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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 March, 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 - 18)
5. Official Announcements
6. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February (Pages 19 - 54)
7. People and Communities Committee of 5th and 12th February (Pages 55 - 88)
8. City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th February (Pages 89 - 136)
9. Licensing Committee of 20th February (Pages 137 - 158)
10. Planning Committee of 19th February (Pages 159 - 170)
11. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 11th February (Pages 171 - 174)
12. Brexit Committee of 14th February (Pages 175 - 186)
13. Notices of Motion

a) Million Trees

Proposed by Councillor Heading,

Seconded by Councillor Long,

“The importance of trees to the ambience, amenity and beauty of cities and to the wellbeing of their citizens is universally recognised, as is the role they play in promoting public health by combatting the air pollution that is linked to a range of medical conditions including asthma, heart and lung diseases, and early onset Alzheimer’s.

Cognisant of these benefits, and consistent with this Council’s commitment to transform the way in which post-conflict Belfast is perceived by its citizens, potential investors, and visitors from home and abroad, the Council agrees to position Belfast as a leading sustainable, green city, by facilitating the planting of at least a million trees in Belfast over the next fifteen years.”

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

b) Support for Roads Infrastructure in Scotland

Proposed by Alderman Kingston,

Seconded by Councillor Graham,

“This Council:

- Recognises the long-standing cultural and economic ties between Northern Ireland and Scotland, and that fundamental to increasing the benefit to Belfast from this connection is the need to improve transport connections between Scotland and Northern Ireland;
- Welcomes that the ferry services between Cairnryan and Belfast, by Stena Line, 6 times per day, and between Cairnryan and Larne, by P&O, 7 times per day, are among the busiest services in the UK and represent a strong opportunity for economic and tourism growth; however, the inadequate transport infrastructure beyond the ferry terminals at Cairnryan is inhibiting that growth and require investment to bring them up to standard;
- Supports the campaign in Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway for investment in the roads infrastructure - along the A77 towards Glasgow/central Scotland and along the A75 towards the Scotland/England border, which are both predominantly single carriageway routes and pass through a number of small towns and villages – and in the rail infrastructure along the same routes, and agrees to write to the Scottish Government in support of calls for a long-term programme of such investment in the transport infrastructure of South West Scotland.”

(To be debated by the Council)

c) Rainbow Flag at City Hall

Proposed by Councillor Campbell,

Seconded by Councillor Baker,

“This Council recognises and values the huge contribution our LGBTQ+ Citizens make to the city of Belfast and beyond.

As a statement of our solidarity with our LGBTQ+ citizens and community, and building on the progressive moves of the council to support Belfast Pride and illuminate the City Hall in the colours of the Pride Rainbow; the council agrees to continue this support, and, as a further demonstration of our solidarity, agrees to fly the rainbow flag over the City Hall from dawn to dusk on Saturday 3rd August 2019 to coincide with the annual Pride parade.”

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

d) SEND Act and Out of School Hours Provision

Proposed by Councillor Black,

Seconded by Councillor Canavan,

“This Council notes the anticipated staged implementation of the Special Educational Needs Framework throughout 2020, as per the SEND Act of 2016.

The Council fully recognises the challenges faced by parents and children related to diagnosis, service access, support and isolation on this often lengthy and daunting journey.

It is critical that families can avail of support during term and non-term time and both on and off the school site. As such, the Council wishes to highlight the vital role which all Out of School Hours providers occupy in such families lives and ensure equal cross sector engagement in strategy implementation. Out of School Hours services include, but are not limited to, summer and seasonal schemes, community sports programmes, afterschool clubs in community settings and targeted family support. This illustrative list is indicative of the pivotal role this Council therefore occupies.

The Council is incredibly mindful of the budgetary limitations and prioritisation expectations placed on schools. The increased demand for SEN support as felt in formal education settings is mirrored in Out of School Hours community provision. This fuels the need for collaborative engagement with Out of School Hours service providers to review additional pressures and pathways for shared support to best meet complex whole family needs.

The Council agrees that a cross party delegation meet with the Education Authority, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Out of School Hours Service providers to review resource challenges, share experiences, measure demand and explore best fit options of support to enable all children and young people to reach their highest aspirations.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Feasibility Support

Proposed by Councillor Walsh,

Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

“This Council recognises the beneficial impact that investment strategies offered through this council such as LIF & BIF have had in communities across this city.

Many of these community projects have evolved to successful completion through initial feasibility support, and in doing so have allowed groups to present a case for capital funding to this council and other funding bodies.

The Council agrees to create a feasibility budget for each area-working group. This will allow members of each area-working group to identify community projects and recommend feasibility support to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for significant community capital schemes.”

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

f) Dog Friendly Properties

Proposed by Councillor McDonough-Brown,

Seconded by Councillor Long,

“This Council undertakes to make its venues, buildings, leisure centres and other public properties dog-friendly in light of the recent badging scheme it developed.”

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

g) Climate Emergency

Proposed by Councillor Collins,

Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council congratulates the Extinction Rebellion movement and other activists who have recently protested in Belfast and across the world in order to highlight the threat of catastrophic climate change. The Council recognises this as one of the greatest threats facing citizens in Belfast, and believes that urgent action must be taken in Belfast and globally in order to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. Accordingly, the Council agrees to immediately declare a “Climate Emergency”.

The Council also urges other local Councils to follow suit, and calls on both British and Irish governments to also declare a climate emergency. Such a call aims to see Belfast move away from fossil fuels and fully toward renewable energy sources. This initiative would see the Council doing everything it can to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions, including, for example, ensuring that all new buildings are ecologically friendly, that the retrofitting of homes is a priority, and that public transport is expanded. The Council agrees to immediately establish a multi-agency team across the city, which should

include various governmental departments, political parties and other relevant agencies, to ensure that tackling the causes of climate change is an immediate priority.”

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Wylie".

Chief Executive

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Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 4th February, 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); the High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford), Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers 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, McReynolds, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Howard and McCusker.

Declarations of Interest

Motion – Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

The following Members declared an interest in respect of the motion under the heading "Motion – Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships" and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed:

- Councillor Beattie – in that he was a member of the Blackie River Community Group and a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board;
- Councillor Campbell – in that her salary was paid through Neighbourhood Renewal;
- Councillor Garrett – in that he was a member of the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership;
- Councillor Carson – in that he was a Member of the West Belfast Partnership Board;

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- Councillor McAteer – in that she was a Member of the West Belfast Partnership Board;
- Councillor O'Donnell – in that her salary was paid through the Neighbourhood Renewal programme;
- Councillor Black – in that she worked for an organisation which was part funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal strategy;
- Councillor Groves – in that she was a member of the Andersonstown Neighbourhood Partnership;
- Councillor Magennis - insofar as he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board and Colin Neighbourhood Partnership;
- Councillor Corr – in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board and was also a member of the Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project;
- Alderman Kingston – in that he was a member of the Greater Shankill Partnership;
- Councillor Hutchinson – insofar as he was an employee of Mount Vernon Community Development Forum which was funded through Neighbourhood Renewal and was a member of the Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project; and
- Councillor Murphy – insofar as he was a Board member of the Ligoniel Improvement Association which was funded through Neighbourhood Renewal.

Councillor Attwood also declared an interest in the motion, in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board and of the Andersonstown and Lenadoon Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships, but did not leave the meeting during discussion of the item.

Social Investment Fund (SIF)

The following Members declared an interest in respect of the minute of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee minute of 25th January, under the heading “Social Investment Fund” but, as the matter did not become the subject of debate, the Members did not get an opportunity to leave the meeting.

- 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;
- Councillor Beattie – in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board
- 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 and that he was a Member of the West Belfast Partnership Board;

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- Councillor McAteer – in that her organisation delivered education programmes which were funded by SIF;
- Councillor Magee – in that he was a member of the North Belfast SIF Board;
- Councillor O'Donnell – in that she was a member of the Short Strand Partnership who had benefitted through the SIF education programme;
- Councillor Walsh - insofar as he was a manager of the Tar Anall Committee, which had employees which had been funded through the Social Investment Fund;
- Alderman Kingston – in that he was a member of the West Belfast Steering Group and a member of the Argyle Business Centre Board of Directors;
- 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 Hutchinson – insofar as he was a member of the Greater Shankill Partnership Board which had received SIF funding prior to him joining and was also a member of the Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project;
- Councillor Johnston – insofar as he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- Councillor Long– in that he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- Alderman McGimpsey– insofar as he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- Councillor Dudgeon - in that he was a member of the South Belfast SIF Committee;
- Alderman Haire insofar as he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- Councillor Armitage - in that he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- Councillor Lyons – insofar as he was a member of the South Belfast Partnership;
- Councillor Mullan – in that she was a member of the South Belfast SIF Board;
- Councillor Newton - insofar as he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford) – in that he was a member of EastSide Learning, a SIF programme;
- Councillor Dorrian – in that he was a member of the East Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding;
- Alderman Rodgers – in that he was a member of EastSide Learning, a SIF programme; and
- Alderman Browne – insofar as he was a member of the Westland Community Centre Management Committee.

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

The following Members declared an interest in respect of the minute of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee minute of 9th January, under the heading “Progression of the Cultural Programme – Festivals and Events Update” and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed:

- Councillor Baker – in that his brother was a Director in Feile an Phobail; and
- Councillor Corr – in that his son worked for Feile an Phobail.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey),
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston and

That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 7th January be taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

At the request of the High Sheriff, Alderman Sandford, the Council agreed to vary the minute of 7th January, under the heading “Declarations of Interest”, to state that he was a member of Eastside Learning, not Eastside Partnership.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing variation, the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 7th January were approved and adopted.

Change of Membership on Committees

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

- Councillors McAllister and Nicholl to replace Councillors Howard and O’Neill on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- Councillor O’Neill to replace Councillor McAllister on the People and Communities Committee; and
- Councillor Armitage to replace Councillor Nicholl on the Brexit Committee.

The Council approved the changes.

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Official Announcements

Condolences

The Lord Mayor referred to the death of the former Lord Mayor, Dr. Ian Adamson OBE, and extended her deepest condolences to his wife, Kerry, and to his wider family circle. A number of Members also paid tribute to him and reflected on the numerous contributions he had made to the City.

A Member paid tribute to the Belfast poet, Mr. Padraic Fiacc, who had passed away aged 94.

A number of Members referred to the murder of Mr. Ian Ogle and extended condolences to his family. A Member requested, and the Council agreed, that a letter conveying the Council's sympathy be sent to his family.

Congratulations

A Member congratulated St. Enda's Glengormley GAA Club who had reached the Football All-Ireland Intermediate Club Championship Final. The Lord Mayor agreed to send a letter to congratulate St. Enda's on their achievement.

A Member praised the work of the Ulster Boxing Association and the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, in conjunction with the Council, for the recent Ulster Elite Boxing Championships which had been held in the Ulster Hall. The Lord Mayor advised Members that she would be hosting a reception for the boxers in the coming months.

Council Photograph

The meeting was adjourned for a short period to allow a photograph to be taken of all Members of the Council.

Filming of Proceedings

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

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 25th January be approved and adopted.

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Amendment

Contracts for Award

At the request of Councillor Garrett, the Chief Executive agreed that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee outlining how the Council's procurement process, including pre-agreed criteria, are set in relation to the awarding of contracts.

Changes to Current Catering Arrangements

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Collins and

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 25th January, under the heading "Changes to Current Catering Arrangements in so far as it relates to the Business Model Options" be rejected and instead the Council agrees to adopt Option One, that is, to make no changes to the existing structures, practices or scale of the Catering Unit's operations.

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

<u>For 20</u>	<u>Against 36</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Murphy, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Boyle, Bunting, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, McAllister, McReynolds, Mullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds.

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Amendment

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-2020

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

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 25th January, under the heading "Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019-2020", be amended to provide that the £500k set aside for the Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme not be included in the Revenue Estimates and that the rise in rates be set at 1.67%.

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

<u>For 16</u>	<u>Against 37</u>	<u>No Vote 3</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Copeland, McGimpsey and Rodgers; and Councillors Armitage, Boyle, Dudgeon, Johnston, Long, McAllister, McReynolds, Mullan, Nicholl and O'Neill.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson and Spence; 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.	Councillors Attwood, Heading and Lyons.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition in relation to Contracts for Award, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 25th January were thereupon approved and adopted.

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People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 8th and 21st January be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Robinson Centre

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Reynolds,

That the decision of the People and Communities Committee of 8th January, under the heading "Robinson Centre", be rejected and accordingly a report on a range of options be submitted to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

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

Responsible Dog Ownership

At the request of Councillor Boyle, it was agreed that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would consider sending an officer to attend an upcoming meeting in relation to the cleansing of, and removal of dog fouling from, the park on Nubia Street in the Village area of the City.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition and amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 8th and 21st January were thereupon approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Alderman Kingston,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 9th and 23rd January be approved and adopted.

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Amendment

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

Moved by Councillor O'Hara,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 9th January, under the heading "Progression of the Cultural Programme – Festivals and Events Update" be rejected and that the funding continues as recommended within the report.

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

At the request of a number of Members, the Chief Executive agreed that the Festival and Events International (FEI) report would be circulated to all Members.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 9th and 23rd January were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 16th January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 15th and 17th January, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Alderman Haire,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 14th January be approved and adopted.

Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer and

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 10th January be approved and adopted.

Brussels Trip

At the request of Alderman Spence, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to the Brexit Committee detailing the achievements from the trip and including a breakdown of the associated costs.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 10th January were thereupon approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

The Council agreed to change the order of business and take the three Motions which were to be debated first, followed by the Motions which were being referred to Committee.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships

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

“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.

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

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

Supermarket Plastic Return Scheme

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McAllister.

The Council agreed, at the request of the proposer, to the replacement of the last line of the motion with the following:

“and, agrees to write to the major supermarkets in Belfast to ask what steps they are taking to manage, reduce and reuse single use flexible plastics.”

