; and
- made up of 10 operational units, with over 180 operational members and 16 boats.

Mr. McCarry explained that the service had been set up in 2007 when a need for a low-land rescue operations had been identified. Previously, it had been deemed too dangerous for a volunteer-led organisation to carry out searches for missing people and the security services had taken the lead.

He proceeded to outline examples of the many rescue calls that the service received. Explaining that some of the calls were for missing people suffering from dementia, but most concerned people who were in a very distressed or in a venerable state of mind due to mental health problems.

He then provided details in relation to the level of service that the organisation had provided, to date, which included:

- 2015 – 253 high risk missing person searches and emergency responses, with over 55,000 voluntary hours given;

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- 2016 – 271 high risk missing person searches and emergency responses, with over 58,300 voluntary hours given;
- 2017 – 289 high risk missing person searches and emergency responses, with over 62,000 voluntary hours given; and
- 2018 – 404 high risk missing person searches and emergency responses, with over 80,000 voluntary hours given.

As well as search operations, the organisation also provided a blood bike service to take vital supplies, including baby milk, around the country and also night-time safety patrols in the form of foot, bike and vehicle patrols around Belfast to assist people who might have been injured or felt vulnerable during a night out. Safety patrols commenced approximately five years ago with interventions on a nightly basis, with often more than fifty individuals per year having been rescued, these included patrols of the Lagan Weir and at concerts.

The representative then provided the Members with details in respect of some of the high profile search operations that the service had been involved in during the past twelve months. He reiterated that the service was an entirely voluntary-led organisation and praised the work of the many volunteers.

Mr McCarry concluded by advising the Committee that the Community Rescue Service had been filmed for three-part BBC documentary called The Search – Finding Northern Ireland’s Missing which was scheduled to be screened tomorrow evening, Tuesday 22nd January at 10.40pm. He stated that this documentary gave a detailed insight into the work of the service and he encouraged the Members and officers to publicise it amongst their colleagues.

A number of the Members praised and thanked the Community Rescue Service for its invaluable work in the community. Mr. McCarry then answered a number of questions from the Members and the representatives retired from the meeting.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) that a report be submitted to a future meeting that would investigate if any funding opportunities existed through the Council’s current funding streams;
- (b) to investigate the current position regarding the transfer of ownership of the Lagan Lookout from the Department for Infrastructure to Belfast City Council; and
- (c) to circulate the presentation and information regarding the BBC documentary to all Elected Members.

TAMHI - Promoting Positive Mental Fitness Through Sport

In accordance with the Committee’s decision of 9th October, it was reported that Mr. Joe Donnelly, from TAMHI, was in attendance to provide an overview of the organisation’s work in regard to the power of sport to promote positive mental fitness.

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Mr. Donnelly commenced by advising that TAMHI stood for Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues. He detailed that the charity had been established in 2011 in memory of Thomas 'Tammy Tucker' McLaughlin who sadly had taken his own life in 2009.

The representative explained that TAMHI worked with sports groups to help them support the development of an infrastructure that would support positive mental fitness. He outlined the following key aims of promoting positive mental health in and through sport:

- to raise awareness within sport of the importance of positive mental fitness and how this could have an impact on physical health;
- to engage young people and young men in sport to reach out to those with mental health concerns;
- to raise awareness of the risks of self-harm and the importance of suicide prevention within sport;
- to highlight the importance of training with Governing Bodies, Mental Health Groups and clubs for their coaches and volunteers, to support them in spotting early signs of emotional difficulty and risk in current participants; and
- to create an environment where people could ask for help and support when needed.

The Committee was advised that TAMHI understood the importance of participation in sport and the positive contribution that it could make to an individual's welfare, this was especially relevant if their experience was one that reflected the many positive values of sport, to name but a few, fun, friendship, commitment, honesty, teamwork, fair competition and inclusion.

The representative then drew the Members' attention to a research study that TAMHI had undertaken in conjunction with the Ulster University that assessed if a mental health awareness programme enhanced wellbeing and reduced anxiety amongst footballers. He advised that twelve football clubs had been randomly selected and six weeks of intervention had been conducted. This had included two mental health sessions per week that had been developed by TAMHI and the following issues had been addressed: stress, bi-polar disorder, drug misuse, alcohol abuse, gambling, suicide awareness, resilience, the importance of mental fitness, bullying and the importance of asking for help. He reported that the research had demonstrated that intervention was an effective method of enhancing wellbeing and reducing anxiety. The implementation of the intervention, alongside football, had proved that, when combined, both improved mental and physical health.

Mr. Donnelly then advised the Committee of new programme 'Schools in the Community'. He explained that this programme was aimed at empowering young people to raise awareness of mental health through play. The project aimed to promote good relations, positive mental health and to tackle social issues such as bullying. He reported that the programme was aligned to LORIC (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication) and it aimed to advance the skills in young people by making them stand out and support them in the delivery of programmes to their peers. Phase one was the delivery of the Mental Wealth Games and phase two was the ILM Youth Leaders Award Level two.

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The representative concluded his presentation by outlining the following challenges that TAMHI as an organisation faced:

- it was solely grant dependant;
- it had no protect life II – therefore no opportunity to tender for contracts to deliver services as the organisation currently had no PHA access;
- limited fundraising ability; and
- extremely limited staff resources.

He advised that, apart from himself, there was also two other positions, a Resilient Active Youth Post – 16 hours and ICT Support position – 6 hours. Funding for those two positions had expired in December 2018 and he was currently trying to keep the positions open until June 2019.

During questions, the representative confirmed that he currently accessed Council funding through the small grants programme, however, he was keen to investigate if more sustainable funding was available in order to ensure the long-term future sustainability of the organisation.

He stated that he would welcome the opportunity to explore with Council officers how the work of TAMHI might fit with the Council's Peace IV programme and he would also welcome the opportunity to meet with the Council's Commissioner for Resilience.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for his informative presentation and he left the meeting.

The Director of City Services undertook to liaise with other Council officers to ascertain of links could be established which would assist TAMHI in working with the Council to maximise its opportunities and to add value to its work.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey and Rodgers;
and Councillors Beattie, Black, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham,
Hussey, Kyle, Magee, Mullan, Murphy, O'Donnell, O'Neill,
O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Howard.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 28th November and 5th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dorrian declared an interest in relation to item 4, Requests to Present to Committee – Retail NI, in that he had, in his role as a DUP Party Advisor, met with the Chief Executive of Retail NI to discuss elements of Retail NI's policy agenda during the research phase but did not get the opportunity to leave the Committee room, as the matter did not become subject to debate.

Presentations

Belfast – Dublin Rail Link/Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor

The Committee was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, had agreed to co-fund, along with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Louth County Council, Fingal County Council and Dublin City Council a pre-feasibility study on a potential Belfast - Dublin fast rail link.

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The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reported that that ARUP consultants had been commissioned to undertake that study and that Ms. D. Emerson and Mr. P. Johnson were in attendance in order to outline its main findings.

Ms. Emerson informed the Committee that rail travel was essential for supporting economic growth, insofar as it delivered reliable and fast journey times which road transport could not match. Those cities and regions across the world which had invested in rail connectivity had derived significant benefits in terms of boosting productivity and achieving global competitiveness and prosperity for their citizens. For example, the high speed rail link between the cities of Cologne and Frankfurt had halved travel times and research had shown that small market towns situated along the route had enjoyed particularly strong economic growth.

She reported that the transformation of the Belfast-Dublin rail service would address current shortcomings around, for example, journey time, frequency and reliability and would fulfil six key strategic objectives, namely, enhancing inclusive, sustainable economic growth, increasing access to a skilled workforce and job opportunities, enabling towns and cities along the economic corridor to capitalise on their strengths, supporting increased housing and commercial development, supporting international competitiveness and reducing long-term vehicle dependence. Based upon evidence from case studies, those objectives could be met by a rail service which could achieve a sixty minute journey time between Belfast and Dublin, offer at least two trains per hour (one fast and one semi-fast), provide a connection to Dublin Airport and integrate seamlessly with public transport networks along the corridor.

Ms. Emerson pointed out that the project could potentially be funded from a mix of sources, such as central taxation/City Deal, user charges, station area income, vehicle-based charges and property-related income and confirmed that the next stage of the project would focus upon the formulation of a strategic outline business case.

In response to a number of issues which had been raised by Members, she stated that no work had been undertaken around a potential route for the rail link and that, whilst the project had not been included in any of the Northern Ireland Executive's Programmes for Government, reference had been made to it within the Republic of Ireland's National Development Plan 2018 – 2027, in the context of examining the feasibility of improving connections between Dublin and Belfast.

The Chief Executive added that the proposed rail link project would not be undertaken in isolation but would sit alongside other initiatives, such as the Belfast Region City Deal, and would complement the work being undertaken with London and Dublin to internationalise the City.

Ms. Emerson and Mr. Johnson were thanked by the Chairperson.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy then provided the Committee with an update on the work which was being undertaken currently by the Economic Development Unit around the development of a Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor. He reminded the Committee that the Ulster University and Dublin City University had

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been commissioned to conduct additional research around the economic potential of the corridor and confirmed that the following key points had been identified to date:

- the population along the corridor has been growing faster than on the rest of the island, although the slowest annual population growth had been experienced within the two urban centres of Belfast and Dublin;
- the working population along the corridor was approximately 800,000, with just over half of jobs based in Belfast and Dublin;
- around 40% of businesses on the island were based along the corridor;
- jobs requiring graduates were concentrated along the corridor and were projected to grow.

He reported that the research had identified also a number of key risks to the corridor, namely, connectivity and congestion, housing availability and cost, access to skills, social inclusion, regional balance and Brexit. Key strengths included attractiveness to foreign direct investment, connections to the world through ports and airports, educational attainment and projected population growth. In addition, a number of emerging themes for local government-led collaboration had been identified, around infrastructure and connectivity, enterprise support, innovation, sector specialisms and environmental management. All of the findings would, he confirmed, be presented in full at a conference being held in the Belfast Waterfront Hall on 28th February.

The Director concluded by recommending that the Committee:

- i. note the outcome of the pre-feasibility study information which had been undertaken around the potential Belfast – Dublin rail link;
- ii. grant approval to progress, along with the four other councils, to the Strategic Outline Business stage of the project, with the Council's contribution of £30,000 to be met from within existing Departmental budgets; and
- iii. note the progress in relation to the development of the Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor, including the proposal to host an Eastern Economic Conference in the Belfast Waterfront Hall on 28th February.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Restricted Items

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of the items

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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 2019/2020

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

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration a report in relation to the establishment of the District Rate and the Estimates of Revenue Expenditure for the year 2019/2020.

He outlined the main financial pressures facing the Council over this period, together with the efficiencies, rate base projections and growth proposals, and confirmed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had, on 14th December, agreed that the cash limit for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee should be £17,118,371. He pointed out that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would, on 25th January, be required to agree the cash limits for the various Standing Committees, along with the District Rate, and that the process was required to be completed before the legislative deadline of 15th February.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee:

- i. agree a cash limit for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2019/2020 of £17,118,371 and the individual service limits;
- ii. note the next steps in the rate-setting process; and
- iii. agree that the aforementioned decisions should not be subject to call-in, on the basis that 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 15th February.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

International Events 2020/2021

The Director of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Council had, over the years, delivered a series of major national and international events, all of which had required a significant lead-in time in terms of the bid development process and the scale of the preparations.