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

Traffic Calming

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

“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

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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 recommend reviewing the criteria.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O’Donnell.

The Council agreed, at the request of the proposer, to the insertion of the following wording in the second paragraph, after The Department for Infrastructure:

“and the PSNI”

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

Cycling Infrastructure - North Foreshore

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McReynolds.

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

Enterprise Zones

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

“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

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

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

Climate Change

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McReynolds.

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

Statues in City Hall Grounds

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

“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.”

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The motion was seconded by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Hargey.

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

Homelessness in Belfast

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Magee.

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

Street Furniture

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

“This Council recognises that it is difficult to contact those responsible for the maintenance of street furniture, utility boxes, phone boxes and masts,

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Dudgeon.

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

Recycling in Colin Neighbourhood

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

“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 cafe to facilitate education and participation in a transition to the circular economy in the Colin neighbourhood;
2. incorporate best practice and innovative design principles, including:

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- 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."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Baker.

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

Mental Health

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

"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.

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

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, 22nd February, 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; and
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Carson, Garrett,
Graham, Hutchinson, Long, McAllister, McAteer, O'Donnell,
Reynolds and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillor McReynolds.

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. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Craig.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th February.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in relation to item 2c, Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services – Capital Update, in that he had lobbied on behalf of the Black Mountain Shared Spaces project, and left the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.

Expression of Sympathy

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, extended his sympathy and condolences to Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer, on the recent death of his mother.

Welcome

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Ms. N. Bohill, who had been appointed recently to the post of Head of Commercial and Procurement Services, to her first meeting.

Restricted Items

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

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

Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2018/19

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which set out the Quarter 3 financial position for the Council, including a forecast of the year end outturn. The report included a reporting pack providing an overview of the financial indicators, together with an executive summary. It provided also a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturns for the year.

He reported that the Departmental year end forecast was a net under spend of £1,689k, which represented a variance of 1.2% of the annual net expenditure budget. When combined with the underspend forecast of £1m in the capital financing budget and a forecasted specified reserves balance of £135k, a balance of £2,824k was available. In terms of expenditure, the District Rate forecast by Land and Property Services was a clawback of £1,201k and the Council had agreed to allocate £2,040k to the Primark recovery programme and £1,500k to holiday back pay. As part of the rate-setting process, £150k had been allocated from the Council's reserves to meet the final Ulster Orchestra additional funding payment. There was, therefore, an anticipated funding shortfall of £2,067k.

He provided further information around capital projects, capital financing and the reserves position and, in terms of rates finalisation, highlighted the fact that a number of outstanding major appeals could incur a substantial backdated penalty, as part of the 2018/19 or 2019/20 Actual Penny Product, which could have a significant impact upon the level of general reserves.

Accordingly, he recommended that, given the shortfall in available balances to meet Primark commitments, the Rates clawback and the potential impact on the 2018/19 or 2019/20 Actual Penny Product of major appeal backdated penalties, the Committee maintain its position that no further allocations or cash flow requests be considered until the year end position was presented to the Committee in June.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

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Robinson Centre

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the refurbishment of the Robinson Centre. The report provided information also on the naming of leisure facilities within the Council's leisure portfolio and, in accordance with the Council's decision of 4th February, identified the following options in relation to the naming of the Robinson Centre:

Option	Overview
1	No change to the current name of the Robinson Centre.
2	<p>The Council agrees a new name for the Centre without going out for public consultation.</p> <p>Given the above, it is recommended that this could either be on a geographical or thematic basis.</p>
3	<p>A one stage consultation asking for public feedback on an agreed shortlist of names which have been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee/Council.</p> <p>If this option is agreed then, given the above, it is recommended that the shortlisted options for the new centre name should be either geographical and/or thematic.</p> <p>It would also be advised that no more than 3 options for names are short listed in order to manage the process.</p> <p>The final decision on the name will be taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and will require ratification by the Council.</p>
4	<p>A two stage consultation approach with an open call for public suggestions on names at Stage 1.</p> <p>These will then be reviewed by an internal panel who will shortlist a number of options in line with agreed criteria. The shortlisted options will then be put back out to the public vote.</p> <p>As above, the final decision on the name will be taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and will require ratification by the Council.</p>

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Haire,

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option 1.

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

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option 3.

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

Proposal

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

That the Committee agrees to adopt Option 2.

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

Further Proposal

In light of the foregoing decision to name the centre without proceeding to public consultation, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees that new leisure facility on the site of the former Robinson Centre be named Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson and

Resolved – That the community facility adjoining the Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre be named Clonduff Community Centre.

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

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 20th April, 2018, it had agreed to act as the lead partner for two projects under the

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Peace iv Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services Theme, namely, Black Mountain Shared Space and Shankill Women’s Centre.

He reported that a Letter of Offer had been received from the Special European Union Programmes Body for the Black Mountain Shared Space project which, at €6,302,716, was significantly lower than the €8,381,698 which had been sought. He then reviewed the capital and revenue implications for the Council which had been identified under the due diligence exercise, in light of the reduced level of funding which had been offered.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted that acting as lead partner effectively required the Council to be ‘guarantor’ for the project and that, as part of the Letter of Offer, it was required to sign up to meeting any potential deficit in Capital Financing, as well as any ongoing revenue deficit. Given this, a detailed due-diligence exercise had now been undertaken on the emerging financial implications for the Council;
- ii. noted that neither the Black Mountain Shared Space project, nor the Shankill Women’s Centre project, had been agreed originally as Council projects. As such, no financing had been put in place from a capital perspective and there was no allowance within budgets for ongoing revenue costs, which would be required once the building had opened. Given this, and the current financial position, the Director of Finance and Resources was unable to confirm that this project was within the affordability limits of the Council and would not be position to confirm this until June;
- iii. noted that officers had met with Black Mountain Shared Space and that they were seeking to identify potential funders to make up the difference. This might have implications on timelines etc. in terms of build programme and that timelines and terms and conditions from other funders may not align with the Peace IV timescale
- iv. noted that a meeting between senior Council officers and the Chief Executive of SEUPB had been arranged and that officers were clarifying also the potential implications of BREXIT with the Special European Union Programmes Body; and
- v. granted approval for officers to accept the Letter of Offer ‘at risk’ in respect of the Black Mountain Shared Space project, pending the Director of Finance and Resources providing an update in June on its affordability.

**Organisational Structure and
Improvement Programme Update**

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee’s consideration a report providing information on the activities and timescales associated with the next phase of the Council’s Improvement Plan. She explained that the high level organisational and

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functional structure which had been agreed previously had, in the main, been embedded and that the focus was now on individual services and functions.

She provided details of the next steps in the process and referred, for example, to work being undertaken with the City and Neighbourhood Services Department to develop the detail of the open spaces and street scene models for delivering front line services, the progress being made around the development of the model for the Finance function and the relocation of the HR function and the Procurement Unit to the Strategic Hub and the Finance and Resources Department, respectively.

She confirmed that work had commenced around the development of a People Strategy for the Council, which would set out how the organisation would manage, lead, develop, support and engage with staff. As part of that Strategy, a values, behaviours and performance management framework would be launched, under the title "Achieving through People". Training on leadership and management training would be provided for senior and middle management across the organisation and the Council was working with the Trades Unions to ensure that the improved Industrial Relations Framework was fit for purpose. Steady progress was being made around the Customer Focus programme and work was underway to improve the way in which the ongoing delivery of the Belfast Agenda outcomes, Corporate Plan and Annual Improvement Plan was monitored by the Corporate Management Team.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Citywide Tribunal Service

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the Council had received a request from the Belfast Advice Group for funding of £33,000 to maintain the citywide tribunal service till the end of March 2019. It was requesting also that the Council cover the full cost of the service in 2019/20, which was estimated at £190,000.

He reminded the Committee that it had, earlier in the meeting, agreed, on the recommendation of the Director of Finance and Resources, that no further reallocations or cash flow payments be considered until the year end position was presented to the Committee in June.

He reported that, subsequent to the Committee report being published, discussions had taken place with the Department for Communities, following which the Permanent Secretary had confirmed that £33,000 would be offered to the Belfast Advice Group, which would allow it to maintain the citywide tribunal service for the remainder of this financial year. In terms of 2019/20, the Department for Communities was examining the possibility of allocating funding to support claimant appeals, which, if agreed, would be made available via the Welfare Reform Mitigation monies.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. agreed that the Council's allocation of the estimated £300,000 of funding which the Department for Communities had ring-fenced, through the Welfare Reform Mitigation monies, to support claimant appeals be allocated to the Belfast Advice Group to assist in the delivery of the citywide tribunal service for 2019/20; and

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- ii. granted approval for officers to accept the Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities providing funding of £33,000 to the Belfast Advice Group to maintain the citywide tribunal service for the remainder of 2018/19.

City Recovery Programme

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which reviewed Phase 1 of the City Recovery Programme which had been put in place following the fire in the Bank Buildings in August. The report outlined also proposals for Phase 2 of the Programme which would focus primarily upon physical and environmental enhancements, an animation programme, incentivisation and trader support, marketing and communications, creative input and programme delivery support and research/retail.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted the overall programme expenditure to date of £1.882m for Phase 1 of the City Recovery Programme, which included both capital and revenue interventions;
- ii. noted the update in relation to the City Recovery Phase 1 Programme, in terms of activity and outcomes;
- iii. noted that the Council would continue to undertake expenditure on behalf of Treasury and NICS Government departments, as detailed within the report, and as outlined to the Committee on 14th November, 2018;
- iv. agreed the budget envelopes, totalling £2.505m, for the key strands of activity to be taken forward as part of the Phase 2 of the City Revitalisation Programme and noted that, in line with the scheme of delegation, the Director would have authority to incur expenditure within the limits of that authority and other contracts exceeding that limit will be brought to committee for approval in the usual way; and
- v. agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 47 (2) (c), that these 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.

Assets Management

i) SIF - Licences for Council Contractors

The Committee granted approval to the Council taking licences from the landowners at Glenburn Methodist Church, Joanmount Methodist Church, PIPS and Mount Merrion Parish Church to allow its contractors to carry out the refurbishment of the buildings, which is being funded by the Executive Office Social Investment Fund.

ii) Proposed Transfer of Open space at Moltke Street

The Committee approved the transfer of open space at Moltke Street, and its associated maintenance and public liability, from Radius Housing Association to the Council.

iii) Belfast Castle – New Lease of Office Space at Belfast Castle to arc21

The Committee agreed to enter into a new lease agreement with arc21 for the office accommodation at the Belfast Castle.

iv) 27 Medway Street – Site Disposal

The Committee approved the disposal of the Medway Street site to Hagan Homes Limited, at a consideration of £170,000.

arc21 Review of Organic Waste Treatment Contract

The Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided an update on developments within the arc21 Organic Waste Treatment Contract and highlighted difficulties associated with developing the Dargan Road site.

He explained that, due to changes in the regulatory environment and other intervening events, the contract had not been implemented as originally envisaged. Accordingly, the arc21 Joint Committee had considered a report which had outlined the options and risks associated with moving from the current arrangements and recommending next steps to regularise the contract. He reviewed the four options which had been considered and confirmed that the arc21 Joint Committee had recommended that the six participating councils adopt Option D, as set out with the Committee report, that is, a negotiated amendment to the contract.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. agreed, in principle, to adopt Option D, and that Members would receive a briefing in advance of the Council meeting on 4th March and
- ii. noted that arc21 representatives would engage with Council officers regarding the future arrangements for the lands at Dargan Road.

Matters Referred back from Council/Motions

Motion: Cycling Infrastructure – North Foreshore

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council held on 4th February, the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor McAllister and seconded by Councillor McReynolds, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

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“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.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion and agreed that it be referred to the North Foreshore Members’ Steering Group, with a composite report to be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Motion: Climate Change

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council held on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough-Brown) and seconded by Councillor McReynolds, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion and agreed that the report to be submitted to a future meeting should make reference also to the Air Quality Action Plan for Belfast 2015-2020.

Motion: Statues in City Hall Grounds

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item until such time as the call-in process relating to its decision of 25th January, under the heading “City Hall Grounds” had been concluded.

Motion: Community Pharmacies

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd December, had passed the following motion on Community Pharmacies, which had been proposed by Alderman Copeland and seconded by Councillor Mullan:

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

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

The Democratic Services Manager confirmed that letters had been forwarded subsequently to the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and to Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI. The Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI had indicated shortly afterwards that he would be willing to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with the Permanent Secretary to discuss the motion.

He reported that a response had now been received from the Permanent Secretary, which had affirmed the Department of Health’s and the Belfast Health and Social Care Board’s commitment to developing sustainable funding arrangements for community pharmacy services which supported patient outcomes in the context of new pharmacy contractual arrangements. The Permanent Secretary had stated that, as a result of ongoing discussions with Community Pharmacy NI, his Department had, in November, 2018, announced additional funding of £11.1 million to support community pharmacy services up to March 2020. That had been in addition to £104 million per annum confirmed for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and £5 million per annum for public health and pre-registration training. Since the aforementioned announcement, a further £4.6 million had been made available to support transformational change within the community pharmacy network.

The Permanent Secretary had concluded by pointing out that the Department of Health had committed £121.7 million to the community pharmacy economy during 2018/2019, at a time of significant financial pressures within the wider health and social care service and trusted that this would provide assurance around his Department’s commitment to community pharmacy. However, he had made no reference to the request to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacy NI, as had been alluded to within the motion.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a further letter be forwarded to Mr. Pengelly inviting him to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and the Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI.

Governance

Updated Scheme of Delegation

The Committee approved a revised Scheme of Delegation which had been amended to reflect the following:

- organisational changes;
- those general powers which could not be delegated from Chief Officers to Operational Directors;
- those sections relating to the Strategic Directors of City and Neighbourhood Services and of Place and Economy specifically listing their Operational Directors;

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- the transfer of powers relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation (including the addition of the word 'material' to reflect the corresponding change to Standing Orders, as approved by the Committee in November, 2018);
- a new delegated power relating to the approval process of Single Tender Actions;
- provisions relating to the organisation of events on the Connswater Greenway, as agreed by the People and Communities Committee in April, 2018;
- the removal of provision 3.6.4 which had already been provided for already in 2.4.3; and
- additional relevant legislation had been added to Appendix B.

Cross Party Deputation Meeting with Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meetings on 2nd July and 1st November, 2018, had passed motions on Personal Independence Payments and Welfare Reform, respectively.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services informed the Committee that the Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities, had been invited to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council to discuss the motions. The meeting had taken place on 6th February and he provided details of the Elected Members and those officers from the Council and the Department for Communities who had attended. Discussions had focused upon Welfare Reform Mitigation, claiming Universal Credit, support for Advice Services, protecting people moving from legacy benefits, rent arrears and the recommendations arising from the review by Walter Rader of the Personal Independent Payment assessment process. The Permanent Secretary had undertaken to produce for the benefit of Members an information sheet outlining the key statistics relating to Personal Independence Payments and Universal Credit and to facilitate an overview by CAPITA of the Personal Independence Payments process.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that Members should, in advance of the overview by CAPITA, meet with representatives of the MS Society.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2019/20

The Director of City and Organisation Strategy submitted for the Committee's approval the following draft corporate improvement objectives for 2019/20:

1. We will support people into employment (Working and Learning);
2. We will support investment and business growth in the city (Growing the Economy);

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3. We will support the regeneration of the city centre and encourage investment (City Development);
4. We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill (City Development);
5. We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes (Living Here); and
6. We will support service improvement and increase customer satisfaction with the Council.

He reported that the improvement objectives, a number of which had been retained from 2018/19, remained aligned to the Belfast Agenda. However, following feedback from the Local Government Auditor, they had been re-focused to better reflect the specific actions and outcomes which the Council would be delivering in 2019/20. In addition, a new organisational improvement objective, aligned to improving Council services and customer satisfaction, had been included. Feedback from last year's public consultation had indicated that residents wished to see a greater focus on delivering core Council services and this had been reflected also within the improvement objectives.

He explained that, upon approval by the Committee, the draft improvement objectives would be subject to an eight-week public consultation involving residents and key stakeholders. The Council would be seeking to increase response rates from last year through greater promotion and targeted outreach. He reminded the Members that the Improvement Plan had, in the past, been included within the Council's Corporate Plan, however, for 2019/20, it would be published separately. He confirmed that a report would, in June, be submitted to the Committee outlining the results of the public consultation, along with any recommendations. Final improvement objectives, in the form of a draft Improvement Plan, would also be submitted for approval and would be published thereafter on the Council's website.

The Committee approved the draft corporate improvement objectives for 2019/20.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

- i) **note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1;**
- ii) **Olympia - note the performance indicators from the new Olympia at 3.3 below;**
- iii) **Robinson – note that a separate report regarding the naming of the Robinson Centre is on the agenda for discussion at Committee today;**
- iv) **Templemore - note that Templemore has been awarded £5m by HLF;**
- v) **Avoniel - Note that a planning consultation in relation to the proposals for Avoniel will take place in Avoniel Leisure Centre on 20th March 2019 and that construction works at Avoniel will be taken forward under the Council existing leisure contract with Heron Bros;**
- vi) **Girdwood - note that officers have met with DfC officials and are looking at next steps in relation to consultation and engagement on the options for Phase 2 and that DfC are looking at funding options for Phase 2 and have committed to coming back to the Council on this; and**
- vii) **note the update on the Social Responsibility Plan which is being delivered (see 3.13).**

3.0 Main Report

Programme level

3.1 Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council’s £105m leisure programme, which will ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below –

CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre opened January 2017. See further detail below Phase 2 (outdoor space) officially opened at the end of May 2018
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Works well underway.
Robinson	Aquatic Centre	£20m	Works well underway.
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£15m	Works well underway

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Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Centre will close and works will begin once Robinson opens
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Application submitted to HLF. Decision on funding due on 11th December
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

3.2 Olympia – The new centre offers two swimming pools, a split level 120 station gym, a dedicated spin studio, a four court main hall, a studio available for leisure and community use and a spa. The new Olympia was officially opened on 24th January 2017 and has received very positive feedback. There are also some impressive performance indicators in relation to usage of the new facility as outlined in the table below. This evidences the impact of the Leisure Programme and is a testament to the ambition of Members to transform the city’s leisure estate. Members are asked to note that GLL have also highlighted that Olympia is one of the best success stories.

3.3

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	2015 – Old Olympia	2016 – Old Olympia	2017	2018 year end forecast	2019 forecast
Usage		145,593	233,738	332,000	379,000
Live membership	830	700	1863	2050	2400
Ave Membership			£21.50	£22.95	£24.00
Better Swim School	135	138	825	1228	1500
Income	£410,248	£426,954	£929,479	£1,267,506	£1,393,500
Staff / income ratio	153%	158%	78%	67%	65%
Full time staff	20	22	26.5	28	28.5
Internal Promotions		2	6	8	10
Staff annual costs	£628,570	£674,587	£724,993	£839,855	£916,763
Overtime annual	£56,787	£40,843	£8,070	£9,000	£6,000
Sickness	3.90%	7.90%	3.20%	0.14%	0.05%

- Usage is increased to rise by over 160% by 2019 from the 2016 figures
- The number of live members is predicted to increase by nearly 190% by 2019
- The number of participants using the Swim School has already risen by 500% and is predicted to increase by 1000% by the end of 2019
- Income is predicted to rise by nearly 250% by 2019

This data shows the financial, people and community benefits that the new centre has had on the local area. The key

learnings from Olympia will be applied to the next group of LTP centres.

- 3.4 Phase 2 of the works included the construction of a new pitch and play park, re-provision of Midgley Park, a new tree lined boulevard leading from the Boucher Road and the development of two commercial sites at the front of the site. This was officially opened at the end of May. Committee has agreed the disposal of the two commercial sites at the front of the sites and Council officers are working closely with the preferred developer on progressing this. Further updates will be brought to Committee in due course.
- 3.5 Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson – Works are well underway on the three new builds and all are currently on schedule. Pictures of the current status of the builds have been circulated to Members. An aerial video of Brook is available on the Council website at - <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/leisure/transformingleisure/brookactivitycentreregeneration.aspx>. Members are asked to note that updates on the progress of the builds are regularly provided on the Council website, Facebook and via social media and have received extremely positive feedback. A full communications plan is in place for the programme and both Members and the public will continue to be updated on the progress of the new builds.
- 3.6 Officers from Property and Projects and City and Neighbourhood Services teams are working closely with GLL to agree detail finish and fixture, fittings and equipment specifications for the three centres. GLL have commenced planning for recruitment, training and marketing and communications for the new centres. Further details on the mobilisation plans for the three new centres will be brought back to Committee in due course.
- 3.7 Robinson – Members are asked to note that a separate report in relation to the options for naming of the Robinson Centre is on the agenda for discussion at Committee today.
- 3.8 Templemore – The USP for Templemore is heritage and the redevelopment plans include retention of the existing swimming pool which will be refurbished, an additional 6 lane/25m pool, fitness suite, health suite, new changing facilities, meeting rooms, a café and heritage space within the existing Baths which will include museum style exhibits, interactive historical/educational elements and a flexible use interpretive space. Members will be aware that this project was dependent on funding from HLF and are asked to note that the round 2 funding application was successful following consideration by HLF's Board of Trustees in December. HLF

will provide the Council with formal permission to start the delivery phase following the receipt of planning approval, which is expected by April 2019.

- 3.9 Avoniel – Members agreed in April 2016, that Avoniel would become a ‘dry’ centre with a focus on outdoor soccer facilities and that Templemore would become the ‘wet’ centre for inner east Belfast. Members will also be aware that a comprehensive consultation and engagement process was held in relation to the development proposals for Avoniel and Templemore between November 2017 and January 2018. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 97% of respondents expressing support for Templemore and 85% expressing support for Avoniel. As part of the planning process for Avoniel a further consultation event will take place in Avoniel Leisure Centre on Wednesday 20th March from 3pm - 8pm.
- 3.10 Members have already agreed that the delivery of the Robinson, Avoniel and Templemore Baths projects in East Belfast are phased to ensure continuity of swimming provision and that Avoniel and Templemore will not close until the new Robinson opens. Council officers are already starting to look at the business continuity plans for both Avoniel and Templemore so that these facilities will be ready to close once the new Robinson is opened. Members will be aware that Heron Bros Ltd. were appointed as the contractor for the delivery of the new facilities at Andersonstown, Robinson and Brook in the largest capital contract that the Council has awarded. Under this contract the Council reserved the right to add in Avoniel and Members are asked to note that, in line with this, Heron’s will also be taking forward the construction works at Avoniel. This means that Heron’s will be ready to commence works at Avoniel once Robinson is opened. Due to the nature of the works at Templemore, given its heritage and listed building status and funding requirements, this contract will be tendered separately and it is envisaged that this will go to out to tender in May with the contractor to be appointed by the Summer 2019.
- 3.11 Members are also asked to note that some correspondence had been received by Elected Members and officers in relation to concerns relating to the closure of the Avoniel Centre and a misconception about the facilities that would be available in the new centre and in East. The East AWG at its meeting on 7th February were updated on this and it was agreed that in order to better inform the public of the plans for each Leisure Centre, the floor plans and images of the new centres would be installed in each of the existing centres.
- 3.12 Girdwood Phase 2 – Members will recall that it was agreed at Committee in November to move Girdwood Phase 2 to the next stage. Subsequent to this officers have had further

discussions with DfC as the land owner of the Girdwood site. DFC have confirmed that any proposed building on the site must be within the parameters of the options set out within their EA and that any deviation to this would necessitate a new EA. DFC and the Council are currently looking at the next steps including consultation and engagement on the options within the EA. Further detail on this will be brought back to Committee. In addition Members are asked to note that DFC are looking at the funding for this project given the ongoing absence of an Executive and whether there are any other options available to progress this. DFC are currently discussing this with their Finance Department and have committed to following up with the Council.

3.13 Social Responsibility – Economic and social benefit clauses

In line with the Council's 'Social Clause Policy' Heron Brothers, as the leisure contractor, have been required to deliver the leisure contract in such a way so as to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits for Belfast and its people through training and employment opportunities and, where practical, using local suppliers for goods and services. As part of this Heron's have developed a Social Responsibility Plan which focuses on a number of key areas including employment, promotion of local businesses and community and social initiatives. This work is being co-ordinated through the Council's Economic Development Team in the Place and Economy Department.

3.14 Members are asked to note the following key outcomes which have been delivered to date under the Social Responsibility Plan –

Employment

The creation of employment opportunities was a central component of the Social Responsibility Plan including employment opportunities for the long term unemployed, apprentices and tertiary level students. Employment outcomes are principally measured in employment weeks although additional indicators are also being monitored in terms of the number of jobs created, duration of employment etc. In regards to the employment opportunities targeted at the unemployed and economically inactive, the Employability & Skills Team have co-designed and delivered a Construction Employment Academy.

These Academies are targeted at supporting contractor to fulfil the employment and employments weeks, ensuring optimum outcomes in specific relation to those unemployed, economically inactive, apprentices/trainees and higher-level

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students. As of January 2019 Members are asked to note that the following employment opportunities have been delivered as part of the Council's leisure contract and that the overall target number of weeks for employment, apprentices and paid placements has now been exceeded.

	Target	Weeks Delivered	Individuals Recruited
Employment for long-term unemployed or economically inactive	620	489 (up from 167 in June 2018)	12 (up from 9 in June 2018)
Apprentice	620	1196 (up from 463 in June 2018)	34 (up from 13 in June 2018)
Paid Placement/Work Experience	1100	746 (up from 339 in June 2018)	14 (up from 13 in June 2018)
TOTAL	2340	2431	60

In addition to the employment figures outlined above Members are asked to note the following activities that Heron Bros. Ltd have taken forward as part of their Social Responsibility:

Promotion of Local Suppliers and Businesses

- **A 'Business-to-Business' wall has been installed at each site for local businesses to promote their goods and services**

Community Initiatives and Engagement

- **Fund raising activities including a Cystic Fibrosis 'Trick or Treat' breakfast and a McMillian Cancer Coffee Morning**
- **Sponsorship of a range of community groups and festivals including Féile an Phobail; Clonduff July Festival; Colinglen Christmas tree and festival;**
- **Benefit in kind materials (fencing) to support West Spend summer festival and benefit in kind materials (brick) to help community memorial wall in Clonduff**
- **Eight site employees have undertaken volunteering at Reconnect NI to lay new patio and tidy up the garden facilities for the local West Belfast charity**

Sports Development

- **Partnership with GLL on summer 2019 cross community activities**
- **Sponsorship of Clonduff Under 14 Football Club**
- **Sponsorship of 'Run Belfast Hills' with North Belfast Harriers and National Trust.**

Skills and Health Initiatives

- Worked in partnership with Groundwork NI to plan and deliver the 'Grow Bus' to 4 cross community schools local to the sites to educate the children on the benefits of eating fruit and veg plus how to grow your own.

Update on the West£pend Initiative

3.15 The West£pend project aims to assist businesses to prosper and thrive during redevelopment and major construction work in the Andersonstown Road area. The objective is to help businesses retain and attract new customers while construction is taking place. Aiken PR were appointed to engage with businesses and utilise a budget of £20,000 to develop and deliver marketing and promotional activities, ongoing PR and social media campaigns and a targeted, value-for-money advertising campaign. This support was approved through the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. The project ends this month.

3.16 Members are asked to note that there was a high take up of the scheme in the local area with over 80 businesses opting in for support. Highlights of activities undertaken include

- *A Summer Street Fair in August - 22 businesses participated in offers. 500 people attended the event, there was widespread coverage before the event and a number of businesses highlighted that they had an increase in sales.*
- *Pumpkin Festival Saturday 27th October – range of Hallow'een activities including pumpkin carving workshops and window art. Attended by over 250 people.*
- *Christmas Event and Christmas Light Switch on – 1st December*

3.17 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.