He drew the Committee's attention to two events, namely, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile World Rally Championship and the Union of European Football Associations Super Cup which were being planned for 2020 and 2021 respectively. He reported that the Circuit of Ireland Rally organisation and the Irish Football Association had requested the Council to support their bid, which were required to be submitted by May and February, 2019, respectively, and outlined the potential costs

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and economic return for the City, should those bids be successful. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee:

- i. note the information on the bidding and possible staging in 2020 of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile World Rally Championship and in 2021 of the Union of European Football Associations Super Cup;
- ii. provide support for the Circuit of Ireland Rally organisation to bid and host the 2020 World Rally Championship and authorise officers to engage with the organisation in that process;
- iii. provide support for the Irish Football Association to bid and host the 2021 UEFA Super Cup and authorise officers to engage with the Association in that process; and
- iv. note that, should Belfast be short-listed for the staging of these events, a report would be brought back to the Committee providing an update on the progress of the projects and detailed options for the financing of the bids.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Incidents at Belfast Zoo

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

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration a report in relation to the untimely death in 2018 of three giraffes within the Belfast Zoo.

He outlined the circumstances which had led to those deaths and confirmed that all animal deaths were subject to independent scrutiny through a post mortem process and reporting in relation to the licensing and accreditation scheme. An independent review had been commissioned to examine practices at the Zoo and to investigate allegations relating to the deaths and animal welfare, facilities and husbandry generally, as a result of a separate whistleblowing complaint. Whilst the review had made some recommendations, such as the need for improvements to facilities generally and for improved escalation procedures, given that a considerable period had passed between the deaths and senior management being informed, it had found no evidence to substantiate the aforementioned allegations and had provided assurance around operational practices. He added that the Northern Ireland Environment Agency undertook regular inspections of the Zoo, under its animal husbandry and welfare remit, and that the facility had, in April, 2018, following two on-site appraisals, attained accreditation from the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria.

During discussion, several Members expressed their regret at the loss of the three giraffes and their concern at the failure to inform senior management immediately. It was

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suggested that the Committee should in future receive regular reports on the operation of the Zoo, as had been the case under the former Parks and Leisure Committee.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that an investigation into the delay in the reporting of the deaths was underway and, as had been suggested, undertook to submit to the Committee on a regular basis a report on the operation of the Zoo. In response to a Member, he stressed that support had been made available for those staff who had been impacted by the death of the giraffes.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Requests to Present to Committee

Retail NI/Grand Opera House

The Committee agreed to receive at a future meeting presentations on Retail NI's policy agenda and on the proposed restoration and development of the Grand Opera House.

(The Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Graham, in the Chair.)

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Update on Bank Buildings: City Centre Recovery Programme

The Committee was reminded that it had, since the Bank Buildings fire on 28th August, received a series of updates on the City centre recovery programme.

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer reported that the covered pedestrian walkway between Donegall Place and Royal Avenue had opened on 3rd December, which had allowed eight traders to return to their business. The walkway between Castle Street and Castle junction was scheduled to be in place by the Spring and work was continuing to secure and clear the Bank Buildings in preparation for its restoration.

She reviewed the animation programme, major attractions and environmental improvements which had been put in place by the Council to drive footfall into the City centre and aid economic recovery and highlighted the fact that footfall figures had shown a significant increase in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Interim evaluations of the animation programme and the marketing and communications campaign had revealed positive results. She added that Translink had indicated that its introduction of a range of discounted fares to the City centre over the festive season had led to an increase in passenger numbers on the previous year and that it would continue to assist the recovery programme by providing value fares. She concluded by confirming that forthcoming work would include the development of the next phase of the recovery programme and that the Council would continue to engage with retailers and other stakeholders.

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The Director of Development reviewed the 'Your Belfast Rewards' scheme which, since its introduction on 3rd December, had been extended to over two hundred local businesses and over seventy-five incentives, and confirmed that discussions were taking place around expanding the initiative. He referred to the aforementioned increase in footfall over the Christmas period and pointed out that Belfast City Centre Management was due to publish later in the month a report which would give an indication of retail spend over that period.

During discussion, a Member sought information on the proposed regeneration of Castle Street, including the potential timeframe, and suggested that footfall sensors should be installed there at the earliest opportunity. A further Member highlighted the fact that, despite some four months having passed, the Council had yet to be informed by Primark of the cause of the fire in the Bank Buildings.

In response, the City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer confirmed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting regarding the regeneration of Castle Street and undertook to raise with Bid1 the potential for placing footfall sensors in that street.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that Council officers would, as part of their ongoing discussions with Primark representatives, raise the issue of the cause of the fire in the Bank Buildings.

(The Chairperson, Councillor Lyons, in the Chair.)

Update on City Development and Regeneration

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Members are asked to note that there will be an update presentation at Committee on main developments and achievements to date under both the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) and the Council's own Physical Programme, together with future thoughts and an update on an emerging area based approach to development and regeneration. The role of Members in shaping the future development and regeneration of the city is a key feature of the presentation. A copy of the presentation will be available at the meeting.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the presentation and the proposed next steps.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** Members will be aware of the key role the Council plays in terms of driving forward regeneration within the city centre and across neighbourhoods through both the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) and through the Council's own Physical Programme.
- 3.2** Since the launch of BCCRIS in 2015, there has been significant private sector investment in the city centre which has been a game-changer in terms of city development and has transformed the landscape of the city core, with further development also under construction or planned. This includes new office accommodation, hotels, purpose built managed student accommodation and residential development. In addition the Council, through its own Physical Programme, which has a larger focus outside of the city centre, has invested in or helped to lever in well over £0.5 billion of physical investment into neighbourhoods across the city which has been transformational in terms of regenerating local areas. A summary of the key developments and achievements to date in the city centre and across the neighbourhoods under both BCCRIS and the Physical Programme will be presented at Committee.
- 3.3** Members will be aware that they have set challenging targets for the future of the city under the Belfast Agenda. The ongoing proposals and commitments under both BCCRIS and the Council's Physical Programme, together with the new opportunities afforded under the recently announced City Deal will see significant further investment in the city in the coming years. The successful delivery of these developments and projects will be critical in helping to achieve the targets under the Belfast Agenda and from this perspective the ongoing development of the city centre and physical regeneration in the wider neighbourhoods are inextricably linked.
- 3.4** Members will also be aware that any development or physical project is not just about the physical building or development itself but all have associated economic, social and environmental benefits both during the build duration but also critically well beyond this. It is therefore important to ensure that the benefits from the physical investment undertaken across the city to date, as well as planned investment, is maximised.
- 3.5** Over and above projects directly linked to BCC there is or will be further spend from across government that will have

various impacts on the lives of constituents and communities. It is therefore also important that Members seek to ensure that a strategic approach is taken to any future investment decisions both at a city centre and local area level. This includes looking at how we work best at an area level both internally and with partners across the city in terms of using data to assess needs at a city and area level, assessing opportunities for investment, funding and delivery of projects which will benefit and continue to transform the city.

- 3.6** The significant physical development and investment across the city, with more in the pipeline, can perhaps best be harnessed via an area based approach that exploits the wider economic, social and environmental regenerative benefits to be derived from physical development and also build greater connectivity in the city.
- 3.7** Area based regeneration including city centre development share a common motivation to create more than the sum of their parts through alignment, collaboration and partnership working. The emerging and proposed area based approach could involve exploring themes (e.g. quality of life; economic renewal); linking to priorities (education; employment; social isolation etc); identifying partners; exploring existing opportunities and existing Council services and programming opportunities.
- 3.8** An overview of the emerging proposals is included within the presentation. Importantly a key challenge will be developing a council policy context that ensures the connectivity both between the city centre and local areas but also between local areas themselves to maximise benefits, avoid duplication and critically build a shared, inclusive city
- 3.9** The investment to date, while welcome in moving the city's current baseline forward, remains some way from the targets as outlined in the Belfast Agenda. The Area Working approach could however be a key mechanism to helping to achieve these targets. It would of course require key partners, further agreement on plans/actions and aligned budgets together with relevant indicators and results. Members would however be key to setting this area agenda, keeping it focused, holding all parties to account and perhaps inspiring others to join in.
- 3.10** The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee has already asked that greater thought by Members is given to the planning of expenditure in terms of physical build programmes initially through the Area Working Groups but in order to optimise the regeneration benefits of such physical

development the view of the City Growth & Regeneration Committee (as well as the People & Communities Committee) will be important in terms of the emerging proposals around Area Working.

3.11 An overview of key developments and projects alongside proposed next steps in terms of an area based approach will be summarised in the presentation but some considerations for Members include:

- how best to maximise the regeneration impact of ongoing and proposed developments and physical projects;**
- overall thoughts on the emerging area based approach and the role of Members within this;**
- how to further involve other agencies /partners to ensure that investment, and critically the benefits from investment, are maximised;**
- how to maintain a critical mass of political support to build cohesive decision making;**
- how to remain focused on the big picture; and**
- how best to work with communities on area issues.**

3.12 If Members are interested in moving Area Working on, views on how best to do so would be welcome e.g. via Party Leaders/Party Groups/Area Working Groups/Post Election Workshops etc.

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

**Ongoing delivery of programmes and projects.
Officer time in working up the area based approach.**

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications associated with this report.”

The Director of Property and Property and Projects, together with the City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer, within their presentation outlined the main achievements to date under the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy and the Council’s Physical Programme and emerging proposals. It highlighted the many roles played by the Council in investment and regeneration and referred to the future opportunities afforded by, for example, the Belfast Region City Deal and private sector investment. In terms of challenges, it was pointed out that there was a requirement to identify alternative financing mechanisms, given the Council’s diminishing resources for capital investment, and for ensuring connectivity between the City centre and local areas and between local areas themselves. Reference was made also to the significant

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role to be played by Members, moving into the next Council term, in shaping the future of the City.

During discussion, Members highlighted a number of areas which should be afforded consideration moving forward, including the need to promote city centre living, to address vacant buildings along arterial routes, to develop a stronger communications plan to publicise the Council's regeneration programme and achievements and to regenerate the Grosvenor Road, in the context of the Belfast Transport Hub. It was suggested that workshops be held on a regular basis to assist Members in the overall process.

The Director of Property and Projects welcomed the comments and confirmed that Members would have an opportunity to make further suggestions in the lead up to workshops which would take place early in the new Council term.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and paid tribute to the Director of Property and Projects, the City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer and their staff on their success in delivering a wide range of projects across the City.

Clifton Gateway Public Realm Scheme

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer 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 proposed Clifton Gateway project, which is a DfC led comprehensive public realm improvement scheme running from the junction of Donegall Street and Royal Avenue/York Street, north through Clifton Street and Carlisle Circus and then along the Crumlin Road to its junction with Agnes Street and Cliftonpark Avenue. (A draft, developed design has been circulated to the Committee).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- DfC proposals for a comprehensive public realm scheme running from the junction of Donegall Street and Royal Avenue/York Street, north through Clifton Street and Carlisle Circus and then along the Crumlin Road to its junction with Agnes Street and Cliftonpark Avenue; and**

- the intention to commence a programme of public consultation and engagement in the first quarter of 2019 in relation to the design proposals, which will form part of a pending planning process.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 During 2011/2012, DfC (then DSD) commissioned White Young Green and the Paul Hogarth Company to develop designs for a public realm scheme known as the Clifton Gateway Public Realm project and planning permission was obtained for various elements of the scheme. However, DfC/DSD did not progress proposals further at that time due to government restructuring and a lack of available funding. The project re-started in 2016 and a new competition to appoint a design team was undertaken by DfC, with AECOM being appointed in June 2017.

3.2 This Clifton Gateway Public Realm Project has recently come under the governance and stewardship of the DfC led Belfast Streets Ahead (BSA) Public Realm Programme Board structure, which includes the Council's Lead Officer for City Regeneration and Development and the Director of Property & Projects. It is proposed by DfC that the project will be taken forward as follows in a two-stage approach, with the first part being design and the second phase being construction of the new public realm:

- (i) Stages 0 - 3 (Strategic Definition – Developed Design): estimated completion September 2019; and
- (ii) Stages 4 – 7 (Technical Design – In Use): completion and end of Defects Period estimated as January 2023.

3.3 Work to complete an Economic Appraisal for the construction phase has commenced and the project is scheduled to move to the next stage during 2019. This will include the development of designs and the submission of a planning application.