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

There are no direct equality implications.”

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After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that site visits would be organised to enable Members to view the various leisure projects under construction currently.

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Capital programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves the existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report highlights the status of projects under the Programme along with projects recommended to be moved Stages.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to –

Proposed movements

- **agree that the Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/City Cemetery project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. It is however recommended that this is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending planning approval and the tender return price at which stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver**

- **In agreeing the above Members are asked to note that the redevelopment and relocation of the Service Yard is required to facilitate the HLF – City Cemetery project and that not progressing this will jeopardise the HLF funding. It should also be noted that the existing service yard has been in place for over 20 years and is no longer fit for purpose.**

Project	Overview	Stage
Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/City Cemetery	New service yard provision in the Falls Park. This involves the relocation of the existing service at the City Cemetery site	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending tender return

Any project which is being moved from Stage 2 to Stage 3 under the Capital Programme is required as part of the Council three stage approval process to complete an Outline Business Case (OBC). Members are asked to note that the OBC for the above project has been completed and reviewed internally.

Project Update – Replacement of the Service Yard – Falls Park/City Cemetery

Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	22 November 2013
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City and Neighbourhood Services

Members will be aware that in November 2017 they were advised that the Council had received funding of £1.67m from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a £2.3m redevelopment and upgrade of the City Cemetery. The HLF funding will enable the Council to restore the City Cemetery’s historic features, raise awareness of its rich heritage and reconnect people to it as a useable green space. This project is currently a Stage 3 – Committed project on the Capital Programme. Members are asked to note that, as part of the HLF processes, organisations must receive an ‘Approval to Proceed’ sign-off before works can be commenced. Members are asked to note that this has recently been received for the City Cemetery project.

Members will be aware that an integral part of the HLF City Cemetery upgrade project is the development of a new visitor centre close to the cemetery entrance. Due to the scarcity of suitable sites for this visitor centre, the site of the current service yard was agreed as only viable option for the location of the new centre. It should be noted that if the visitor centre does not proceed then this will jeopardise this element of the HLF funding and will also compromise the overall project and limit its benefits for local people and visitors.

From an operational perspective C&NS have confirmed that a service yard is required on the Falls Park/City Cemetery site. This Service Yard services both the park and the wider area and approx. 15 staff are based out of the site. Given the ongoing operational requirements and to ensure that no HLF funding is lost it is necessary to redevelop and relocate the existing service yard. The existing service yard in the City Cemetery has been in place for over 20years and the buildings on the site are no longer ‘fit for purpose’. Detailed investigations were undertaken into potential alternative locations for the Service Yard and a number of options were identified. After consideration of these options the preferred location for the new Service Yard is on area behind the Foxes

Lodge site. This area is currently not used for anything and was previously used as a Service Yard. This site is in close proximity to the current service yard, is already secured with a perimeter wall, is adjacent to the site boundary and is covered by CCTV. Staff have been consulted and are happy with both the proposed new location and the proposed designs for the new Yard. Subject to agreement it is envisaged that the Service Yard will be relocated in late Autumn with work to commence on the Visitor Centre following this.

It is therefore recommended that the Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/City Cemetery project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. It is however recommended that this is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending planning approval and the tender return price. At this stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee for sign-off and confirmation that it is within the affordability limits of the Council. This will ensure that there is no loss of funding from HLF and that the HLF can be delivered as originally intended. It will also ensure continuity of provision from a service and operational perspective and replace an asset which is no longer fit for purpose.

Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

3.1 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial -- Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/City Cemetery – held at ‘Tier 0 -Scheme at risk’ pending planning approval and satisfactory tender return. At this stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee for sign-off and confirmation that it is within the affordability limits of the Council

Resources – Officer time to deliver as required

3.2 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Area Working Update

Area Working Group Minutes

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

- West – 24th January;
- South – 28th January;
- North – 29th January and 18th February; and
- East – 7th February.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee approved the following recommendation from the East Area Working Group:

Project	Recommendation
St. John's Orangefield Church of Ireland	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Project

The Committee approved the following recommendations from the North Area Working Group:

Project	Recommendation
Braeheid Project (Ulster Scots Hub)	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Project
Cultural Community Hub Project (952 Crumlin Road)	Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Project

The Committee noted that the following projects relating to the South Area Working Group had been considered by the Due Diligence Group and were ready to move to the next stage in the process:

Project	Current Stage	New Stage
Knockbreda Parish Church Hall	Stage 1	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Linfield FC/Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC	Stage 1	Move to Stage 2 - Uncommitted

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendation from the South Area Working Group that the £10,000 which had previously been allocated to SOLAS for the installation of access ramps be utilised instead to purchase a vehicle for transporting children with disabilities to aftercare and respite services.

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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 accept the most economically advantageous tender;
- agreed to allow month by month extensions where contracts were under review, as outlined in Appendix 1, Table 2; and
- agreed to accede to Standing order 55(b) - exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the Council acting on the recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts set out in Appendix 1, Table 3.

Appendix 1 - Schedule of Tenders for Consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Paints and Sundries	Gerry Millar	1 year + 2
Customer Focus – Strategic Delivery Partner	Ronan Cregan	2 years
Tender for Photography	Chief Executive	1 year +2
Metal Fabrication and Welding	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years
Contentious Waste Removal	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year +1 +1+1
Seasonal Waste Removal	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year +1 +1+1

Table 2 - Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension
Paints and Sundries T1519	Gerry Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place.

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Table 3 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System/Product	Supplier	Annual estimate
Marketing relating to the Banks Buildings Fire	Image Zoo	£9,600
Dressing of Bank Buildings cordon	McCadden	£10,000 (one off cost)

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 11th January, including the recommendations to:

- i. approve the submission of the draft Good Relations Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 to the Executive Office;
- ii. note that the submission of the Action Plan would be subject to agreement by the Council in relation to the current estimate setting process and also amendment during the assessing and scoring process which will be undertaken by the Executive Office. The Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans;
- iii. note that the Action Plans were subject to the findings of the Good Relations Audit, which would be undertaken in 2019/20, as required by the Executive Office;
- iv. agree the implementation of the recommendations and actions arising from the Shared City Partnership Planning day on 1st February, 2019;
- v. invite the researchers from the Northern Ireland Life and Times and Young Life and Times survey to a future meeting to provide an update on the research in relation to understanding sentiment towards asylum seekers and refugees; and
- vi. defer consideration of the motion on Anti-Semitism to enable officers to submit a report to the March meeting considering the wording of the anti-Semitism motion in a wider context.

Offer of a Statue - Stena Line

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th October, it had been advised of an offer of a statue to the City of Belfast which had been received from Stena Line, along with a funded programme regarding non-violence for young people. The Committee had agreed that officers should explore with Stena Line representatives options for the siting of the statue.

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The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that officers had met subsequently with representatives of Stena Line, during which the representatives had suggested a number of locations for the statue, including a maritime site close to the City centre. However, given that Belfast was a city emerging from conflict and was being regenerated, not only centrally but in local communities, with the aim of promoting connection and cohesion, Council officers had suggested Girdwood as an appropriate location.

He explained that the representatives had been impressed with the history of the Girdwood site and had felt that the building of a shared space in a previously contested area and the plans for its future development were aligned with the aims of their project, as well as providing natural local connections with any potential programme. On that basis, Stena Line had recommended that officers seek approval from the Committee to place the statue on the Girdwood site.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell and

Resolved - That the statue offered by Stena Line be placed on the Girdwood site, subject to appropriate conditions being put in place.

The Committee noted that officers would continue to liaise with Stena Line to explore the potential for developing a non-violence programme for children and young people, with any proposals being presented, in the first instance, to the Shared City Partnership.

Boxing Strategy – Equality Screening

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 updated equality screening that has been undertaken of the Amateur Boxing Strategy.

2.1 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is requested to note this report.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

Members are reminded that this Committee at its rate setting meeting in January 18 considered a request from Antrim Boxing and IABA for funding of £200k per annum to sustain the Belfast Amateur Boxing Strategy to 2020. It agreed to provide £200k for 2018-19 within the revenue estimates. Members asked that the equality screening be updated which has now been completed. A copy has been circulated.

3.2 An equality screening was undertaken of the strategy when it was developed. This screening updates the original screening using evidence/information that has become available in the intervening period:

- Mid-term review of the implementation of the strategy
- Complaints received during the implementation of the strategy
- List of geographical location of clubs currently affiliated to the IABA
- Programme monitoring data from IABA's delivery programme 2017/18
- IABA's action plan and associated KPIs for delivery of 18/19 funding
- Presentations to Council meeting on 3rd January 2018 by the IABA and Northern Ireland Boxing Association (NIBA)

3.3 The review of the implementation of the strategy in 2015 showed that there had been some positive outcomes in terms of impact on certain underrepresented groups including younger people and females. It also showed that whilst there was a new club in an area that could be perceived to be predominately Protestant there is still an underrepresentation from people who are from a Protestant background. The review also demonstrated that whilst there has been some work undertaken to make the sport more accessible to people with a disability including an increase in clubs with facilities that are accessible by a person with a disability there is still an underrepresentation in this area.

The monitoring of the participant data from the IABA delivery of the programme in 2017/18 shows that whilst some work has been ongoing in targeting people from underrepresented groups there is potential to increase this work in several areas including among females, people with a disability and people from a Protestant background. Members should note that we have been advised that 3 of the 4 clubs previously affiliated to the NIBA have now re-affiliated to the IABA and the 4th is not currently affiliated to any governing body.

3.4 Based on the available evidence the equality screening has recommended 'screened out with mitigating actions'. The mitigating actions are that we will ask the IABA to increase their targeting of the identified underrepresented groups in the delivery of their 18/19 and any future funding programmes. These actions will include:

- delivering more try it events in areas that might be perceived as being predominately Protestant;

- targeting a greater number of schools from sectors other than the Catholic Maintained sector;
- in the actions around developing coaches and volunteers that they look at opportunities to promote these among underrepresented groups such as people from a Protestant background and from different racial backgrounds;
- delivering more try it events for people with disabilities and working with more special needs schools;
- training more coaches who can work with people with special needs; and
- continuing to deliver the actions around targeting females to increase the number of female members and coaches.

Members should note that officers have already spoken to the IABA and asked that they incorporate these actions into the delivery of their remaining 2018/19 programme and that they will be asked to include them in the delivery of any future programmes.

3.5 Financial and Resource Implications

The Boxing Strategy is funded through a recurrent budget and is included in the 2019/20 estimates which have been agreed by Council in February 2019.

3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

The strategy has been screened in line with the Council's processes."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Operational Issues

Members' IT Equipment Package

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

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report outlines the IT Equipment package that will be refreshed for Members following the Local Government Elections in May, 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the new IT Equipment package below:

- Windows Hybrid device: Dell Latitude 7390 (or equivalent), 1 Bluetooth touch pen (if required), and laptop case
 - Smartphone: Either an iPhone XS or a Samsung Galaxy S9
 - Wireless printer for home use (if required): Model to be selected
2. Note the HP Elite x2 devices and smart phones currently used by members will be redistributed and reused by Council officers who fit a mobile user profile.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Following the adoption of a new Microsoft Enterprise agreement, and in order to maximise the rich features of Office 365 to deliver a more social, mobile, accessible and information-driven work environment, the members IT equipment package was refreshed in 2017. Members were provided with:
- A HP Elite x2 as the hybrid device of choice for members;
 - Either an iPhone 7 or a Samsung Galaxy S7, to standardise the models of smartphones supported;
 - And a wireless printer for home use
- 3.2 Digital Services are currently standardising on the Dell Latitude 7390 (2 in 1) as the device of choice for mobile users. The HP Elite x2 are now end of production and co-opted Members are already being provided with Dell Latitude devices. To ensure consistency of support for members, Digital Services are recommending that all Members (who have not already been provided with a Dell Latitude device) be supplied with the same device. To remain within existing budget limits and to ensure good management of the Council's centralised IT Equipment and mobile phone budgets, the HP Elites and smart phones currently being used by Members will be redistributed and reused by Council officers who fit the Council's agreed mobile user profile.
- 3.3 Members' mobile phones have reached the end of their 2-year contract and they will be replaced for the new Council term of office.
- 3.4 The majority of the home printers provided to Members were purchased in 2013/14 and are now very expensive to operate due to the increasing cost of older toner. These printers will be replaced for those Members who still need to print at home. The most suitable wireless printer is currently being sourced.

3.5 Digital Services are recommending the following implementation plan for the new IT Equipment package.

- **May 2019 – Elected Members who are new to the Council will be prioritised for the receipt of the IT Equipment Package**
- **May 2019 - Digital Services will then work with those Members who have not been re-elected to collect their equipment, facilitate data transfer and to allow the transfer of mobile phone numbers to a personal account. See 3.6 below.**
- **June 2019 – Remaining Members will be invited to scheduled workshops where staff from Digital Services will facilitate the delivery of the new IT Equipment package. This will require:**
 - **The transfer of information between devices**
 - **HP Elites and smart phones to be returned to Digital Services for reuse (on supply of new devices)**
 - **Registration of the new device on the Council's Wi-Fi network**
 - **An overview of the features of the new devices**
 - **Collection of the old smartphone, sim-swap, activation of new smartphone and transfer of data**
- **June 2019 - Digital Services will arrange an appropriate time to set up home printers for those Councillors who require them**

3.6 For members who are not re-elected the following actions must be taken:

- **Windows accounts and Council email addresses will remain active for 2 weeks to allow members to put in place alternative arrangements,**
- **BCC accounts will then be disabled,**
- **Digital Services will facilitate data transfer of personal data to removable media e.g. memory stick, during this period**
- **A PAC code will be provided to allow members to transfer their mobile phone number to a personal mobile phone contract,**
- **After 2 weeks, the BCC phone contract will be terminated.**

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

To remain within existing budget limits and to ensure good management of the Council's centralised IT Equipment and

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mobile phone budgets, the HP Elites and smart phones currently being used by Members will be redistributed and reused by Council officers who fit the Council’s agreed mobile user profile.

3.8 Next Steps

The roll out of the new ICT Equipment Package will begin in May 2019 for new members and completed for existing members in June. An installation schedule will be drawn up with Officers from Democratic Services.

Several options for training will be available including:

- Familiarisation on handover of equipment
- Scheduled drop-in clinics
- 1-2-1 sessions

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

None.”

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

**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 12th February, 2019, as set out hereunder:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Red Cross	27 March 2019	Culture Sharing Event – An engagement and education event for service users in the refugee and asylum communities in Belfast. Numbers attending – 75	D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Approved by Delegated Authority Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception

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Telugu Cultural Society of Northern Ireland	14 April 2019	Ugadi 2019 – New Year Celebration event for the people of Deccan, India people living in Belfast including a cultural program. Numbers attending – 350	D	No (Charity)	No (There is no catering planned for this event)	Recommend to approve, No charge, No hospitality
Tourism NI	15 May 2019	The Road to the Open Roadshow – Outreach event to engage school children in golf ahead of The Open including activities in the City Hall Grounds. Numbers attending – 100	B & C	£115	No	Recommend to approve, Room charge, No hospitality
Action on Hearing Loss	3 June 2019	Volunteer Awards 2019 – an event to celebrate and thank the volunteers working for Action on Hearing Loss over the past year Numbers attending – 60	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	Recommend to approve, No charge, Tea and Coffee Reception

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International Virtual Reality Professionals Association	10 June 2019	IVRPA Gala Dinner – Gala dinner as part of the 3 day IVRPA conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 150 -200	A & B	No <i>(£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No charge, Wine Reception
Queen's University Belfast	15 August 2019	Faculty of Engineering Summer School Dinner – dinner to mark the end of the 2019 summer school for Chinese students visiting Belfast. Numbers attending – 260	B & C	Yes Charge £300	Yes – Wine Reception	Recommend to approve, Room charge, Wine Reception
The British Association for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition	26 November 2019	BAPEN Conference Reception – conference reception as part of a 2 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 150 -200	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No charge, Wine Reception

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 22nd February, 2019**

2021 EVENTS						
Arabidopsis Events UK	21 June 2021	<p>Opening Reception for the 32nd International Conference on Arabidopsis Research – Conference reception as part of a 4 day conference taking place in Belfast.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 500</p>	A & B	No <i>(£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Recommend to approve, No charge, Wine Reception

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees that a review be undertaken of the future role of the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Party Leaders' Forum.

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

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee calls upon the Sinn Fein Party to end its boycott of the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Party Leaders' Forum.

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

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to approve and adopt the minutes of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 14th February.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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On a vote by show of hands nine Members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared carried.

Use of Banqueting Hall by the Electoral Commission

The Democratic Services Manager informed the Committee that a request had been received from the Electoral Commission for Northern Ireland for the use of the Banqueting Hall on 13th March to hold a briefing for prospective candidates in the forthcoming Local Government Elections. The event would be taking place from 6.00 p.m. until approximately 9.00 p.m. and the Council had granted approval for a similar event in 2014. The Electoral Commission would cover any costs associated with the provision of tea/coffee upon arrival.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. authorised the use by the Elected Commission for Northern Ireland of the Banqueting Hall on 13th March, as outlined;
- ii. agreed to waive the fee for room hire for this event; and
- iii. agreed that these decisions would not be subject to call-in, due to the timeframe for the event and that an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interest.

Use of Community Centres for Local Government Elections

The Committee agreed to accede to a request from the Electoral Office for the use of six community centres as polling stations and agreed that officers approve any further requests, on the basis that this was an operational matter.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 5th February, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Garrett.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services;
Mrs. G. Long, Council's Commissioner for Resilience;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services;
Mrs. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors McReynolds, Newton and Nicholl.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Item

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

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

City Recovery – City Picnic

The Committee considered a report which provided an update in relation to a request to provide additional funding to City Picnic to enable it to undertake activities associated with the re-opening of its premises in Castle Street.

The Commissioner for Resilience advised the Committee that, in keeping with the Strategic Policy and Resources decision to assist businesses to relocate and continue trading if they had been located within the cordon, City Picnic had been provided with a temporary trading location in Donegall Place. She advised that trading at this temporary location had been challenging and it was unlikely to be sustainable for City Picnic to continue to trade. Other options had been discussed and it was suggested that City Picnic would cease trading

**Special People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday 5th February, 2019**

at the temporary location and concentrate its activities on the re-opening of the original premises.

In response to a query from a Member, the City Solicitor explained that, due to the urgency associated with the decision, it had been necessary to submit the report to the Special People and Communities Committee rather than the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Magennis,
Seconded by Councillor Corr,

That an offer be made to City Picnic to increase the limit on the £25,000 originally agreed, by a further £5,000, to add to the remaining balance of approximately £6,000 for spend on marketing/branding activities associated with the re-opening of its premises in Castle Street.

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

It was further agreed that, in accordance with Standing Order 47(2)(c), the decision would 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.

Presentation - Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Update Presentation on the New Build Programme 2018/19

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. J. Hawthorne (Belfast Regional Manager), Ms. F. McGrath (Head of Place Shaping Belfast) and Mr. B. O'Kane (Senior Principal Officer), representing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

The Members were presented with an update report on the New Build Programme for the period 2018/19 which included the following details:

- social housing completions 2018/19 (245 units completed to-date);
- social housing units under construction (773 units); and
- 2,439 units programmed to start through the Social Housing Development Programme (SHDP).

Ms. McGrath outlined the current demographic trends and the resultant social waiting list needs and she apprised the Committee with regard to the performance by the Housing Executive in relation to new build start and completion and future delivery timescales.

In response to a Member's question regarding the weekly rent of a Housing Association property often being much higher to that of a Housing Executive property in the same location, Mrs Hawthorne advised that Housing Association only received a percentage of Government funding towards housing schemes, therefore, rentals were commensurate with the final cost of the scheme and often varied to ensure financial viability. She then provided an overview of

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the top up allowance scheme and encouraged the Members to promote the scheme to constituents as it was often not claimed.

Noted.

Update Presentation on Homelessness in Belfast

Mr. O’Kane commenced by drawing the Members’ attention to the Belfast Region Homeless Presenters for April – December 2018 as follows:

- 4,505 people presented as homeless – 65% of those presentations had been accepted;
- accommodation not being reasonable was the biggest reason for presentation (23%), followed by a sharing breakdown (21%) and loss of rented accommodation (14%);
- the average length of stay in temporary accommodation was 40.6 weeks.

He also detailed the Presenters by household group:

- single female 16-25 years – 7.32%;
- single female 26-59 years – 10.37%;
- single male 16-25 years – 8.72%;
- single male 26-59 years – 27.57%;
- couples – 4.06%;
- families – 29.68%; and
- pensioners – 12.19%.

The representative advised that, during the annual street count by the NIHE on 6th November 2018, sixteen people had been found on the street between 2.00 a.m. and 5.00 a.m. All of the 16 people were known to the service and only two had been willing to accept the offer of temporary accommodation. He stated that rough sleepers often faced many complex challenges and they required intense packages of support alongside access to accommodation. Many individuals found it difficult to engage with services and often declined offers of assistance.

The representative then proceeded to outline to the Members the range of options available for temporary accommodation to try and meet the demand which included a supply of single lets within the private rental sector, units for single households with alcohol problems, and homeless Services for young people and women at risk of domestic violence.

Mrs. Hawthorne referred to the important role of the Housing Executive and its various Partners, including the Council, in addressing the problems with an inter-agency approach. She detailed that this included collaboration with the Public Health Authority, the Health and Social Care Board, Probation Board for Northern Ireland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. These organisations were endeavouring to work together to try and ensure that the necessary arrangements were in place to prevent any individual having to sleep rough. She outlined that emergency accommodation was not a long term solution and the statutory organisations priority was to prevent someone becoming homeless.

Mr. O’Kane highlighted the vulnerability of people who found themselves in a housing crisis situation and advised that dedicated housing officers were automatically appointed to

**Special People and Communities Committee,
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work with people who had spent the night in temporary accommodation to try and assist them with a long term housing solution.

A Member welcomed the introduction of the Housing Solutions Team by the NIHE and stated that the introduction of Housing Advisors had helped to provide specific points of contact within the organisation.

The representative stated that the statutory organisations were committed to improving the access and provision of services to vulnerable individuals by supporting their health and social care needs.

Another Member highlighted the invaluable outreach work provided by the voluntary community sector and outlined the stress that the volunteers faced in trying to provide vital assistance to the most vulnerable people in society. He stated that the agencies working on the streets had seen a marked increase of street activity with new people presenting and having to spend time on the streets and stressed that this situation was not improving.

A Member informed the Housing Executive representatives of the details in respect of a Motion which he had submitted to the previous night's Council meeting and which had been referred to be considered at the monthly meeting of the People and Communities Committee on Tuesday, 12th February.

The representatives then provided clarification in respect of a number of issues, some of which are set out hereunder:

- homelessness status and priority need;
- the quality and number of single lets;
- sofa surfing;
- maintenance of properties;
- re purposing of buildings; and
- mitigating against the impact of universal credit.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the NIHE representative for the update.

It was agreed that the presentation would be e-mailed to all Elected Members and uploaded to the Members' Portal.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 12th February, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Garrett.

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

No apologies were recorded.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th and 21st January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Aldermen Copeland, Rodgers and Sandford and Councillors Newton and Pankhurst declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6 (b), Request for use of Barnett's Demesne, in that they were Members of the Orange Order. They remained in the room while the matter was under consideration but took no part in the discussion.

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of agenda item 2 (a) Community Development Grants Programme 2019/20 in that she was employed by Grosvenor Community Centre which received funding under the Community Development Grants Programme. She remained in the room while the matter was under consideration but took no part in the discussion.

Item Withdrawn from Agenda

Issues Raised in Advance by Members – Request for Regen to Present

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

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.

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

Community Development Grants Programme 2019/20

The Committee considered a report which provided an update in relation to the current situation regarding the Community Development Grants Programme (CDGP) 2019/20. The Committee was asked to consider the following three options and to agree the preferred option:

1. Option 1 – to do nothing until the Council received the CSP Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities;
2. Option 2 – to continue with the current level of funding;
3. Option 3 – to ensure business continuity that the current contract be extended to all groups until 30th September, 2019.

Following consideration of the options, the Committee agreed:

- option 3 as the most appropriate option to mitigate against the delay and/or reduction to the CDGP income from the Department for Communities;
- that to ensure business continuity, to maintain the current allocation of £200,691 for small grants provision; and
- that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would provide further detail in respect of the five consortia and the assessment process.

Request to Place a Memorial at Lisnabreeny Cemetery

The Committee considered a request seeking authority to erect a memorial plaque at the Lisnabreeny US War Memorial Garden in memory of a Belfast woman, Ms. Priscilla Gotto, who died in a B17 air crash in Wales in 1944.

The Committee acceded to the request.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion – Homelessness

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Magee, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Garrett addressed the Committee and outlined his concern regarding the widespread problems associated with homelessness in Belfast. He specifically referred to the recent update that had been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive at the special meeting of the People and Communities Committee held on Tuesday, 5th February, which had provided a useful overview of the extent of the current homelessness situation throughout the City. Whilst he commended the good work already being undertaken by the various agencies, he stressed that more needed to be done to develop this interagency approach to help address the many complex issues relating to homelessness.

The Committee agreed that, through the office of the Mayor, a statutory task force group would be formed that would seek to take further partnership actions to address the homelessness problems in the City.

Motion - Recycling in the Colin Neighbourhood

**People and Communities Committee,
Tuesday, 12th February, 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Walsh and seconded by Councillor Baker, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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 cafe to facilitate education and participation in a transition to the circular economy in the Colin neighbourhood;*
- 2. incorporate best practice and innovative design principles, including:*
 - 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.”*

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The Committee noted the ongoing work and agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would consider the proposals made in the motion.

Motion - Mental Health

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Pankhurst and seconded by Councillor Murphy, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

Councillor Pankhurst, the proposer of the motion, addressed the Committee and outlined his concern regarding the need to support people suffering from mental ill health in Belfast. He stated that, whilst he commended the good work already being undertaken by the various agencies, this work needed to be further developed to ensure that the required support was easily accessible, to young people in particular, and to try and break the stigma that was often associated with the illness.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the Council would facilitate a workshop, to which other statutory agencies would be invited, which would enable the various stakeholders to consider the options available to assist youth organisations which were trying to provide assistance to those suffering from mental ill-health.

Committee/Strategic Issues

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

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 22nd January, the working group had received a comprehensive presentation on the history of Bereavement Legislation from Rev. Dr. Haire, representing the National Association of Funeral Directors.

Rev. Dr. Haire had advised that the current cremation legislation was out of date and this often caused difficulties for bereaved families. He had detailed the need for the legislation in Northern Ireland to be overhauled and streamlined which would include the incorporation of electronic digital technology.

The Working Group had noted that officials from both the Department of Health (DoH) and the Department for Communities (DfC) were working on revised legislation and processes which related to cremation and it had agreed the following actions, subject to the approval of the People and Communities Committee:

- that an invitation be extended to the DoH officials to present on its works in relation to updated processes for cremation;
- that officers would review the processes which had recently been reviewed in Scotland;
- a copy of the revised cremation legislation drafted by the DfC be requested; and
- a letter be forwarded to both the DfC and DoH to highlight the issues raised by the National Association of Funeral Directors in regard to the impact that the outdated legislation was having on bereaved families and Funeral Directors.