Strategic Context: Inner North West Masterplan

3.4 In November 2018, the Council approved the Inner North West (INW) Masterplan which seeks to support and shape city centre development in an area bounded by the Millfield/Carrick Hill road to the northwest, College Street to the south, Fountain Street to Fountain Lane to the south and Royal Avenue to the east. It covers 7.2 hectares or 42.4 acres and, at its northern boundary includes Donegall Street,

Carrick Hill and Clifton Street which form part of the Clifton Gateway proposals.

- 3.5 The Clifton Street junction is a key gateway into the city and often seen as a barrier for the surrounding city centre communities. It is poorly connected in terms of cycle links whilst pollution, multiple crossings and navigating a cluttered footpath characterises the pedestrian experience. The Clifton Street/Carrick Hill junction is a major challenge in terms of connecting people and improving access to the city centre, and is an issue that has been raised on multiple occasions during the INW consultation. To address these problems, the Masterplan proposes an updated pedestrian and cycle environment with a tree planted boulevard along the inner ring road as well as updated crossings.
- 3.6 Discussions have already taken place with DfC in relation to the development of an INW delivery plan following the Masterplan, which will identify short, medium and long-term projects. Of particular relevance to the Clifton Gateway is the desire to bring forward additional public realm improvements where funding permits, including at the junctions and pedestrian crossing points along Millfield and Carrick Hill. The Clifton Gateway also supports the wider aims of the INW Masterplan to improve linkages to surrounding city centre communities and create pedestrian and cycle-friendly routes that will enhance connections and provide a welcoming environment and attractive streetscape.

Detailed Design of proposed Clifton Street Gateway Public Realm: Key Issues for consideration

- 3.7 There are outstanding transport issues requiring clarification during the development of the detailed/technical design. In particular, these relate to DfI's road layout requirements for the Carrick Hill/Donagall Street/Clifton Street junction, Carlisle Circus and whether the Antrim Road will form part of the BRT2 route. Another key issue for consideration will be how best to include pedestrian/cyclist priority within the project designs, including how the design proposals strengthen the cycling/walking connections between the City Centre communities to the north of the city centre.
- 3.8 With regard to stakeholder and community engagement, AECOM has conducted initial consultations with the Council, DfI, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Utility providers. No further public consultation has taken place since 2011/12 when there were some initial discussions with community groups including the incorporation of Public Art in the

proposals. DfC propose that AECOM will re-start public consultation on the new proposals for 12 weeks from 24th January 2019 to coincide with preparatory work on the pre-application stage of submission of the planning application

- 3.9** As part of the 2011/2012 designs, fourteen potential public art locations and associated proposals were developed for the project area to complement the Cultural Corridor concept previously developed by the Council. In the intervening period, the National Lottery's Great Place scheme has awarded £237,700 to the North Belfast – Old to New project which will focus on one of Belfast's most historic areas, a one-mile stretch of North Belfast starting in Donegall Street and ending on the Crumlin Road. The aim is to focus on the area's unique built heritage and authentic character as a catalyst for sustainable regeneration, with cultural and educational organisations working together to develop a cohesive place-based plan to showcase the heritage of this part of the city. The DfC Project Team are currently investigating how best to incorporate art and culture into the Clifton Gateway project.
- 3.10** Officers are currently working with DfC to inform the detailed design of the proposed scheme and discussions include potential for sign posting of cultural heritage assets; improved lighting and opportunities for public art and enhanced soft landscaping.
- 3.11** Financial and Resource Implications
- Project is being delivered and funded via DfC.
- 3.12** Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
- No specific equality or good relations implications at this time."

During discussion, a Member referred to a public realm scheme which was due to commence on the Oldpark Road and suggested that the Council should discuss with the Department for Communities the possibility of extending it as far as the Cliftonpark Avenue/Crumlin Road junction.

In response, the City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer confirmed that the Member would have an opportunity to raise his suggestion through the public consultation process for the Clifton Gateway Public Realm Scheme, which was due to open shortly. In addition, the Council was represented on the Belfast Streets Ahead Public Realm Programme Board, which was overseeing the delivery of the aforementioned public realm schemes, and officers would raise the issue within that forum.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Strategic Review of Belfast Bikes Scheme

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 a draft terms of reference for a strategic review of the 'Just Eat' Belfast Bikes scheme. The aim of the review is to carry out analysis of the current scheme network, assess options for maximising usage and consider recommendations for sustainable and inclusive growth.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider the proposed terms of reference for the Just Eat Belfast Bikes and, if appropriate, agree the scope of the review. Members will receive future reports detailing outcomes of the strategic review and any associated resource implications.**

Key Issues

3.1 Scope of the review

It is proposed to undertake a comprehensive strategic review of the Just Eat Belfast Bikes scheme and make recommendations for the future management, operation and potential expansion of the scheme. In particular, the review will assess options for maximising usage of the existing network as well as potential to reduce costs and increase income from usage of the scheme. The review will also consider an approach for any potential sustainable growth of the scheme and future contract management.

3.2 Phase 1 - Assessment of the current network.

This will involve detailed analysis of the current scale, coverage and density of the network. The following factors will be considered:

- station location;**
- usage of each station – rentals and returns;**
- capacity of the station – too big or too small;**
- customer feedback;**

- review of operational issues such as vandalism, security and rebalancing; and
- Members' aspirations

3.3 Phase 2 - Review of scheme objectives

The review will carry out analysis to establish if the scheme is meeting the following objectives set at project initiation and whether any other objectives need to be added:

- To support an increase in the modal share for cycling in Belfast and reduce dependency on cars particularly for short trips;
- To improve the health of residents by encouraging a healthier way to travel;
- To give our residents and visitors greater access to places that are beyond reach on foot through an affordable, sustainable transport system;
- Support access to employment and services by linking city centre locations;
- To reduce greenhouse gas and ambient pollution emissions from road transport; and
- To improve the image of Belfast and normalise cycling.

3.4 In particular, a political decision will need to be made on the overall objectives of the Scheme and its roll-out to residential areas. If this is to be a long term objective, then finance will be needed.

3.5 Phase 3 - System review

The review will consider the design quality of infrastructure and innovation. Options will be considered with the operator and supplier on how the infrastructure and management system can be improved. The following issues will be considered:

- Infrastructure specification – bike and docking point design;
- Vandal proofing;
- App / Website; and
- Innovation in security and asset tracking.

3.6 Phase 4 – Pricing review (membership and usage charges)

A new pricing structure was introduced in April 2018. The review will involve an analysis of scheme statistics to assess how the pricing changes impacted on membership, usage and rental income over the 12 month period (April 2018

– April 2019). The review will make recommendations on any proposed adjustments to the pricing structure based on the evidence.

3.7 Phase 5 – Future expansion

The review will consider existing scheme coverage and identify options for potential expansion. It is proposed that expansion of the scheme will be considered against the following key criteria:

Supporting Network – The network will be reviewed to consider gaps in provision. Docking stations should be part of a supporting strategic network;

Sustainable growth - Docking stations should ideally be located in areas of high footfall to ensure that the areas will generate sufficient subscriptions/income and can be operationally managed within the context of the wider scheme;

Stakeholder feedback - engagement with stakeholders and a possible public survey to obtain information on usage behaviour, user profiles and ideas for future expansion;

Asset mapping - A range of assets can be mapped including public transport provision (existing and planned), car parking and cycling infrastructure; tourist sites; planned/ proposed development sites (hotels, offices, student housing etc) and leisure and community centres; and

Quantitative data analysis - A range of socio-economic and health data including population and employment density, deprivation indices etc

3.8 Phase 6 - Financial Sustainability

The business model for any future expansion (capital and revenue) is a key element of the review. This section will consider the estimated costs of designing, building and operating any future expansion. This will involve the exploration of any potential revenue generation options which may be viable and any potential funding sources.

3.9 On-going contract management

It is proposed that the current contract for on-going operation and management of the scheme is reviewed. The current contract was awarded to NSL in April 2015 for an initial period of six years subject to annual renewal up nine years. In addition, there is a separate contract for the sponsorship of Belfast Bikes which will also be subject to the review.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

Any resource implications associated with the proposed recommendations will be highlighted in future reports.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.11 None.”

During discussion, it was suggested that consideration be given to using developer contributions to fund the expansion of the scheme, to securing one-off sponsorships from businesses and to involving organisations, such as Men Sheds, in the maintenance of bikes. Various locations across the City were also identified as potential docking stations.

The Director of Economic Development indicated that these issues would be taken into account as part of the strategic review process.

After discussion, the Committee approved the terms of reference for the strategic review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme and noted that it would receive at its next meeting details of the proposed timeframe for the review.

Department for Communities’ Access and Inclusion Capital Programme

The Committee was advised that the Department for Communities had invited councils across Northern Ireland to administer its Capital Inclusion Programme Access and Inclusion Capital Programme, which sought to improve access to arts and cultural activities by people with disabilities across Northern Ireland.

The Director of Economic Development reported that £750,000 had been allocated in total to the programme and that applicants could, on the basis of demonstrable need and potential impact, secure funding of up to £30,000. Council-owned arts and cultural venues would be eligible to apply, as well as independently operated arts and cultural venues or organisations. Whilst there was no match funding requirement on behalf of councils, they had been requested by the Department for Communities to raise awareness of the programme amongst cultural organisations in their area, to assist them in the application process, where appropriate, and to work with successful applicants to ensure that funding was accounted for and that expenditure was in keeping with their application. He added that the closing date for applications was 18th January, following which eligible projects would be ranked in accordance with pre-agreed criteria.

The Committee endorsed the Council’s role in the Department for Communities’ Access and Inclusion Capital Programme, as outlined.

Site Visit – ‘Building Blocks’ Development

The Committee was informed that an invitation had been received from Bywater Properties to visit its proposed Building Blocks development in the Smithfield area of the City.

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy reported that the proposed development was located within the Inner Northwest Masterplan area and that the Belfast Planning Service was assessing currently an outline planning application for mixed-use buildings in Gresham Street, North Street and Winetavern Street and a full planning application for the first phase of the development. In that context, he pointed out that, should the site visit be approved, those Members who were also on the Planning Committee could attend but could not comment on any aspect of the development.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to undertake the site visit.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

**Progression of the Cultural Programme –
Festivals and Events Update**

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

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy 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 Members with an update on the implementation of recommendations for the development of Events and Festivals in Belfast and to agree an interim position for 2019/20.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- **note the contents of this report and agree to allocate funding as outlined in 3.16; and**
- **agree that Council officers develop and deliver a programme to support growth festivals in 2019/20, subject to Committee approving the breakdown of funding allocations.**

3.0 Main Report

Background

3.1 At the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 5th December, it was agreed that further

consideration should be given to an interim position for events and festivals in advance of the implementation of a new cultural strategy from April 2020 onwards. It was agreed that a report would be taken to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider allocating additional funding to support Signature and Growth Events and Festivals in 2019/20. Subsequently, at the December meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Members agreed to allocate a budget of £320,000 for this purpose. This was allocated from the specified reserve for the development of a long term cultural programme.

- 3.2** The background to the proposed approach is a series of key recommendations from the Events and Festivals strategy commissioned by Council from consultants Festival and Events International (FEI).

The brief for this work included:

- a review of current portfolio;
- consultation with stakeholders including funders and existing events/festivals;
- benchmarking how events and festivals are funded and delivered in other cities;
- consideration of pre and post event impact modelling
- consideration of future structures for delivery; and
- making recommendations for the identification, securing, funding and delivery of events and festivals in Belfast.

- 3.3** The recommendations cover 4 main areas, namely:

- funding: Need to adopt the standard classification of Events and Festivals as Major, Signature, Growth, Local and Neighbourhood;
- capacity building: Portfolio approach; programme of support; multi-annual investment where appropriate;
- evaluation and measurement: Adopt the proposed investment/evaluation criteria and simplify evaluation based on demonstrating value against the Belfast Agenda, ensuring that the level of evaluation is commensurate with the scale of the event; and
- governance and delivery: Need to improve internal co-ordination; greater partnership with other funders; consider a commissioning model for certain types of events.