The Members were also advised that, at the January meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it had been noted that all political parties would be extremely busy with canvassing in the lead up to polling day for the Local Government Elections, and particularly during the month of April. It had been agreed that it would be necessary to continue with the Standing Committees in that month, however, there were a number of Working Group meetings scheduled to be held in April, including the Strategic Cemeteries and Development Working Group.

The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 22nd January, which included the aforementioned actions; and

**People and Communities Committee,
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- agreed that the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group scheduled for Monday, 15th April would be cancelled.

Community Rescue Service

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 outline how Belfast City Council currently engages with Community Rescue Service.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 This Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members may recall the presentation given by Sean McGarry, Community Rescue Service, to the People and Communities Committee on 21st January 2019. This report briefly outlines how Belfast City Council engages with voluntary search and rescue organisations such as Community Rescue Service.

3.2 Co-ordination of land and inland water rescue is a devolved matter with search and rescue policy the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Co-ordination of land and inland water search and rescue operations falls to the PSNI. Community Rescue Service sit on a Practitioners Group made up of statutory and voluntary organisations which report into the Department of Justice. Community Rescue Service is a declared resource under the NI Search and Rescue agreement.

3.3 Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group (Belfast EPG) is a Multi-Agency partnership involved in preparing and planning for emergencies which would impact on the people and communities of Belfast. Belfast EPG partners may engage the assistance of organisations such as Community Rescue Service during an emergency response situation. In such circumstances a request to Community Rescue Service for search and rescue assistance will come from one of the statutory emergency responder organisations such as the PSNI

or NI Fire and Rescue Service. Belfast City Council would support such efforts where humanitarian assistance is required by activating emergency support centre arrangements and providing buildings for emergency rest centres etc.

- 3.4 In the past, Belfast City Council's Parks and Warden staff have worked with Community Rescue Service during land based search efforts for missing persons. Community Rescue Service also provide invaluable voluntary search and rescue assistance at events in the City such as Belfast Vital, Belsonic and events around the harbour estate.
- 3.5 During the presentation on 21st January 2019, Sean McGarry made reference to Community Rescue Service utilising the Lagan lookout building. The Lagan lookout building is currently under the control of the Department for Communities (DfC) and there are no current plans to change this.
- 3.6 Finance and Resource Implications
- None.
- 3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications
Rural Needs Assessment
- None."

The Committee noted the update provided.

Update on Partnership Working in
Addressing Anti-social Behaviour

The Committee considered the following report:

- “1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
- 1.1 Further to previous agreements at People and Communities Committee, this report provides the agreed update on anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces covering the August - December 2018 period.
- 1.2 At previous meetings, Members further agreed that initial work would be focussed on Falls Park/City Cemetery, Orangefield Park/Avoniel Park, Marrowbone, Dunville and Ballysillan.
- 2.0 Recommendations
- 2.1 The Committee is asked to

- note the progress against these actions and to receive a further progress report in due course.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Current Context

Reported Anti-Social Behaviour To Council

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

- 3.2 Please note figures provided below are for the period August – December 2018.**

Park/Open Space	Area	Reported Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West	60
Woodvale	West	26
Lenadoon Park	West	22
Jubilee Gardens	North	22
Marrowbone	North	19
Dunville Park	West	16
Girdwood	North	13

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

Repairs at Parks/Open Spaces

- 3.4 As indicated above, anti-social behaviour is often under-reported. Officers therefore regularly review requisitions for repairs at parks/open spaces due to vandalism, criminal damage or arson.**

- 3.5 There has been a marked reduction in serious vandalism at the majority of parks/open spaces, however, vandalism remains persistent in many of the parks/open spaces highlighted above.**

Member Feedback

- 3.6 Elected Members engage regularly with Officers articulating concerns about anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces.**

Officers have reviewed their Elected Members contact on this issue and the following parks/open spaces present most frequently as of concern:

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

Animation/Programming

3.7 Progress to Date

- Programmes of animation were undertaken at four locations which had been identified as having persistent challenges with anti-social behaviour. These were Marrowbone Park, Ballysillan Park, Orangefield/Avoniel and Dunville Park.
- Programmes included a range of internal Council services providing in kind assistance (Sports Development and Parks Outreach) as well as working with local youth workers from within their existing budgets.
- Feedback has been gathered from a range of community and voluntary organisations operating around the parks/open spaces (including youth workers) on the programme.

3.8 Next Steps

- Feedback is being reviewed and the next stage of animation is being designed with local partners.
- The focus remains on low cost options and working with existing youth and community resources to sustain the animation for as long a period as possible. The approach being followed is outlined below:
 - Lead Council Officer to work with all existing Council services to align existing service delivery to the priority parks/open spaces.
 - Local engagement with Elected Members, residents, agencies and youth/community groups to agree a programme.
 - Identify and align other existing programmes and initiatives in the area to maximise positive animation within the park/open space.
 - Review with local partners.

Operational Co-ordination

3.9 Progress to Date

- Weekly ASB contact list distributed by BCC containing contact details of Police, BCC Officers, Youth Workers and Translink to share information during weekend operations.
- Weekly operational tasking meetings take place between Council, Police and other statutory agencies as needed to review operational priorities and plan for the week ahead.
- Targeted collaborative operations with Council, PSNI, Youth Workers and Translink resources to disrupt ASB. A mobile lighting tower has been used to illuminate problematic parks during operations to disrupt ASB.

3.10 Next Steps

- Operational tasking meetings to take place between Council, Police and other statutory agencies to plan for mid-term break and St. Patricks Day.
- DPCSP funded Youth Outreach project focusing on Transient Youth starting on 8th February 2019 and covering each Friday and Saturday evening up to and including St. Patricks Day. This project will focus on the Falls Park and City Cemetery and be delivered jointly by 4 different Youth Clubs. A similar project is due to get underway in South Belfast focusing on the Lagan Walkway.

Awareness Raising

3.11 Progress to Date

- Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officers have commenced a process of engaging with post-primary schools to raise awareness of the dangers associated with anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces.
- Officers have also carried out awareness raising visits to off-sales in the vicinity of parks and open spaces, highlighting concerns raised around proxy buying and under-age drinking.
- PSNI continue to proactively use their social media channels to deter anti-social behaviour around parks and open spaces.

3.12 Next Steps

- Ongoing development of partnerships with post-primary schools across Belfast to take place, seeking co-operation around communication with parents and pupils around wider community impacts and risks of anti-social behaviour. This work will be carried out in conjunction with PSNI, Youth Workers and Translink where appropriate.
- Officers will also continue to carry out visits to off-sales throughout the city to remind retailers of their obligations and to offer support to those retailers.

3.13 Maximising Strategic Opportunities

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

- PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project and Wider PEACE IV Programme – Officers continue to ensure the capital/programming investment from PEACE IV Programme are aligned to ongoing work aimed at improving safety in parks and open spaces. Contracts for a range of PEACE IV work are in the process of being procured and awarded.
- Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) – Council was recently successful in securing £100,000 of funding from the Department for Economy to facilitate innovation and technology around how to better encourage positive use and deter negative use of parks/open spaces.
- Fresh Start – Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan – Officers continue to work with Executive Office Officials and individual lead departments/organisations in maximising the benefit of the following work streams within the action plan for communities in Belfast.

3.14 Financial and Resource Implications

Staff Resources

The above approach continues to support the values and principles of the City and Neighbourhood Services and wider Corporate Change Programme and is delivered within existing staff resource.

Financial Resources

All of the above work continues to be accommodated from within existing Council and (D)PCSP revenue budgets. The

work is intended to maximise existing resources, reduce duplication and facilitate joined up decision making and resource allocation in the identified parks/open spaces.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments

There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis.”

The Members discussed various Council parks and open spaces that were affected by incidents of anti-social behaviour and noted the transient nature of the problem.

A Member reiterated her concern regarding the proposed Small Business Research Initiative and the potential data protection implications regarding the collection of personal data pertaining to youths should the initiative be progressed.

The Committee noted the update provided.

Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise committee of extended support for delivery of the participation strand of Sport NI’s investment programme called Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 (EBA2020) into Year 4.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to the continuation of the delivery of Everybody Active 2020 Strand 1 programme to 31 March 2020 in partnership with our delivery partners, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**
- **To agree to some additional programming to be coordinated by BCC officers (Programme Manager and Coordinator) where there is identified any potential underspend in budget or underperformance against any of the KPIS by our delivery Partners.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Sport NI programme

Sport NI commissioned Belfast City Council, along with other Council areas, to deliver the participation strand of Everybody 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.

3.2 Belfast’s programme has specific targets which identify women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need as priority. Participation evidence highlights disparities and inequalities within those sectors. Committee authorised officers to develop and commission a blend of providers through a public process to deliver Belfast’s Everybody Active 2020 targets. Officers have once again commissioned a diverse range of partners with consideration to developing programmes which prioritise participation for women/girls in the 14-25 age group, during which drop off levels are greatest.

3.3 Participation Targets 2019-2020

AREA	Total participants	women/girls	People with a disability	high social need	Sustained participants
Belfast	22,512	13,282	4,052	7,878	7,204

3.4 Programme delivery will be linked to other investments including workforce development, outdoor recreation infrastructure, small grants and Peace IV to improve the outcomes from EBA2020.

3.5 Sport NI has recently indicated a budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 in Belfast for Year 4 (2019/20). Sport NI have indicated that a letter of offer will be received by Belfast City Council by early March 2019.

Partner Organisation	Main Target Group
Ulster Rugby-Disability Participation	Disability
Ulster Rugby-Female Participation	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need - Disability
Irish Football Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls - Disability Inclusion
Ulster Squash	Women and Girls

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Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need - Disability Inclusion
Live Active/Disability Sport Northern Ireland (North and West)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Live Active/Disability Sport Northern Ireland (South and East)	Disability - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls – Areas of High Social Need
Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls - Areas of High Social Need
Disability Sport NI- Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability - Areas of High Social Need

3.6 Current position

EBA2020 Strand 1 provides Council with a resource to support the physical activity and health outcomes throughout the City and within the Belfast Agenda framework.

3.7 Financial and Resource Implications

Sport NI has recently given an indicative budget of £468,074 for delivery of EBA2020 Strand 1 in Belfast for Year 4 (2019/2020).

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

The programme is an opportunity for the Council to deliver against its equality and good relations objectives. These would be integrated into the performance frameworks for providers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Cavehill Adventurous Playground Pricing

The Committee agreed that the matter be deferred to enable officers to submit an options paper to a future meeting which would include consideration of reducing the entrance fee charge to the Adventurous Playground.

**Request for the use of Council Facilities and
Additional Funding to Support Events**

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

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that requests had been received from the New Lodge Arts seeking support for its annual Spring Festivals event and also from the Families at the Waterworks Fishing Club to support the fourth year of the Celtic World Spey Casting Invitational Challenge Event at the Waterworks Park.

The Director advised that the Spring Festival, which had been successfully held for the last five years, was a cross community event with activities held throughout the park. New Lodge Arts had obtained funding for the event but it was seeking up to £3,000 financial support from the Council to assist with the overall cost of the event.

The World Spey Casting event would bring world class fishermen from all over the globe to Belfast, with over fifty competitors and 250 spectators estimated daily. The group had requested a funding contribution of £12,500.

The Committee noted that both events would greatly enhance cross community relations and promote the City as a shared space.

Following a query as to whether some level of funding could be allocated to support the two events, the Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services referred to the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 23rd November 2018, where it had been agreed that no discretionary payments would be considered and no further re-allocation of money permitted until the year-end position had been considered by that Committee in June. Therefore, he advised that the request for financial support for both events fell outside the available funding within the existing revenue budgets.

Detailed discussion ensued, following which the Director of Finance provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the Council's current financial position and reiterated that there could be no further discretionary payments or re-allocation of money until the year-end position had been considered in June.

Following discussion, it was suggested that officers from the Council would, if possible, provide assistance to the organisations in identifying other funding streams.

The Committee:

- granted authority for the free use of Alexandra Park on 30th March to hold a Spring Festival, subject to completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and on condition that the Event Organisers meet all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance and provide the relevant Health and Safety documentation and Risk Assessments;
- granted authority for the free use of the Waterworks Park from 17th – 19th May to hold the World Celtic Spey Casting Event, subject to completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and on condition that the Event Organisers meet all statutory requirements,

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including Public Liability Insurance and provided relevant Health and Safety documentation and Risk Assessments; and

- agreed that, as the request for financial support for both events fell outside of available funding within the existing revenue budgets, and as per the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decision of 23rd November 2018, there would be no further discretionary payments considered at this time or no further re-allocation of money until the year end position had been considered in June.

Operational Issues

Dual Language

The Committee approved the applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Madrid Street, Springhill Rise, Glen Grove and Ardmonagh Gardens.

Request use of Barnetts Demesne - 12th July, 2019

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reported that the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast had written to the Council regarding the use of the Barnett's Demesne for its Belfast demonstrations on 12th July.

The Committee acceded to the request from the County Grand Lodge for the use of Barnett Demesne on the 12th July, subject to an appropriate legal agreement being prepared by Legal Services and also granted permission for use of the Cenotaph at City Hall for the Service of Remembrance and wreath laying.