- 3.4** These recommendations present a strong operational model for the future delivery of events and festivals in the city and

the FEI report forms a strong foundation to build on. In particular, the report highlighted the need for:

- better co-operation with other city stakeholders e.g. Tourism NI;
- effective internal structures e.g. relationship between units within Place and Economy and across the Council; and
- clear categorisation of the city's events and festivals offer

Gap Analysis

3.5 However, the scope of the work was such that the focus was on existing infrastructure and products including some assessment of capacity and support for growth. Further consideration needs to be given to the wider strategic context and in particular the role of events and festivals as part of long-term cultural and tourism development in the city. Therefore, rather than taking forward a standalone festivals and events plan and to ensure greater strategic value, it has been agreed that this work will be embedded into the proposed ten year cultural strategy. This will be subject to wider stakeholder engagement and public consultation.

3.6 In this context further consideration will be given to:

- the thematic areas of strength that could be built upon to develop signature events and form part of a more coherent tourism narrative for the city;
- the longevity, impact and sustainability of the current predominantly festivals based model;
- how the product in Belfast can become sufficiently distinctive from that on offer in the rest of UK and Ireland; and
- a review of other challenges that impact on the growth of festivals and events in the city.

Key Issues

Interim year

3.7 The timeline presented to Committee for the implementation of a new ten-year strategy integrating events and festivals with cultural and tourism development is April 2020. This will ensure the effective alignment of funding through a new comprehensive competitive investment programme where funding will be clearly linked to strategic priorities.

- 3.8 However, there is therefore a need to agree an approach to 2019/20. If possible, this should maintain existing levels of support for Festivals and Events until April 2020 when the recommendations set out in the FEI report will be integrated into the long-term approach. A table outlining the allocation of the events budget has been circulated to Members (largely based on standard events).
- 3.9 There is also an opportunity to use 2019/2020 to test the categorisation and evaluation measures set out in the FEI report as well as the proposed levels of funding. Of the four categories identified by FEI: Major, Signature, Growth and Neighbourhood, the additional funding in 2019/20 will focus on two key categories:
- Signature
 - Growth

Signature

- 3.10 The FEI report identified the potential of existing events in the city to develop into key Belfast Signature Events representing a significant economic and social return on investment. This included events currently delivered directly by the Council such as the Maritime Festival as well as longstanding city festivals such as Féile an Phobail. The report also recognised the need for a transition period. It is therefore proposed that in 19/20 in order to sustain adequate levels of funding that the additional budget as agreed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is allocated as follows:
- 3.11
- Maritime Festival - £240,000. This is an additional £22,000 from the amount invested in 18/19 (This will be funded in its entirety from the annual departmental budget). This will enhance the programme to test Signature status, as set out in FEI report;
 - Féile an Phobail - £239,000. This would be made up £39,000 from Core Multi-annual Funding (in annual budget) and £200,000 from the specified reserve.
 - Belfast International Arts Festival - £64,000. This would be made up of £39,000 from Core Multi-Annual Funding (in annual budget) and £25,000 from the specified reserve. This should be used to develop an international enhancement plan.
- 3.12 Funding contracts will include evaluation measures set out by FEI and a requirement to carry out market research in line with the emerging themes and narrative of the long-term strategy.

- 3.13 From April 2020, the required levels of funding to deliver a strategic programme of festivals and events will be considered as a part of a new competitive cultural investment programme aligned to a new cultural strategy.

Growth

- 3.14 It is proposed that the remaining budget of £95,000 is allocated to support growth festivals and events in the city. Given the number of festivals and events that could be categorised as growth, an interim programme of support in 19/20 will be developed in line with FEI recommendations in order to pilot key recommendations. Funding allocations will then be subject to Committee approval.
- 3.15 For major events, development work is ongoing to identify a longer-term pipeline and strategic approach. This will be reported on as part of the long term cultural strategy programme of work. In 2019/20 neighbourhood festivals and events will continue to be supported through Council's existing funding and support programmes such as the Community Festivals Fund. However, as part of the new cultural strategy and in line with FEI's recommendations, specific consideration will be given to capacity building and development.

3.16 **Financial and Resource Implications**

A budget of £225,000 will be allocated as outlined in 3.11 with £200,000 awarded to Féile an Phobail and £25,000 to the Belfast International Arts Festival. Specific allocation of the remaining £95,000 from a total of £320,000 approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will be subject to further Committee approval.

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

Specific good relations and equality clauses will be included in terms and conditions of funding contracts and reported against as part of the evaluation process.

- 3.18 The long-term cultural strategy and recommended funding schemes will be equality screened."

During discussion, several Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the funding allocation being proposed for the interim year, as set out within paragraph 3.16

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of the report, on the basis that two organisations accounted for the majority of funding and that it that was not being spread equitably across the City.

In response, the Cultural Regeneration Manager pointed out that the Belfast International Arts Festival, Féile an Phobail and the Maritime Festival had been selected on the grounds that they were deemed by FEI to be of such a scale currently as to qualify as a Signature project for the interim year. She added that the funding which was being recommended was commensurate with that which they were receiving in the current year.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Clarke,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations contained within the report.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Councillor Kyle,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the report for one month to allow the Political Parties to be briefed on the rationale behind the proposed funding allocation and the process governing the funding of festivals generally.

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

The amendment was thereupon put to the Committee as the substantive motion and passed.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Private Car Parks

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

“This Council is concerned at the growing number of private car parks appearing across the City and Northern Ireland, is concerned at the lack of an effective and independent appeal mechanism open to individuals and agrees to write to the Department for Justice to introduce legislation to create an independent Parking Ombudsman similar to England, Scotland and Wales, at the earliest opportunity.”

Councillor McReynolds was invited to address the Committee, during which he sought and was granted approval to amend his proposal to read as follows:

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“This Council is concerned at the practice of private car park operators and their agents in Northern Ireland, is concerned at the lack of an effective and independent appeal mechanism to allow individuals to challenge penalty notices issued by or on behalf of such operators and agrees to write to the Department of Justice, calling for an independent Parking Ombudsman, similar to England and Wales, to be created at the earliest opportunity.”

After discussion, the Committee endorsed Councillor McReynolds’ proposal, as amended.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

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SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair);
Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McGimpsey and Rodgers;
and Councillors Black, Mullan and O'Donnell.

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

Apologies

Apologies was reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Lyons) and Councillors Beattie, Murphy, O'Hara and Walsh.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor O'Donnell declared an interest in relation to the presentation on Visit Belfast/International Convention Centre Belfast in that she had been appointed by the Council to the Board of Visit Belfast and remained in the room whilst the matter was under consideration.

Visit Belfast/International Convention Centre Belfast

Pursuant to the Committee's decision of 5th December, the Members received from Mr. G. Lennon and Ms. C. Toolan, the Chief Executives of Visit Belfast and the International Convention Centre Belfast, respectively, a presentation on business tourism in the City.

Mr. Lennon informed the Members that business tourism was one of the fastest growing sectors within tourism and that it accounted for £39.1 billion in the United Kingdom and €715 million in the Republic of Ireland in terms of economic impact. Whilst figures were not available currently for Northern Ireland, evidence suggested that it too was a growing market. He explained that business tourism was important in that it attracted mid-week, year-round and return leisure visitors and pointed to additional benefits beyond tourism, such as attracting global business, investors, media, academics and students.

He reported that Visit Belfast was the single point of contact for organisations wishing to hold events in the City and referred to the fact that it worked in partnership with the International Convention Centre Belfast, through a Memorandum of Understanding, and closely with Invest NI, Tourism NI and other agencies. He reviewed Visit Belfast's performance for the past five years, in the context of economic impact, bed nights,

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conferences secured and delegate numbers, and confirmed that it was working to fulfil its target of securing £58 million of economic impact in the current year and would be increasing that target by 30% in 2019/20.

He then outlined four interventions which Visit Belfast would be implementing to drive growth, namely, the establishment of a business development taskforce, the launch of a 'Belfast Makes Sense' digital marketing campaign, the unlocking of the corporate market and the launch of Belfast Showcase events. He confirmed that forthcoming strategic priorities would focus upon investment in market research, the development of a Business Tourism Strategy for 2020-30 and the aforementioned 'Belfast Makes Sense' digital marketing campaign. In relation to opportunities, he highlighted the strong partnership between Visit Belfast and the International Convention Centre Belfast, the competitive subvention scheme and Belfast's strong accommodation and social offer and, in terms of challenges, access, Brexit, global competition and low levels of awareness of Belfast as a conference destination.

Ms. Toolan explained that the award winning International Convention Centre Belfast was the City's only purpose built convention centre and that it was focused upon delivering world class conferences and events. She outlined a number of changes which had been made to the operation of the centre since its opening in 2016, particularly, the establishment of a new leadership team, investment in technology and the creation of the ICC Belfast brand, and highlighted the value of the current partnership arrangement with Visit Belfast. In terms of attracting conferences, she referred to the City's strengths in, for example, the medical, cyber security and technology sectors and pointed out that a target to contribute £100 million of economic impact and deliver 50,000 annual conference delegate days by 2020 had been established. Access, however, remained a challenge, as was Brexit, competition from other convention centres and low levels of awareness amongst conference organisers.

She then drew the Members' attention to the subvention scheme, under which the Council and Tourism NI each provided annual funding of £200,000 to support conference organisers. Since its launch in 2011, seventy-eight conferences had secured funding of £1,527,000 and had, in turn, generated £95.7 million of economic impact and 223,000 bed nights. She reviewed the level of subvention which was offered in other cities and stressed that it was essential that the current scheme continue, to allow Belfast to compete for large scale events.

The Director of Economic Development stressed the importance of business tourism to the City in the context of, for example, the Belfast Agenda and reinforced the need for the Council to continue to support Visit Belfast, the International Convention Centre Belfast and the other tourism bodies in overcoming the challenges which had been alluded to by both Mr. Lennon and Ms. Toolan.

In response to a numbers of issues which had been raised by the Members, Mr. Lennon confirmed that Visit Belfast was working in partnership with the Council's Economic Initiatives and International Development Unit to enhance the relationship with Belfast's Sister Cities. In relation to the cruise ship market, he confirmed that this had shown a year-on-year increase and that it had accounted for around 200,000 tourists in the previous year. Discussions were, he pointed out, taking place with the Belfast Harbour

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Commissioners around the provision of a much-needed bespoke berthing facility. He added also that the focus of Visit Belfast would, post-Brexit, be on flexibility and adaptability and that it was working with Tourism NI to collate meaningful data to inform business tourism.

Ms. Toolan, in addressing a number of queries from the Members, explained that the catering contract for the International Convention Centre Belfast had been terminated in the previous year and that an interim arrangement which had been put in place had proven to be a success. A tendering exercise was due to commence shortly and it was anticipated that a new contract would be in place by April. She then confirmed that the convention centre was on course to meet its target of conference bookings for 2019/20 and that, whilst a number of decisions were pending from United Kingdom-based conference organisers for 2020/21, there was some uncertainty on the part of European-based organisers relating to Brexit. She provided details around the enhancements to signage which had been undertaken to date and added that further work was required, in light of the recent rebranding exercise. Finally, she referred to issues being experienced currently at the Belfast International Airport and highlighted the potential benefits to be derived from the establishment of a rail link between Dublin and Belfast for business tourism and economic growth.

Mr. Lennon and Ms. Toolan were thanked by the Chairperson, following which the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday 16th January, 2019

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland and L. Patterson, and
Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Clarke, Collins, Dudgeon,
Garrett, Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Magennis,
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 Alderman Spence and Councillor Craig.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 7th January, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in relation to Item 2 (c) – Application for the Renewal of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for Fourteen Tomb Street, in that he had been involved in a radio interview regarding the premises and its promotions, and left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered.

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.

Application for the Renewal of Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions – Ardoyne Working Men’s Club and Bootleggers

The Committee was reminded that, under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it had a duty, when considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, to take into account any convictions of the applicant relating to an offence under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that applications had been received for the renewal of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence where the applicant had been convicted of an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 within the previous five years, in respect of Ardoyne Working Men’s Club, 9b Kerrera Street and Bootleggers, 46 Church Lane.

He reported that it was a requirement of the legislation that, after an individual had been convicted of an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order, any application for renewal of an Entertainments Licence must be brought before the Committee for a period of five years.

He reported that the licensee of Ardoyne Working Men’s Club had, on 28th July, 2015, been fined £200 and instructed to pay costs of £66, following an inspection by Council officers, which had found that entertainment was being provided without an Entertainments Licence. In terms of Bootleggers, the licensee had, on 21st February, 2017, been convicted of a breach of a special condition to maintain width through the rear yard to the final exit and of failing to have the log book for recording pre-event checks available for inspection and been fined £500 and ordered to pay £69 in costs.

He pointed out that the Committee had, in subsequent years, agreed to renew the Entertainments Licences and that, on the two occasions over the past year on which each of the premises had been inspected, officers had found that all management procedures were being implemented effectively.

He confirmed that no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew the Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Ardoyne Working Men’s Club, 9b, Kerrera Street and Bootleggers, 46 Church Lane.

A Member suggested, any application for the renewal of an Entertainments Licence, where the applicant had previously committed an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order, that had previously been renewed by the Committee, that any further applications for the renewal of the annual licence within the specified five year period, need not be brought before the Licensing Committee, and

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authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control to approve the applications.

The Building Control Manager agreed to bring a report back to the Committee outlining the options available to the Committee regarding authority to grant future applications for the renewal of Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions.

**Application for the Renewal of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence –
Fourteen Tomb Street**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th September 2018, the issue of a cut-price drinks promotion being advertised by Fourteen Belfast was raised, which had been brought to the attention of a number of the Members by concerned parents.

Whilst it had been acknowledged that liquor licensing was the responsibility of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Committee had previously, as part of the Entertainments Licensing process, requested that a number of licensees agree to adhere to the Pubs of Ulster's voluntary code of practice on irresponsible drinks promotions.

The Building Control Manager informed the Members that Constable Donna Tolan, who was representing the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) was in attendance and that the applicant, Mr Patrick Fegan was also present, should the Committee require additional information.

The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Constable Tolan and she was welcomed to the meeting.

A Member informed Constable Tolan that the Committee previously had some concerns regarding the drink promotions that were advertised by Fourteen Tomb Street which had caused the Members to receive numerous complaints by concerned parents and that the Committee had requested that the licensee be invited to attend the meeting at which the renewal of his Entertainments Licence was being considered.

Constable Tolan informed the Committee that the PSNI was not objecting to the application and that inspections had been carried out since September 2018, when the drink promotions commenced, and that there had been no breaches. She reported that she had discussed the promotions with the applicant and had requested that terms and conditions were applied to the drinks promotions and advertised with the phrase 'terms and conditions apply' for clarity around what was actually being offered in the promotion. She informed the Committee that the applicant had agreed to revise the drinks promotions to include the aforementioned request.

In response to a Member's question regarding recorded incidents that had been reported in connection with Fourteen Tomb Street and how that amount compared with other similar licenced premises within Belfast, Constable Tolan informed the Committee that similar venues in Belfast had around the same number of recorded incidents and highlighted that, over the past three years, the number of recorded incidents concerning Fourteen Tomb Street had reduced considerably.

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The Chairperson thanked Constable Tolan for her attendance and the Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. Fegan and he was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Fegan informed the Committee that his promotions were run in a controlled environment, that his door staff were all medically trained and that all of his staff were Drinkaware trained. He added that anyone who presented at the premises in an intoxicated state was not permitted entry. He further informed Committee that his customers were not exploiting the drink promotions to consume copious amounts of alcohol but rather that the majority of them were students with limited funds and that the promotion was catering to a student budget.

A Member asked Mr. Fegan if he was willing to give assurances that, if his licence were to be renewed, he would undertake to adhere to the Pubs of Ulster Voluntary Code of Practice in relation to drinks promotions. Mr. Fegan informed the Committee that, since he had acquired Fourteen Tomb Street, he had been working with Pubs of Ulster for guidance on drinks promotions to ensure that he was adhering to their Code of Practice. Mr. Fegan gave the Members assurance that he would continue to adhere to the Pubs of Ulster Voluntary Code of Practice.

Mr. Fegan added that all staff at Fourteen Tomb Street had been Drinkaware trained and that the training formed part of the induction process for all new staff.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Fegan for his attendance and he retired from the table.

The Committee agreed to the renewal of the 7-Day Annual Indoor and Outdoor Entertainments Licences with the following special condition:

- The Applicant adheres to the Responsible Retailing Code NI in relation to drinks promotions.

**Temporary Street Trading Licence –
Donegall Place**

(Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Following the Bank Buildings fire in August a number of businesses in the immediate area were not able to trade due to the very dangerous condition in which the building was left. City Picnic, a burger restaurant, situated in Unit 5 McAuley House, 2-6 Castle Street has been one of those affected**

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businesses, they still remain displaced from their premises and will remain so for a number of months to come.

1.2 As part of an assistance package from the Council City Picnic have been trading from a trailer as part of the Christmas Continental Market on Donegall Place. This was facilitated under the Council's Market Rights.

1.3 As the Market has now stopped trading, the only other mechanism that is available to permit lawful trading is through the granting of Temporary Street Trading Licences.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 Based on the information presented and considering any representations received, the Committee is requested to consider the application and decide whether it is minded:

1. To grant and approve the Licence, or;
2. To grant and approve the Licence with additional conditions, or
3. To refuse the Licence application.

2.2 Members may attach any reasonable Conditions when granting a Street Trading Licence.

2.3 If Members are minded to grant the Temporary Licence, you are then requested to delegate to the Director of Planning and Building Control authority to grant any further Temporary Licences that may be required.

2.4 If the licence is refused, the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the Magistrates' Court.

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

3.1 Committee is reminded of a decision of the Council's Health and Environmental Services Committee on 10th December 2003, in which they refused to designate Donegall Place and Royal Avenue as places in respect of which it might grant stationary Street Trading Licences.

3.2 That decision was taken after a series of Special meetings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee from September 2003 to December 2003, when the Committee heard from applicants, statutory consultees, business

representatives and professional independent experts. One of the key issues discussed was around the sale of hot food.

- 3.3 Committee had considered that cooking odours are an unavoidable consequence of hot food stalls/vans. Odour dispersal will be dependent on climatic conditions and experience showed that cooking smells cause annoyance and give rise to complaints from people living or working in the vicinity. There is also a potential for complaints to arise due to litter associated with a hot food stall/van.
- 3.4 It has been the Council's policy position since then that no street trading takes place on Donegall Place and Royal Avenue (more specifically the portion from the junction with North Street to Donegall Place).
- 3.5 Most recently, the Licensing Committee, at its meeting of 15th May 2013, upheld the policy decision and refused a Temporary Street Trading Licence for Royal Avenue outside Castle Court that was for the free distribution of popcorn by way of a promotion.

Legislative background for Temporary Street Trading

- 3.6 The Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 Section 14 permits the Council to issue a Temporary Street Trading Licence where a full-term Licence may not be appropriate, for example, for special events such as festivals, fairs, etc. The Act permits temporary trading to take place in an undesignated street or in goods or services which are normally prohibited in that street.
- 3.7 There is a limitation on the duration of a Temporary Licence, it cannot be granted for a period exceeding 7 days and no more than 5 Temporary Licences may be issued to any one applicant in a year.
- 3.8 There is however, no prohibition on a new applicant applying for a Temporary Licence to allow trade to continue after the 5 Temporary Licences have expired.
- 3.9 The restrictions on the frequency and duration of Temporary Licences represent a balance between the number of days when special events/occasions may occur and the need to prevent an unreasonable level of trading in an area, which may not have been designated.
- 3.10 Members may be aware that the Council, through the Health and Environmental Services Committee, had previously

agreed a Policy in 2001 with respect to the granting of Temporary Licences.

- 3.11 Applications to permit Temporary Street Trading are normally only permitted at special events such as Christmas Lights Switch-on, New Year's Eve, Halloween Events, Festival & Civic Events, Community Organised Events and Cultural Parades/Events.
- 3.12 The Committee is however entitled to depart from its usual policy where there are exceptional circumstances, which would warrant it to do so.
- 3.13 It is also important that the holder of a Temporary Licence should not have an unfair advantage over the holder of a full-term licence who may only trade in designated streets.

Extenuating Circumstances

- 3.14 In considering this application, Members may wish to have regard to the exceptional circumstances relating to the Primark fire that have led to extreme financial and emotional hardship for the owners of City Picnic (and others) who were unable to operate at all for a number of weeks and had to lay off staff as a result.
- 3.15 It is also the case that as soon as the remedial works to Bank Buildings are complete City Picnic intend to return to their existing premises and resume trading. The latest indications from Primark are that Castle Street should be accessible to the public by Easter and we would expect City Picnic to be open and trading again by the end of April at the latest.

Application

- 3.16 Mr Gavin Gregg of City Picnic has applied to sell hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages from a catering trailer. His proposed hours of operation are as follows:
- Monday to Sunday - 24 hours a day.

Consultation

- 3.17 DfI Roads, PSNI, Belfast One, Belfast City Centre Management have been asked for their views on the proposal. At the time of writing this report responses had only been received from DfI Roads, PSNI and Eason.

- 3.18 Dfl Roads and the PSNI have no objections to the proposals. (Attached as Appendix 1)
- 3.19 Eason are located in 40-46 Donegall Place and have the City Picnic hot food van outside their premises. They have indicated that they are not in support of the application and have raised a number of points attached as Appendix 2. These include:
- Eason's believed the street would have been cleared of all pre-Christmas trading.
 - They have a coffee shop in their store that serves hot food and its owner, who is also an independent trader, already has difficulty trading with M&S and Next also having coffee shops.
 - It seems strange that this Van is not located in a place where there are not as many food outlets.

Fee

- 3.20 The Council's Economic Development Division of the Place and Economy Department have agreed that they will pay the Licence fees required for the duration of the applicant's stay at this location given the exceptional circumstances the applicant finds himself in. Depending on the success of the continued trading and the ongoing works at the Primark Building, the applicant may require up to 10 Temporary Street Trading Licences at a cost of £5,000. Members are asked to consider waiving the fee on this occasion, as the payment is an internal Council transaction.

Delegated Authority

- 3.21 Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with a Temporary Street Trading Licence application, which is not the subject of objections is that the Director of Planning and Building Control will grant the Licence as provided for in the Council's Scheme of delegation. This application is before Committee as it is contrary to the Committee's current policy position in that it would permit trading in areas where street trading is not usually permitted and also involves the sale of hot food in the city centre.
- 3.22 If Committee agree to grant the Licence for 7 days, it is requested that delegated authority be granted to the Director of Planning and Building Control to impose Conditions and grant any subsequent applications made by the applicant.

3.23 Financial and Resource Implications

If the Committee is of the mind to grant the applicant a Street Trading Licence, the fee is as follows:

- **Application Fee of £180, and**
- **A Licence fee, for Monday to Sunday £320.**

The fees will be met from the existing budget of the Council's Economic Development Division.

3.24 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no issues associated with this report."

The Building Control Manger informed the Members that, to enable the owners of City Picnic to continue trading on the Donegall Place site, the Committee was being asked to consider granting Temporary Street Trading Licences until such time as the owners of City Picnic were able to return to their premises.

He advised the Committee that the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure had no objections to the application. He added that a local trader had submitted an objection, but had withdrawn it prior to the meeting of the Licensing Committee commencing.