Provision of Salt for Communities During Extreme Weather Conditions

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To identify proposals for a way forward on the supply and accessibility of salt for local communities during prolonged extreme weather conditions.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- **Note the issues set out in this report and agree the interim arrangements and proposal for a more sustainable solution.**

3.0 Main report

**People and Communities Committee,
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- 3.1 Further to a report to Committee in March 2018 regarding the provision of grit for communities during prolonged severe weather conditions Members requested a legal opinion on the Council's position on supplying grit boxes for community use.**
- 3.2 The report from Legal Services in December 2018 states that the statutory duty to treat roads and public places in snow and ice conditions falls to the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi). The legislation provides Dfi with an immunity if it fails to take action under the relevant statutory order. However, as there is no statutory requirement for the Council to treat roads or to provide grit boxes for public use, the Council would not have similar immunity.**
- 3.3 The provision of grit boxes had been suggested as a means of improving resilience in local areas during prolonged extreme weather conditions, but as this is not a viable option. Officers are continuing to liaise with Dfi to consider alternative solutions.**
- 3.4 Consideration was given to storing bags of salt in some of the sandbag containers located throughout the City. However, these containers, supplied by Dfi, are primarily for flood risk and resilience; they are made of steel and any leakage of salt would cause serious, corrosive damage rendering the containers useless for sandbag storage. There would also be an issue of managing the logistics of two different products out of the one container.**
- 3.5 The current proposal under consideration is to store the salt in council owned premises giving priority to high risk locations, i.e. elevated areas more prone to snow and ice. Given the legal opinion we are not considering public access, these resources would be for Members to direct for use in the community. There are a number of options to be considered, for example, suitable locations, space, cost, weight of the bags, access arrangements, etc. However, Members are asked to agree the direction of travel and the interim arrangements set out below.**
- 3.6 It is proposed that in the meantime during prolonged severe, high impact cold weather, existing stocks of salt (25kg bags) are made available for Members' use in the community, at appropriate council community/leisure centres or other council Sites. Higher elevation residential areas would be prioritised where icy conditions are more prevalent and there's more impact. Additional lower lying areas can also receive stocks of salt as appropriate depending on severity and impact.**
- 3.7 Suggested higher elevation areas and centres for salt bags could include:**

- Whitewell – Salt bags delivered to Finlay Park, Whitewell Road (*storage container required*)
- Ballysillan - Salt bags delivered to Ballysillan Leisure Centre
- Ligoniel - Salt bags delivered to Ligoniel Community Centre
- Glencairn/Highfield - Salt bags delivered to Highfield Community Centre
- Whiterock - Salt bags delivered to Whiterock Community Centre
- Lenadoon - Salt bags delivered to Glen Community Centre
- Lagmore/Mount Eagles - Salt bags delivered to store at Mount Eagles Playground

3.8 Suggested salt bag centres for lower elevation areas could include:

East Belfast

- Short Strand Community Centre (*not a Council Centre but would likely be needed – perhaps an agreement around liability could be provided*)
- Avoniel Leisure Centre (*closing Sep/Oct 2019*)
- Dee Street Community Centre
- Cregagh Community Centre
- Braniel Community Centre

South Belfast

- Olympia Leisure Centre
- Malone House
- Markets Community Centre
- Belvoir Activity Centre

North Belfast

- Ardoyne Community Centre
- Loughside Leisure Centre
- plus continued deliveries to Finlay Park, Ballysillan, Ligoniel, Highfield (as above)

West Belfast

- Suffolk Community Centre
- Sally Gardens Community Centre (*owned by the Council but independently managed*)
- Brook Activity Centre
- Hammer Community Centre
- plus continued deliveries to Whiterock, Glen, Lagmore/Mount Eagles (as above)

3.9 These are only suggested locations and other options will be considered. If Members agree, salt could be delivered to these locations in advance of further severe weather.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

We currently have sufficient stocks of 25Kg bags to cover this winter but should we move to a more permanent solution we would consider purchasing 20Kg bags, which are much easier and safer to handle. For twenty-two sites the cost of this would work out at approximately £3,300 per delivery. DfI cannot provide bagged salt but we are exploring the possibility of getting some of the costs covered through the Regional Community Resilience work.

The cost of deliveries of salt to the various locations could be absorbed within existing budgets.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee agreed to the interim arrangements and proposals for a more sustainable solution and agreed to give consideration to making salt available in the following suggested Council facilities and areas:

- Drumglass Park;
- Gilnahirk Bowling Club;
- Belmont Place;
- Inverary Community Centre; and
- the Knocknagoney area.

The Committee also agreed that any further suggestions be forwarded to the City Services Manager.

Partner Agreements Quarterly Update

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

She explained that, in line with the Council’s objectives, all Partners had been compliant on reporting matters with the exception of two reports. Both Partners had confirmed that the reports would be forwarded, but as a result, the quarter four payments had been held from these two Partners until the respective reports had been received.

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

The Committee noted the quarterly progress update report regarding the Partner Agreement sites.

**Request to Plant a Tree as Part of the
Queen's Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter enable a report to be submitted to a future meeting which would detail the policy for such requests.

**Request for events in Botanic Gardens,
Lower Botanic Gardens and Victoria Park**

The Committee considered the following combined report which detailed requests to hold events in a number of Council parks and open spaces:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to host events in our parks across the city, namely:

I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for "Circus Extreme" event.

The Committee is asked to approve a request from The Great Russian Circus Ltd. for the use of Lower Botanic Gardens from 19th August 2019 to 2nd September 2019 for a series of Circus Extreme performances.

The performances will take place each day between 22nd August and 1st September 2019, 2-10pm.

Circus Extreme is an international non-animal circus which features modern, traditional and speciality acts from all over the world.

The show is suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds.

- **The event will require the closure of part of the facility and will have alcohol on sale during the events**
- **The organisers will sell tickets on site for the event**
- **Alcohol will be on sale subject to appropriate licensing application**
- **The organisers expect crowds of up to 1,200 per performance.**

1.2 II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

The Committee is asked to approve a request from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Belfast Mela, a multicultural festival for approximately 20,000 people, in Botanic Gardens.

The event will take place on 25 August, 2019, from 12 noon – 7.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.

1.3 III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

Belfast International Arts Festival, has requested the use of Botanic Gardens for the delivery of an event as part of the Belfast International Arts Festival on Saturday 19th October and Sunday 20th October 2019. The event will require the closure of a proportion of the facility.

1.4 IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

The purpose of the report is to obtain permission from Members for a 1 day music festival in lower Botanic Gardens on 27th July 2019.

1.5 V. Request for The Use of Victoria Park

The Committee is asked to note that the Council has received a request from Left Field to host their annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race' at Victoria Park from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd June 2019. Race to start on Saturday 22nd June at noon.

- The event will result in the partial closure of Victoria Park.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for "Circus Extreme" event.

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Grant authority to Great Russian circus Ltd for the use and hire of the facilities at Lower Botanic Gardens for a series of circus performances between 22 August 2019 and 1 September 2019 with set up and take down before and afterwards.
- B. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:

- The promoter resolves all operational issues to the councils' satisfaction;
- An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
- The promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.
- Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to
- negotiate an appropriate fee for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.
- to write to the promoters and advise that Council reserves the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

2.2 II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Approve this proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, Called Belfast Mela, in Botanic Gardens.
- B. The event will take place on 25 August, 2019, from 12noon – 7.00pm and will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility.
- C. Agree that the appropriate legal agreements for each programme, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;
- D. Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing (including for the sale of alcohol, where required);
- E. Agree the timely payment of the agreed charges and bonds as required in the legal agreements; and
- F. Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

2.3 III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Approve the use of Botanic Gardens including the closure of facilities as required for the set-up, delivery and take-down of the events, resolving all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction and subject to an agreed programme;

- B. Agree that legal services prepares appropriate legal agreements for the event;
- C. Agree that Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and licensing responsibilities; and
- D. Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

2.4 IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

The Committee is asked to:

- A. Grant authority to Digital Nation for the use and hire of the facilities at Lower Botanic Gardens for a 1 day musical event on 27th July 2019 with set up and take down before and afterwards.
- B. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:
 - The promoter resolves all operational issues to the councils' satisfaction;
 - An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
 - The use of the site on this date will be subject to licence and a report will be taken to Licensing committee for them to consider.
 - The promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.
 - Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to
 - Negotiate an appropriate fee for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.
 - To write to the promoters and advise that Council reserves the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

2.5 V. Request for the Use of Victoria Park

The Committee is asked to approve use of Victoria Park and its facilities for the Left Field's annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race' at Victoria Park from Friday 21 June to Sunday 23 June 2019, and all subsequent annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race' events at this location, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and

satisfactory terms being agreed by the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser:

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

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for "Circus Extreme" event.

Circus Extreme is an International non-animal circus which features modern, traditional and speciality acts from all over the world. The show is suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Circus Extreme is an international non-animal circus which features modern, traditional and speciality acts from all over the world.

The show is suitable for people of all ages and backgrounds.

In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:

- a. The event will require the closure of part of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
- b. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 15th August to 8th September 2019 in Lower Botanic Gardens, however the performances are from 22nd August to 1st September starting at 2pm and finishing at 10pm with 2 performances per day; The organisers expect crowds of up to 1,200 per performance.
- c. Circus Extreme has requested permission to collect an entrance fee;
- d. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy;
- e. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.
- f. Alcohol will be on sale subject to appropriate licensing application.

3.2 II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

Over the past number of years, the Council has established a successful partnership with the organisers of Belfast Mela. This type of event is well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. The partnership has delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets.

This year the Council has received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 25th August 2019.

As a condition to funding, it is recommended that ArtsEkta is requested to facilitate community engagement and taster events in other local neighbourhoods, to build the audience from across the city. Specific locations could be identified in conjunction with the Community Parks Outreach team, ensuring a spread across the city.

In relation to facilitating the event itself, the key issues are:

- a. The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and restricted access to the general public;
- b. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event is from 20th August to 27th August 2019 inclusive in Botanic Gardens;
- c. ArtsEkta has requested permission to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access will be restricted to ticket holders only;
- d. The event shall be subject to the preparation of an event management plan which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy;
- e. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which due to the nature of the events will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

Consultation by ArtsEkta will be undertaken with other local stakeholders such as Queens University, Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens, in addition:

- a. An entertainment licence for the period of the event;
- b. This application will be supported by an Event Management Plan and will be subject to the organisers liaising with

Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;

- c. Organisers will also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.
- d. A legal agreement will be provided by Legal Services which, due to the nature of the events, will include a bond for reinstatement costs.

3.3 III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

Following discussions with officers a 2 day event has been proposed for 19 and 20 October 2019 with Belfast International Arts Festival.

To mark the UK's planned departure from the European Union at the end of March 2019, Festival will present a series of new contemporary works for its 57th edition in October 2019, that illustrate our shared European heritage and values. The centrepiece of this programme will be a series of stage and outdoor works from France, part funded by the Institute Francais as part of a UK wide programme curated with a small select group of partners including Sadlers Wells, London; The Hippodrome, Birmingham; The Lowry, Manchester; Edinburgh International Festival and the Belfast International Arts Festival.

Belfast has been chosen for the UK and Ireland premiere of *La Spire* from Chloé Moglia / Rhizome. A 45 minute aerial ballet by six women on spirals of fine steel wire, forming three loops of seven meters in diameter and over eighteen meters in length. Conceived as a drawing traced in space, *La Spire* contrasts the urban environment in which it sits with a sense of surrounding emptiness. The six performers perform astonishing acrobatics, high up in the air, above a mesmerized audience. A memorable acrobatic performance for all the family.

Subject to location and schedule, the artists behind *La Spire*, are also willing to give free and complimentary workshops to the public around acrobatics, suspension and movement as part of the Festival's accompanying and customary outreach and education programme.

Schedule and Locations

Performances are proposed for Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th October 2019 in Botanic Gardens. Given that the artists are performing off the ground and at height, health and safety will be of paramount importance and will largely dictate the location

of the work, which the artists will have final say on. An initial assessment suggests that the most suitable surface and location is Botanic Gardens, which last saw a project of this nature by Festival with BCC support 5 years ago in 2014.

Performances would take place either in the afternoon or subject to external lighting, at twilight and be free of charge to all audiences.

3.4 IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

Tomorrowland is a globally recognised and respected brand, known for putting on unique, high quality events. As part of their 15 year anniversary celebrations, Tomorrowland have expressed particular interest in hosting one of their satellite 'UNITE' parties, which bring together countries from all over the world for one Saturday evening at the end of July.

The event will host international DJ's and performers, and the event is also 'live streamed' in both directions, from Belfast, out to the main show in Belgium, along with multiple other countries worldwide, and the show's from Belgium and the other countries also are 'streamed in' for the audience in Belfast. All global shows are fully synchronised with one another. An event like this in terms of this scale and nature has not been done on the island before.

Tomorrowland propose to start the event in the afternoon of 27 July until 11pm or possibly midnight, to tie in with the live stream from the show in Belgium. The venue they have requested to use for the event is Botanic Gardens – lower section nearby the Queens PEC. The space is very much in fitting with the core Tomorrowland brand values in relation to being 'in nature'. The event would be held on Saturday 27th July and they would require two weeks prior and after for build and take down. The event will have a licensed bar, food stalls, drinks and pyrotechnics.

They anticipate an audience of 12,000- 15,000.

3.5 V. Request The Use of Victoria Park

The organisers are a not-for-profit group who by organising this event will showcase Belfast to an international audience and provide a platform for emerging local talent. This will be the 10th anniversary of the Energia 24 Hour International Race, and the fifth year in a row that it will be staged in Victoria Park. Given this is an established annual event with a successful track record, Committee are asked to agree the request for 2019 and all subsequent annual 'Energia 24 Hour International Race'

events at this location. Any request will be subject to the completion of the necessary documentation and their meeting compliance requirements as detailed in paragraph 2.1 above.

The event includes use of the park and free use of the Bowling Pavilion for administration and access to toilets.

Each entrant will be required to pay a registration fee of £80 and the proceeds will be used to cover the cost of managing and facilitating the race. Entrants can raise sponsorship for their nominated charity.

The organisers intend to bring food vendors and marquees to the event and they estimate that 400 people will be in attendance. The Organisers will provide additional toilets, first aid cover and stewards for the event. Set up will commence at 8am on Friday 21 June, with the main event taking place on Saturday 22nd June, 12 noon to Sunday 23rd June, 12 noon. The event will be dismantled and the site will be cleared on Monday 24th June.

The event will result in the partial closure of Victoria Park.