The Building Control Manager indicated to the Members that correspondence had been received from three other local traders who had concerns regarding the application. He also advised that Belfast City Centre Management had confirmed that businesses, in the main, welcomed the opportunity for City Picnic to trade but had raised the issue about the possibility of increased littering.

He added that if the Committee was minded to grant the Temporary Street Trading Licence, then consideration be given to delegating authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to approve subsequent applications for the site on Donegall Place.

He informed the Committee that Mr. Gavin Gregg and Mr Arthur McAnerney were present, should the Committee require additional information.

The Director of Economic Development informed the Members that the circumstances were exceptional and the application was a temporary measure to provide assistance to the applicants who had been displaced because of the cordon that surrounded Bank Buildings. He informed Members that efforts to find a unit for the applicants to occupy on a temporary basis had been fruitless, as landlords and letting agents were unwilling to provide short-term leases to food and beverage businesses. He added that the site on Donegall Place appeared to be the only option available to the applicants to continue trading until they were able to return to their premises on Castle Street.

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The Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. Gregg and Mr. McAnerney and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. McAnerney and Mr. Gregg to the meeting and expressed her sympathy to them for the exceptional circumstances that they had found themselves in and acknowledged the financial and emotional stress endured since August 2018 as a result of the fire at Bank Buildings.

Mr. McAnerney informed Committee that if it was minded to grant the Temporary Street Trading Licence, then it would offer him the opportunity to retain some of his staff members. He added that it would also allow him to continue promoting his brand and have a presence within the city centre which would also allow him to retain the business' habitual customers.

In response to a question from a Member with regard to the hours of operation on the application for 24 hour trading, Mr. McAnerney informed Members that he did not require 24 hour trading and that he was seeking to trade from Tuesday to Saturday 8am to 5pm, that he would not operate on a Sunday or a Monday and that he intended to open on Friday and Saturday evenings to 2am.

Following a further question from a Member regarding litter, Mr. McAnerney said that the Council had an arrangement in place with regard to waste collection at the site and that it was an ongoing arrangement. He also gave the Members assurances that the area adjacent to the site would be maintained and that waste would not be left in bags in the surrounding area.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Boyle,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application for a temporary street trading licence for seven days, for the daytime hours requested by the applicant, with no evening trading permitted. That authority is delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control to renew the licence upon application on not more than four further occasions, and that the Licensee must also undertake to maintain the area adjacent to the premises with regard to litter.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Clarke,

That the Committee agrees to approve the application for a temporary street trading licence for seven days, for the daytime hours requested by the applicant, and to include Friday and Saturday evenings to 2am. That authority is delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control

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to renew the licence upon application on not more than four further occasions, and that the Licensee must undertake to maintain the area adjacent to the premises with regard to litter.

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

The Committee also agreed to the waiving of the applicable fee, as the Council's Economic Development Division of the Place and Economy Department had agreed that it would pay the licence fee and any subsequent renewal fees.

It was further agreed that the City Solicitor would provide a legal opinion for consideration at the February meeting of the Licensing Committee regarding protocol for future applications for Temporary Street Trading Licences in Donegall Place.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

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MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Councillors Armitage, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston,
Lyons, 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;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th and 13th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 7th January, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

The Committee was advised that the City Solicitor, in accordance with Section 15 of the Committee's Operating Protocol, had agreed to refer applications 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" back to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Campbell declared an interest in Item 7d, LA04/2018/0123/F - Proposed change of house types of planning permission Z/2010/1250/F relating to sites 01-13, 44-46, 60-69 and 86-107, car parking, landscaping and associated site works (38 dwellings in total), in that she had previously expressed an opinion in relation to the application, and she left the room for the duration of the item.

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Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in Item 7k, LA04/2018/1611/F - Replace existing fencing, floodlighting, new MUGA, new playground area, upgrade car park surface and new paths at Navarra Place, Newtownabbey, in that one of the persons involved with the application was known to him, but he stated that he had reserved judgement on the application and so did not leave the room.

Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 11th December, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 9th January in respect of planning applications 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, LA04/2017/2776/F - 2 storey McDonalds restaurant Land to a section of existing Tesco's car park Knocknagoney Road and 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 at lands located to the rear of 29 to 36 Mill Valley Place.

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 4th December, 2018 and 7th January, 2019.

Vesting Order

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to an application for a Vesting Order of lands at a vacant site at the former Hannahstown Hill/Glen Road location, for the purpose of effecting the improvement of the amenities of the area by upgrading the footpath leading from Glen Road to Hawthorne Glen and Lenadoon Estates.

Miscellaneous Items

Listed Buildings

The Committee considered correspondence which had been received from the Historic Environment Division (HED) regarding the proposed listing of Donegal Road Methodist Church, 381 Donegal Road, BT12 6GR.

The Committee supported the proposed listing.

Restricted Items

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

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

Local Development Plan Update

(Mr. D. O’Kane, Principal Planning Officer, attended in connection with this item)

The Principal Planning Officer reminded the Members that the draft Plan Strategy (dPS) was the first part of two documents which would comprise the new Local Development Plan.

He explained that, in line with government guidance, the dPS was not spatially detailed or site specific and that it represented an over-arching strategy and general operational policies.

The Committee was advised that 109 responses had been received during the twelve week consultation period for the dPS. The Principal Planning Officer provided the Members with an overview of the feedback which had been received, including a summary of the respondents and the areas of comment.

He outlined that the next stage of the process was to complete the collation of the responses in advance of their publication. The Members were advised that counter representations would be invited over an eight week period, in accordance with the Statement for Community Involvement.

The Committee noted:

- the update in relation to the responses which had been received over the twelve week consultation between August and November 2018; and
- the proposed next steps in relation to the ongoing consultation for the draft Plan Strategy.

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019/2020

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

The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources outlined to the Committee that, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had, at its meeting on 14th December,

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2018, agreed the cash limit for the Planning Committee for 2019/2020, which, in conjunction with the other Committees' cash limits and capital financing budget, required a district rate increase of 1.98%.

The Committee:

1. agreed that the decision would not be subject to call-in as 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 15th February, 2019;
2. agreed a cash limit for the Planning Committee for 2019/2020 of £1,609,861 and the individual service limits detailed within the report; and
3. noted the next steps in the rate setting process, as detailed within the report.

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)

Withdrawn Item

The Committee noted that the following item had been withdrawn from the agenda:

- LA04/2018/1998/F - Demolition of existing building and erection of a new purpose-built facility including retention of existing chimney at Ardoyne Youth Club, Old Beltex Mill, Flax Street

Application referred back - LA04/2018/0040/F, LA04/2018/0047/DCA, 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

(Councillors Armitage, Campbell and Canavan took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 11th December, 2018, when it had originally been considered.)

The Development Engagement Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 11th December, it had granted approval to applications LA04/2018/0040/F, LA04/2018/0047/DCA and LA04/2018/0048/LBC.

The Committee was advised that, after the meeting of 11th December, an issue had been raised in relation to the stated position of the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) with regards to the above mentioned applications.

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The City Solicitor, in accordance with Section 15 of the Committee's Operating Protocol, had agreed to refer the above mentioned applications back to the Committee.

The Development Engagement Manager clarified to the Committee that a statement within the case officer's report of 11th December, in addition to advice from officers at that meeting, had been based on information provided by the agent for the application.

He advised the Committee that, as it had approved the applications at its previous meeting, consideration should focus on the issues raised within the addendum report. He explained that, while the HSCB's position was a relevant contextual consideration, it was not considered to hold determining weight in the planning process. The Members were advised that, as set out in detail in the report, the proposals were considered acceptable in land-use planning terms and would bring about substantial community benefits. He added that it was not for the Planning Authority to pre-empt how public health policy was applied and that issues relating to funding, and the HSCB's position on the relocation of GP surgeries, were subject to separate processes outside planning. As such, he advised the Committee that the officers' recommendation to approve the applications remained.

In relation to how the Council had verified what HSCB's position was, the Development Engagement Manager drew the Committee's attention to a letter which had been circulated to Members as a late item, which had been received from the Health and Social Care Board earlier that day.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Attwood. He advised the Committee that he was a member of the Belfast Local Commissioning Group and that, after the Planning Committee's meeting of 11th December, he had raised concerns with the City Solicitor relating to the HSCB's position on the applications for the King's Hall site. He explained to the Committee that, in terms of openness and transparency, it was important that the Committee had the full information in order to make its decision.

He advised the Committee that:

- the case officer's report, in addition to comments made by officers at the meeting, stated that the HSCB had "confirmed its support (for the proposals) subject to funding being available";
- that information had been submitted by the applicant's agent, Turley, and had not been independently verified with the HSCB;
- he believed that statement to be incorrect and had since sought clarification from the HSCB;
- the HSCB, in a letter dated 3rd January, confirmed that it had not written to the Council, nor the applicant, to confirm its support for the aforementioned applications;
- it was regrettable that information which had been submitted by the applicant's agent had been relied upon, instead of officers having sought confirmation of the HSCB's position directly; and
- the letter which Turley had submitted to the Planning Service, dated 9th January, advising that four GP practices in south Belfast had submitted Options Appraisals to the HSCB to potentially relocate to the

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King's Hall site was based on information from 2016, and that at least two GP Practices were seeking to upgrade their current premises and were not seeking to move.

The Committee then received representation from Mr. M. Gordon, Turley, Mr. M. Kelly, a consultant employed by the applicant and a former Senior Officer in Primary Care at HSCB, and Ms. K. McShane, Transport Consultant.

The representatives outlined to the Committee:

- that the letter from Turley, dated 9th January, set out the position of the HSCB as they understood it and that it included reference to the process of patient consultation, along with a number of caveats;
- four GP practices had submitted Options Appraisals regarding relocation to the King's Hall site and that it was the first step in the process of relocation;
- the HSCB would not be expected to explicitly comment on the planning application, as it was not within its remit; and
- the application still satisfied the relevant planning policy tests and therefore they felt there was no reason to reassess the weight that the Committee had attached to those considerations.

After further discussion, the case officer's recommendation to approve application LA04/2018/0040/F, with the final wording of conditions to be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control, was put to the Committee, when four Members voted in favour and three against and it was declared carried.

The case officer's recommendation to approve application LA04/2018/0047/DCA, with the final wording of conditions to be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control, was put to the Committee, when four Members voted in favour and three against and it was declared carried.

The case officer's recommendation to approve application LA04/2018/0048/LBC, with the final wording of conditions to be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control, was put to the Committee, when four Members voted in favour and three against and it was declared carried.

Reconsidered Item - 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

(Councillors Armitage, Campbell and Canavan took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 11th December, 2018, when it had originally been considered.)

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had considered the application at its meeting on 11th December, 2018, when it had agreed to defer consideration so that the Committee could undertake a site visit in order to acquaint Members with the site.

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She pointed out that, as laid out in the Late Items pack, the agent had submitted a briefing note on the development which included a parking survey and 3D visuals but that no new information had been included.

The Committee was reminded of the key aspects of the application.

The case officer explained that two additional objections, from the same objector, had been received in relation to the application following the 11th December meeting. The Committee was advised that the objections related to parking concerns and she outlined to the Committee that the issues had been addressed within her report.

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

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2017/2776/F - 2 storey McDonalds restaurant, Land to a section of existing Tesco's car park, Knocknagoney Road

(Councillor Lyons left the room during this application)

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had agreed to defer consideration of the application at its meeting on 11th December, 2018, so that the Committee could undertake a site visit in order to acquaint Members with the site.

She outlined the principal aspects of the application to the Committee. She explained that the site was within the development limits in both the extant and draft plans, was on unzoned land and was within the curtilage of an existing commercial use.

The Committee was advised that Environmental Health had concluded that concerns relating to the potential noise, nuisance and disturbance could be dealt with through the attachment of conditions. The case officer outlined that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads had stated that it was content with the application

She drew to the Committee's attention the Late Items Pack, outlining that 129 letters of support for the application had been received since the report had been published. She pointed out that the Planning Service had received seven further objections since the publication of the report, amounting to 53 written objections against the application. No new information had been submitted from the applicant.

The Committee received representation from Councillor McReynolds. He outlined to the Committee a number of concerns he had with the application, principally:

- the impact of an increased number of vehicles using the Sydenham Bypass and Garnerville Road;
- the impact of increased congestion at the Tesco site, particularly with the removal of 96 car parking spaces to facilitate the restaurant;
- there were a number of ongoing developments in the surrounding area, e.g. the proposed Park & Ride at Tillysburn and proposed works at the Blanchflower Stadium;
- ongoing anti-social behaviour at the Tesco site;

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- he felt the time that the Committee undertook its site visit, on the first Wednesday after Christmas, was not representative of the issues at the site;
- the proximity of the application to a nearby primary school; and
- the proximity of the application to neighbouring houses.

The Committee then received representation from Mr. J. King, Mr. I. Wilkinson and Mr. C. Lyttle MLA, who were objecting to the application.

They outlined a number of concerns to the Committee for its consideration, including:

- residents who lived close to the Tesco Knocknagoney Road site already experienced anti-social behaviour (ASB) from young people congregating in the car park, and that the addition of a McDonald's restaurant and drive-thru would only exacerbate those issues;
- residents had only recently been advised to report issues relating to ASB to the Council's Noise control section and to the PSNI in order that the occurrences could be logged and monitored, as residents had previously only reported the issues directly to Tesco;
- concerns regarding blurred lines of responsibility between the companies if, for example, McDonalds customers were to park within the Tesco car park after it closed at 6pm on a Sunday;
- queried how the Transport Assessment car park usage survey stated that the approval of the application would have a "negligible impact on traffic implications", and queried comparisons of the area with small towns in England;
- the development was inappropriate given its proximity to a nearby primary school, in that it went against policies to address childhood obesity and against the promotion of healthy eating, including:
 - advice from the Department of Health, as published in its document "Making Life Better"; and
 - aims within the Belfast Agenda.

A Member advised the objectors that the Council did not have a Local Development Plan (LDP) in place yet and so, while he sympathised with some of the points which they had made, the Committee had to determine whether the application was valid in relation to existing planning policies.

The Committee received representation from Mr. N. Hennessy, McDonald's Franchisee Consultant, Mr. A. Mendelsohn, Highways Consultant, and Mr. M. Carpenter, agent for the application.

Mr. Hennessy stated that McDonald's had worked hard to address the concerns raised by objectors.

The representatives advised the Committee that:

- the restaurant would close between 12 midnight and 6am;
- PSNI had advised that there was little record of ASB at the site but that they had confirmed they would meet with residents to discuss issues;

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- McDonald's would assist with discussions at a meeting involving the nearby residents who had raised concerns in relation to the existing Tesco site;
- CCTV would be installed, as part of the application, in areas where there currently was none;
- McDonald's would share CCTV images with the PSNI if there were issues in the Tesco carpark overnight;
- Draft Management and Crime Prevention Plans had been approved (in draft) by Environmental Health and were conditioned as part of an approval, where the plan would be required to be reviewed every 6 months; and
- McDonald's required its staff to carry out litter picks three times per day and that this included all litter in the area, not just McDonald's waste;
- there would be a net loss of 50 spaces (from 631 to 581) on the entire site, as McDonald's would create spaces within its boundary;
- in relation to the transport survey, the analysis showed that the vast majority of trips to McDonald's restaurants located within Tesco carparks at peak times were undertaken by people visiting the Tesco store or who were on the local road network, hence why the predicted rise in any additional traffic was very low.

In response to a number of queries raised by a Members in relation to the Traffic Survey results, the case officer advised the Committee that a representative from the Department for Infrastructure was in attendance.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. L. Walsh, Department for Infrastructure, to the meeting.

A number of Members stated that the parking and traffic levels in the vicinity of the site were extremely high, so much so that Tesco had to employ traffic attendants during the busiest times of the year.

In response to a number of Members' queries regarding the results of the parking survey, he pointed out that the applicant submitted a traffic survey in respect of an application, as was common practice. He confirmed to the Committee, however, that DfI was content with the results of the survey, in that he believed that it provided an accurate picture of the effects that the proposal would have on both the road network and the loss of 50 car parking spaces.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey, and
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding parking and the anti-social behaviour issues and the impact that they would have on the closet residential properties, does not grant approval to the application

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On a vote by show of hands five Members voted for the proposal and five against. As there was an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote against the proposal and it was accordingly declared lost.

The officer's recommendation to approve the application was thereupon put to the Committee, when five Members voted in favour and five Members voted against. As there was an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was accordingly declared carried.

(Reconsidered) LA04/2018/0123/F - Proposed change of house types of planning permission Z/2010/1250/F relating to sites 01-13, 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

(Councillor Campbell declared an interest in the item, in that she had formed an opinion on the application in advance of the consideration by the Committee, and she left the room for the duration of the discussion)

The case officer reminded the Committee that it had agreed to defer consideration of the application at its meeting on 11th December, 2018, so that the Committee could undertake a site visit in order to acquaint Members with the site. She explained that the site visit had taken place on 9th January.

She provided the Committee with an overview of the principal aspects of the application and explained that it was considered an improvement on the previous scheme and, on balance, it was considered acceptable within the policies of the development plan and prevailing regional planning policy.

She added that one of the conditions, if approved, would be to secure open space on the site.

The Committee was advised that three objections had been received, two of which were from the same person.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Murphy. He welcomed the application but highlighted that there had been significant development within the area over the past few years and that there was only one road in which to enter and leave the development, which had led to a high volume of traffic. He requested that the Committee work with the Department for Infrastructure on future large housing schemes to ensure that similar developments did not have a negative impact on the traffic levels.

The Committee received representation from Mr. S. McKee, agent acting for the application. He clarified that the application sought a reduced number of units at the site, from an original approval of 46 down to 38 dwellings.

In response to a number of Members' questions, the case officer clarified to the Members that the traffic issues which had been raised would be something for the Committee to consider within the context of the Local Development Plan, and not in relation to individual planning applications.

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The Director of Planning and Building Control assured the Committee that the Planning Service was working closely with DfI Roads, who were producing the Metropolitan Transport Plan for the wider Belfast area, and that it would be going out for consultation later in the year.

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

(The Committee adjourned for 10 minutes at this point)

LA04/2017/2753/F - Demolition of buildings and erection of a mixed-use development to include purpose built managed student accommodation with 100 en-suite cluster bedrooms and 56 studios (156 total) and ancillary facilities with ground floor retail unit. 5 storeys addressing Bradbury Place and 6 storeys addressing Albion Lane to rear at 30-44 Bradbury Place

(Councillor Campbell returned to the room at this point)

(Councillor Carson left the room at this point)

The case officer provided the Committee with the detail of the application.

He reminded the Members that planning permission had been refused for a previous application on this site. He explained that the new application was significantly better in comparison with the previous proposal, in terms of scale and massing. The Committee was advised that the demolition of existing buildings 30-44 Bradbury Place, which were not listed nor were in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character, was considered acceptable in principle.

The case officer advised the Committee that HED had no objections and that four representations had been received objecting on the basis of loss of light to offices, access issues for neighbouring offices, impact on the character of the area, traffic issues and the impact on businesses which occupied the buildings which were proposed to be demolished.

He advised the Committee that 308 letters of support had been received for the application, citing the positive impact the proposal would have in terms of economic benefits and the need for student accommodation close to Queen's University.

The Committee approved the application subject to conditions and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any planning agreements which might be realised at the site. The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2018/2742/F - Alteration to existing building comprising replacement of external cladding panels and associated external works at The Gas Works, 24 Cromac Place

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council had an estate in the land.

The case officer explained the principal aspects of the application to the Committee, and pointed out that the proposal related to Phase 2 of a two-part operation to replace the external cladding panels on the building.

He drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items Report Pack, where a minor revision to the originally submitted drawing had been received. The Committee noted the change in the case officer's presentation.

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.

LA04/2018/1486/F - 6 storey apartment block containing 27 social housing units and new vehicular access and associated works at 98 Holywood Road

The case officer outlined the details of the application to the Committee.

She explained that the site was located along the arterial route of the Holywood Road and would fulfil the main objectives of Draft BMAP and the SPSS in supporting the regeneration of the route and the provision of much needed social housing in a sustainable location.

The case officer explained that the proposal was considered to comply with the SPSS, BUAP, Draft BMAP, PPS3, PPS7, PPS12 and PPS15.

The Members were advised that Transport NI, DAERA, Rivers Agency and Environmental Health had been consulted and had offered no objections. She explained that NI Water's response remained outstanding but that it was considered that it raised no issues of principle.

She advised the Committee that one letter of objection had been received and that the issues raised had been addressed within the report.

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

LA04/2018/2605/F - Conversion of existing dwelling to an HMO, including internal alterations to layout to create additional bathroom on the upper floors at 141 Alexandra Park Avenue

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

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She clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 was applicable in this case, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area.

The Committee was advised that, as there were 122 domestic properties on the 600m section of Alexandra Park Avenue, the policy would allow for the registration of 12 HMOs before the 10% threshold would be exceeded. She explained that there was only 1 HMO in the section currently, and that the application was therefore acceptable.

The case officer explained that thirty objections had been received in relation to the application and she outlined the Planning Service's response to the concerns which had been raised.

The case officer confirmed to the Committee that the proposal complied with Policy HMO 6 in that the criteria were either met or were not relevant as the property was not in an HMO Policy Area.

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

LA04/2018/2606/F - Conversion of existing dwelling to an HMO, internal alterations to layout to create additional bathroom on the second floor at 67 Alexandra Park Avenue

The case officer outlined the application for a change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

As with the previous application, she clarified to the Members that policy HMO 5 was applicable in this case, given that the area was outside a designated HMO Development Node or Policy Area. The Committee was advised that, under that Policy, 11 HMOs could be registered on that 600m of Alexandra Park Avenue before the 10% threshold would be exceeded and that only 1 HMO was currently registered.

The Committee noted that the previous application was in the same street and that the number of HMOs was still below the 10% limit.

The case officer explained that thirty objections had been received in relation to the application and she outlined the Planning Service's response to the concerns which had been raised.

The case officer confirmed to the Committee that the proposal complied with Policy HMO 6 in that the criteria were either met or were not relevant as the property was not in an HMO Policy Area.

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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LA04/2018/1611/F - Replace existing fencing, floodlighting, new MUGA, new playground area, upgrade car park surface and new paths at Navarra Place, Newtownabbey

(Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in this application, in that one of the persons involved with the application worked at the organisation which he managed, but he had reserved judgement on the application and so did not leave the room)

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, which included a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), fencing, a play area, floodlighting and changes to the level of grass areas to allow for level play surfaces.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

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

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Thursday, 17th January, 2019

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Campbell, Johnston,
Lyons and Mullan.
- Also attended: Councillors Heading and Magee.
- In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Canavan and Dorrian.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Campbell declared an interest during discussion, when reference was made to the Hillview site in the north of the city by the Build Homes Now group. She explained that she had previously made representation to the Committee in relation to a previous application for that site, and stated that she would declare an interest and leave the room for the duration of the discussion on any future application for that site.

Presentation

Build Homes Now Group

(Councillor Campbell declared an interest in this item, in relation to the Hillview site in the north of the city. She explained that she had previously expressed a view regarding a previous application for the site and that she would withdraw from any future discussion in relation to the site)

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. S. Aidros, Mr. R. McQuillian, Ms. E. Seymour and Ms. N. Timperley, representatives from the Build Homes Now group, to the meeting.

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 13th November, the Members watched the film which had been made by Build Homes Now, entitled "Waiting for a Childhood to Call Their Own: The Plight of Children on the Housing Waiting List".

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for attending the meeting and congratulated them on their film which highlighted the high

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number of young people who were on the waiting list for social housing across Northern Ireland.

In response to a number of questions from the group to the Members of the Committee, the Chairperson advised the group that Members of the Planning Committee could not express an opinion on land use of particular sites across the city as they were required to judge each planning application on its individual merits in accordance with planning policy.

The Divisional Solicitor reiterated to the group that Members of the Planning Committee were not to express a view on any planning application in advance of its consideration by the Committee, as doing so would exclude a Member from participating in the discussion and from voting on the application.

A Member advised the group that the Planning Committee could only consider planning applications which had been submitted through the Planning Service and that the Council did not have the responsibility for building social housing.

In relation to the ongoing masterplanning work for the Gasworks site, the Director of Planning and Building Control provided the Committee with an update. He advised the Members that Council officers were working with a housing association to acquire a piece of vacant land in the area, which, in addition to Council owned-land, the housing association then hoped to be able to bring forward plans for build social housing.

The Chairperson advised the group that the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), when it was completed, would address issues relating to housing such as the zoning of land throughout the City, aspirations for the City's growth and the number of homes which would be required to attain the targets within the Plan.

During discussion, Ms. Seymour stated that they had missed the deadline for submitting comments to the draft Plan Strategy (dPS), the first part of two documents which would comprise the new Local Development Plan. The Director explained that public comments would be invited on the responses which had been received during the dPS at the end of February, and that the group could submit counter comments to the published responses at that stage.

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

The Committee agreed that, given that there had been a number of questions raised which the Committee could not discuss, a request be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it would consider receiving a future presentation from the Build Homes Now group.

Chairperson

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Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 14th January, 2019

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

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson); and
Alderman Copeland;
Councillors Attwood, Carson, Clarke,
Graham, Johnston, Mullan,
Nic Biorna and O'Neill.

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

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was received from Councillor Armitage.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th 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.

RESTRICTED ITEMS

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

BWUH Performance Update - Quarter 3 (to 30th November) of 2018/2019

The Managing Director provided the Committee with an overview of BWUH Ltd.'s performance during Quarter 3 of 2018/2019, up to 30th November, 2018. She advised the Members that an update on the complete quarter would be submitted to its next meeting on 11th February.

Noted.

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BWUH Ltd. Annual Business Plan, 2019/2020

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) presented the 2019/2020 Business Plan to the Shareholders' Committee, which she explained had been approved by the BWUH Ltd. Board in December, 2018.

She provided the Committee with an update of the strategic goals for the company, which included:

- attracting 50,000 annual conference delegate days (per annum) to the City;
- attracting 35,000 (of the 50,000) out-of-state conference delegate days;
- contributing £100million of economic return to the City by 2020; and
- meeting the requirements of the MOU Table and Letter of Offer.

She explained to the Committee that the newly repositioned ICC Belfast provided an exciting opportunity for the team to target the conferencing market. She emphasised the importance of Business Tourism to the venue, in both the national and international markets.

She highlighted to the Members that, in May 2018, the Belfast Waterfront had hosted its largest conference to date with the Royal College of Nursing's Annual Congress.

The Committee was advised that the ICC Belfast had recently won the "Best Venue 2018" at the C&IT Awards and the "Best Industry Partnership Award" at the Association of British Professional Conference Organisers (ABPCO) in December 2018, and that such industry awards were key in raising awareness of the venue.

The Managing Director provided the Committee with an update on the recruitment of a new Director of Event Operations and a Head of Technical.

The Business Support Director provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the Financial Plan for 2019/2020. He also updated the Members on the sales pipeline and the five year revenue and management fee.

The Committee noted a number of challenges which 2019/2020 would bring, including the continued uncertainty around Brexit and increased competition with other new conference venues across the UK and Ireland.

The Managing Director advised the Committee that the catering contract would be going to tender in the next few weeks, and that the company would hopefully be in a position to award it in April.

She explained that discussions were ongoing regarding a policy on customers bringing drinks into the auditorium.

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In response to a Member's question, the Committee was apprised of the working relationships between staff and management. She outlined a number of policies which BWUH Ltd. had employed in relation to motivating and rewarding its staff for achieving targets.

In a discussion about the importance of sustainability, the Managing Director stated that she was keen to see Belfast join the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDSI), which had been created specifically to help destinations, event planners and suppliers to evaluate the sustainability strategies of destinations and their events industry.

The Members were also given an overview of the work which was ongoing as part of the company's health and wellness, corporate social responsibility and community outreach plans.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided and agreed the 2019/2020 Business Plan.

Audit & Risk

Internal Audit of BWUH

(Mrs. C. O'Prey, Acting Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was advised that, in November 2018, Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) had completed an internal audit review at the Company, which focused on risk management, procurement/contract management, sales and marketing and operations. It noted that a second audit was planned for early 2019, which would focus on key financial controls and performance management.

The Committee noted an update on the outcome of the review, where AGRS had been able to provide a positive assurance with the overall outcome of "some improvement needed", and that management had agreed an action plan to address the issues arising from the audit.

Chairperson

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Brexit Committee

Thursday, 10th January, 2018

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and Spence;
Councillors, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Hutchinson, Lyons, McAteer,
O'Hara and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Business, Research and Development
Officer;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillor Reynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentations

InterTradelreland – Brexit and Cross-Border Trade

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. A. Gough (Designated Accounting Officer and Director of Strategy and Policy) and Mr. G. Gilmore (Brexit Manager) representing InterTradelreland.

Mr. Gough indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to update the Committee on the development and importance of cross-border trade and the significance of Brexit upon businesses. He informed the Committee that InterTradelreland's advice to small businesses since the referendum had been that the trading relationship between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland would change after Brexit and that they needed to be prepared.

Mr. Gough then provided the Members with a presentation on Brexit and cross-border trade and informed the Committee that cross-border trade had been growing

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significantly since 2008 and was particularly important for small businesses. He reported that cross-border traders had higher productivity than businesses not involved with cross-border trade, that they had higher turnover and employed more people.

Mr Gilmore informed the Committee that InterTradeIreland had formed a Brexit Advisory Service and that, over 12 events, around 6500 companies had received advice from a range of government agencies on where to begin the planning process. He advised the Members that there was a free online tariff checker where companies were able to check what tariffs would be applied to their goods and measure what impact that would have on their businesses.

Mr Gilmore also advised members of the Start to Plan Voucher, which was a grant of up to £2000 to put companies in touch with groups of mentors across a range of services from supply chain, finance, tax and customs. He advised that a second voucher scheme, Implementation Vouchers, and a virtual learning environment had been created where companies would be able to access an online service to obtain particular knowledge and skills regarding customs, taxations, people, supply chains and any other of the emerging issues regarding Brexit.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. Gough agreed that the presentation would be made available and circulated to the Committee.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Gough and Mr. Gilmore for their presentation.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Invest Northern Ireland

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. D. Durkan (Executive Director, Strategy) and Mrs. M. McGuigan (Strategic Relationship Manager) representing Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI).

Mr. Durkan advised the Committee that Invest NI, working as an economic development agency, had developed a Brexit Customer Engagement Process and an e-zine had been sent out to local government representatives with an overview of the process.

He informed the Committee that Invest NI had created an online assessment tool for businesses which covered the following key areas:

- Business Strategy;
- Operations;
- Innovation;
- Sales and Marketing;
- Finance;
- People and Management; and
- Legal and Regulatory.

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He advised that, on completion of the online assessment, businesses would receive an online report with tailored advice.

Mr. Durkan further explained that Invest NI had delivered Get Ready for Brexit Regional Clinics in Newry, Ballymena, Cookstown and Belfast and that 85 businesses had attended the Belfast clinic. He said that specialist advisors had been appointed in relation to:

- Strategic Sourcing;
- Finance and Currency;
- Human Resources;
- Regulations and Standards;
- Intellectual Property;
- Transport and Logistics; and
- Customs, Tariffs and Taxation.

He added that this advice was readily available to businesses as and when they needed advice and guidance.

The Committee was informed that Invest NI had commissioned Grant Thornton to produce a piece of work in terms of the impact of a no-deal Brexit on priority sectors including agri-food, construction, leisure, tourism, life sciences and digital, Mr. Durkan outlined that this was to ensure contingency plans were in place.

In response to a Member's question regarding pursuing opportunities before disruption from a no-deal Brexit occurred, Mr. Durkan informed the Committee that Invest NI had opened up ten more global offices over the previous 18 months and many of those offices had desk space available for businesses to go and position themselves within the international markets. He added that Invest NI had substantially increased its resources in trade and foreign direct investment over the previous two years and increased its trade missions, exhibitions and conferences.

A Member asked Mr. Durkan to comment on the volatility of currency and what impact it's having on businesses. Mr. Durkan explained that currency fluctuations in some instances can be beneficial to some businesses while at the same time, detrimental to others, for example, the tourism industry can benefit with a drop in the value of the pound, thereby Belfast and Northern Ireland become a more lucrative and attractive destination whereas a business that imported raw materials for manufacture would be negatively affected by this fluctuation.

After further discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Durkan and Mrs. McGuigan for their attendance and he retired from the meeting.

Update on Delegation to Brussels

(Mrs. C. Sullivan, Business, Research and Development Officer, attended in connection with this item)

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 Officer circulated an itinerary and informed Members that the delegation would take place from 28th to 30th January, 2019. She added that following discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive Office to identify a schedule of meetings that would meet the objectives of the visit, a series of meeting requests had been forwarded to a number of UK, Irish and European officials who were based in Brussels.

The Committee noted the update.

EU Settlement Scheme – Communications Update

The Committee considered the following report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the EU Settlement Scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the update provided.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members are reminded that a report was brought to the December meeting of this Committee providing information on the EU Settlement Scheme and it was 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'.

3.2 Members are asked to note that the following activities will be undertaken in relation to the dissemination of information about the Scheme:

- An Information Session will be held in the City Hall that will feature information stalls and presentations about the scheme. Local organisations who successfully obtain funding from the Home Office funding scheme will be invited to provide the information at the session and a representative from the Home Office will also be invited.**

- That officers will start to distribute information about the scheme and the toolkits through existing channels to the business, and community & voluntary sectors.
 - That an article signposting residents to the Home Office information is included in the March edition of City Matters.
 - That information will be distributed to staff through the Council's internal communication channels.
- 3.3 As the Home Office is making funding available, it is suggested that any local organisations that receive the funding should be invited to run/host the session in the City Hall and the Home Office should also be invited. They will be best placed to answer any questions that may arise. BCC Officers do not have the technical knowledge of the scheme and will not be aware of any changes that may be being considered as the Brexit situation evolves. The Home Office run regular teleconferences with Local Authorities across the UK to update them on the scheme and the next call is planned in mid-January. An update on the information provided by the Home Office will be brought to the Committee.**
- 3.4 The exact format of the session would be agreed with the other stakeholders but is likely to involve a number of permanent information drop in stalls in the Banquet Hall to be supplemented by a presentation and questions session that will repeat hourly through the day. It is proposed that the stalls and presentations will be delivered by local organisations that receive funding from the Home Office and the Home Office. Tea and coffee will also be provided for attendees**
- 3.5 In relation to the timing of the holding of the workshop it is proposed that it takes place in late February/early March. At this point the Home Office will have distributed its funding and we would anticipate having the date on which the Scheme is fully opened.**
- 3.6 Officers will also take action to raise awareness of the scheme through other channels. Information about the Employer Toolkit will be sent to the three city Bids, BCCM and other representative groups with the suggestion that they pass this onto their members. Information about the scheme and the toolkits will also be passed onto our Advice Service provides, community centres and the main community and voluntary sectors that we work with. An article will be placed in the next edition of City Matters (issued in March) alerting residents to the existence of the scheme and directing them to the Home Office website to obtain the most up to date information relating to it.**

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

To deliver the Information Session will require the use of the City Hall for one day and a small budget to cover tea and coffee which will come out of existing resources.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications relating to this report.

Noted.

Chairperson