Due to the scale of the event there will be some minor disruption to existing activities. The event organisers would require Belfast City Council to assist with the following:-

- Close the car park for the setup of Race HQ, marquees etc. in advance of and during the event;
- Request that the bowlers arrange no 'home matches' that weekend;
- Close the tunnel to the park to prevent access for vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians onto the race circuit and impede the event;
- Provide alternative 'through' access across the Park to Sam Thompson Bridge (if required)
- The parkrun have been informed of the event and the parkrun will go ahead at 9.30am with the race starting at 1pm on the Saturday afternoon;
- Ensure no other event bookings take place in the park during that weekend.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

There are significant benefits for the City of Belfast in terms of income generated from events such as these in terms of income from shops, hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, taxi companies, tourist venues, public transport, air, bus and rail companies.

I. Request for The Use of Lower Botanic Gardens for “Circus Extreme” event

An appropriate fee will be negotiated for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.

II. Request use of Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela

Funding for this event has been budgeted in 2019/20 estimates at £20k.

III. Belfast International Arts Festival in Botanic Gardens

Funding for the programme has been budgeted for in the 2019/20 estimates at £20k. Staff may be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and this will be charged to the hirer, in line with the process adopted in previous years.

IV. 1 Day Music Festival in Lower Botanic Gardens

An appropriate fee will be negotiated for use of Lower Botanic Gardens taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.

V. Request The Use of Victoria Park

There is no financial or resource implications.

3.7 Asset and Other Implications

Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk to Council.

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

It is anticipated that these events will deliver a positive impact for equality and good relations.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 13th February, 2019

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, McAllister, Mullan,
Murphy, O'Donnell, 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 for inability to attend was reported on behalf of Councillor Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 9th and 23rd January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th February.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beattie declared an interest in relation to item 3a, Belfast Harbour Commissioners - Proposed Memorandum of Understanding, in that he was on the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and left the meeting whilst the matter was under consideration.

Matters Referred Back from Council

Notice of Motion - Enterprise Zones

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th February, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Heading, had, in accordance with Standing Order 12(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

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“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.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report outlining the potential for the development of enterprise, manufacturing and simplified planning zones in Belfast, as called for within the motion, be submitted to a future meeting.

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 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.

**Belfast Harbour Commissioners:
Proposed Memorandum of Understanding**

The Strategic Director of Place and Economy informed the Committee that the Belfast Harbour occupied a significant part of the City and was Northern Ireland’s principal maritime gateway and logistics hub. In addition to its core port-related business, it played an important role in the tourism sector in the City and had a significant real estate and property development focus.

He reported that, whilst discussions had taken place over the past few years between the Council and the Belfast Harbour Commissioners around specific projects and programmes of joint interest, it was recognised that there was the potential for them

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to work together in a more strategic and integrated way to maximise their respective development, regeneration, innovation and tourism opportunities. Following recent discussions, it was proposed that both parties enter into a strategic partnership arrangement, which would be underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding.

He drew the Members' attention to a draft Memorandum of Understanding, which set out the proposed principles and scope of the partnership, together with a broad outcomes process and pointed out that further discussion and agreement was required around joint thematic priorities and projects/programmes and required outcomes. Governance arrangements were still to be agreed to ensure that they were aligned to the respective decision-making structures and the Memorandum of Understanding would, when finalised, be presented to the Committee for approval.

The Committee agreed, in principle, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and noted that discussions were ongoing between the Department for Infrastructure and the Council regarding the replacement of former Councillor Jones on the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

**Recruitment of Director (Operational) of
City Regeneration and Development**

The Committee was reminded that, due to the previous post-holder having left the Council in June, 2018, arrangements now needed to be put in place for a recruitment exercise to fill on a permanent basis the post of Director (Operational) of City Regeneration and Development.

The Committee agreed that the Elected Member representation on the recruitment panel for the post should consist of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and Councillor Black (or their nominees).

The Zoo - Performance Update 2018

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

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee's consideration a report outlining the performance of the Zoo for 2018, under five key areas, namely, Animal Collection/Welfare, Education Services, Financial Performance, Marketing and Events and Visitor Services.

He then reviewed the circumstances which had led to the escape on separate occasions of a Red Panda and a Chimpanzee from the Zoo and the measures which had since been put in place to prevent a reoccurrence. An independent review of Zoo safety and security had been commissioned.

The Zoo Manager provided further details around the escapes and outlined the role of staff employed at the Zoo and the maintenance arrangements which were in place currently.

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After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the performance update for the Zoo for 2018;
- (ii) noted the circumstances surrounding the recent separate escapes of two animals and the measures which had since been put in place;
- (iii) agreed that a report on the outcome of the independent review of Zoo safety and security be submitted to its next monthly meeting;
- (iv) noted that a report on the development of a North Belfast Masterplan, in the context of the Zoo, Belfast Castle, the North Foreshore and the Belfast Hills, was nearing completion and would be presented shortly for consideration; and
- (v) agreed that the Zoo Manager would, in future, attend appropriate meetings where matters in relation to the Zoo were on the agenda.

Presentations

Request to Present - Tourism NI

The Committee agreed to receive at a future meeting an update on the work of Tourism NI.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

City Centre Regeneration

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To update Members in relation to work around City Centre Regeneration including:

- **City Centre Joint Regeneration Task Force**
- **British Irish Parliamentary Assembly Committee Inquiry on Revitalisation of the High Street**
- **City Recovery Update**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- (i) **the update on the City Centre Joint Regeneration Task Force and the proposed next steps in bringing forward an action plan and areas for focus in terms of the**

medium/longer regeneration and revitalisation of the city centre;

- (ii) the recent visit from the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly as part of their inquiry into 'The Revitalisation of the High Street and Local Business'; and
- (iii) the update on City Recovery work and to note that a short presentation will be made at Committee on the evaluation of the Phase 1 recovery work and emerging proposals for the next phase of city centre revitalisation.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 (i) City Centre Regeneration Task Force

In November 2018 Members were advised of the proposal to establish a City Centre Regeneration Task Force jointly chaired by the Head of the Civil Service and the Council's Chief Executive. Membership of the Task Force also includes the Permanent Secretaries of the Department for Communities; Department for Economy; Department of Finance and Department for Infrastructure; the Director of Regeneration for DfC; the Council's Deputy Chief Executive; Strategic Director Place & Economy and the City Regeneration Lead Officer.

3.2 Members were also advised that Committee would receive, on a quarterly basis, an update on the work of the Task Force.

3.3 The Task Force is aimed at ensuring a collaborative public sector response to drive and resource the city centre recovery efforts in response to the Bank Buildings fire in the shorter term but also to provide a high level forum for the consideration of cross cutting issues and proposals for collaborative working and co-investment in the city centre in the longer term.

3.4 The Task Force had its first meeting on 20th November 2018, followed by a further meeting on 11th January 2019. A broad objective of the Task Force is to maximise the collective potential of our regeneration efforts to transform the city centre aligned to respective and collective priorities and identify an action plan accordingly. It was recognised that there was an immediate need to drive and resource targeted city centre recovery efforts in response to the Bank Building Primark fire but also to consider the longer term revitalisation and regeneration of the city centre from an integrated and sustainable perspective.

- 3.5** The immediate focus was on a recovery plan to address the issues of the Bank Buildings which included funding from central government. The first phase of City recovery was in place until the end of January 2019 but with additional programming until the end of March. Post immediate recovery the next phase moves into measures to drive city revitalisation, as well as a medium / long term action which will focus on those parts of the city most impacted by the fire, as well as reflecting the changing face of our city centre and the need to re-imagine and diversify.
- 3.6** In terms of a medium/long term plan for city centre regeneration there was a consensus that the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) remained a solid basis upon which to take forward a refreshed action plan and prioritisation in respect of the regeneration of the city centre. As Members will be aware the 8 key policies in BCCRIS include:
- Increase the Employment population
 - Increase the Residential population
 - Manage the Retail offer
 - Maximise the Tourism opportunity
 - Create a Regional Learning and Innovation centre
 - Create Green, Walkable, Cyclable Centre
 - Connect to the city around
 - Shared space and social impact
- 3.7** In addition BCCRIS highlighted a number of key projects and places which required a focused effort, as well as identified Special Action Areas where more detailed plans were recommended to help guide shorter term implementation.
- 3.8** It was agreed to undertake a stocktake and gap analysis of the various policies, projects and priorities in BCCRIS to ascertain what was already progressing, gaps, key stakeholders and alignment with the priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda, Programme for Government and other strategies. This could then form the basis for future prioritisation of actions and projects or interventions.

Joe Berridge, who led on the development of the BCCRIS document, visited Belfast in December 2018 and some of the key observations he made in terms of changes since his 2015 visit included the following:

- Increase in the city centre of hospitality, food and drinks offerings

- Increased student population – but important to drive forward other city centre living
- Significant development in the Linen Quarter encouraging
- Positive impact of the Ulster University Campus
- Positivity around development of former Royal Exchange regeneration project – critical to drive this forward
- Need to further promote the River Lagan through development and animation
- Need for enhanced coherence and connectivity – both physical and city management
- Vibrancy evident but continued need to drive forward office, residential, cultural and tourism product

3.9 The BCCRIS review indicated that significant progress had been made over the past few years in line with certain priorities set out in BCCRIS. This included the UU Campus relocation; extension to the Waterfront Hall; delivery of BRT Phase 1; Masterplans and Strategies aligned to the Special Action Areas; development in line with maximising the tourism offering for e.g. the completion of around 1300 hotel beds; development in line with increasing the employment and residential population for e.g. over 1m sq ft of office accommodation completed and in progress and over 3000 purpose built student housing completed and in progress. However, the review also identified that there remained a number of gaps cutting across the 8 policy areas and key projects that need to be progressed in order to drive forward the revitalisation of the city centre.

3.10 It was agreed that an action plan or areas for focus aligned to these gaps should be developed, setting out proposed priorities aligned to the policies and projects in BCCRIS and to the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda and Programme for Government. It was felt that these could fall into 3 broad thematic priorities with assigned actions or areas of focus under each of these. Whilst the detail of the action plan is still being progressed the proposed thematic priorities and emerging actions and areas of focus include the following:

- City Resilience – medium to long term city centre recovery plan; city centre leadership and management; catalyst development opportunities to stimulate wider regeneration etc.
- Re-imagining and Diversification of City Centre Land Uses – to include focused actions around increasing city centre living; use of public land to deliver on priorities; enhanced open spaces and family /leisure based activities; improved tourist offering and connectivity; cultural strategy etc

- Infrastructure and Connectivity – public realm and connectivity schemes; Living with Water Programme; transport strategy /car parking etc

3.11 Further cross departmental work is however required to look at the actions / priorities in more detail to include alignment with wider policy and priorities, affordability and the governance required to take this forward at an operational level. Alongside the work of the Task Force and the operational tier that sits below this there is also ongoing liaison with businesses, their representative bodies and other stakeholders in order to ensure that there is a joined up and strategic approach to city recovery. This includes retailers and city centre umbrella organisations and the input of these groups and agencies will be critical going forward. It was agreed that there was a need to establish a reference or advisory group in order to inform this longer term revitalisation of the city centre.

3.12 (ii) Visit to Belfast from the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA)

On 1 February 2019 Committee C of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) visited Belfast as part of their inquiry into 'The Revitalisation of the High Street and Local Business'. As part of their inquiry they are visiting towns and cities across the UK and Ireland. They visited Dublin and Newcastle Co. Down as part of this trip with recent visits also including Stockton-On-Tees and Newcastle Upon Tyne.

3.13 The focus of their inquiry is to gather evidence on policy tools used by local councils, central government and BID groups to effect positive change for the high street and local businesses. They use the evidence gathered during visits to make reports containing recommendations for Government and their research and report findings will be shared with Belfast as the inquiry completes.

3.14 The visit included a short tour of the city centre and a roundtable discussion on issues affecting the city centre primarily around retail and the challenges, opportunities and potential solutions. Discussion also included the impact of the Bank Buildings fire and the subsequent city recovery work and the proposals for a longer term city centre revitalisation plan. The BID managers and the DfC Director Regeneration also attended alongside BCC. The BIPA visit was at relatively short notice and hence it wasn't in time to bring to the January City Growth Committee. However, further comments or

observations from Members can be fed back to BIPA as appropriate.

- 3.15** The key issues discussed included the need for additional city centre uses to animate and reinvigorate including city centre living, family based facilities, enhanced tourist and 'experiential' offering; the value of families in the revitalisation of the high street; the level of rates and consideration of policy changes; the need for public realm improvements particularly on Royal Avenue; car parking; pedestrianisation and cycling; the need for a co-ordinated drive of all stakeholders including landlords and commercial agents in sustaining and attracting new occupiers on the high street.

3.16 (iii) City Centre Recovery Update

As Members are aware the immediate city recovery programme was intended to run to the end of January 2019 although there are various enhancements and programming in place that run beyond this period, including an amplified programme of animation to run until the end of March. The next phase of a city revitalisation programme is being developed and following a meeting with retailers and the umbrella city centre organisations they are to feed back as to their proposed priorities, marketing and programming plans from their own business areas. They have also been asked to advise as to any data sets they use to measure performance e.g trading figures, geographic and demographic information etc. This data and their feedback on priorities is intended to inform a more joined up and targeted approach going forward. Details of emerging proposals will be presented to Committee.

- 3.17** At this meeting they were also updated on the emerging work of the Joint City Centre Regeneration Taskforce and the proposed medium /longer term plan with areas of focus relating to city resilience, re-imagining and diversification of land uses and connectivity and infrastructure. It is important that there is an integrated approach to the next phase of city revitalisation and the medium/long term regeneration plan. As referred to above it is intended to formalise a city centre advisory structure which includes representatives from the key city centre stakeholders.

An evaluation exercise is currently being completed in respect of the Phase 1 recovery work and details of this will also be presented at Committee.

3.18 Financial and Resource Implications

Further detail will be brought forward on the financial implications associated with the next phase of the city recovery work as this work plan develops and is agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

With the Joint Task Force it is intended that this will provide a collaborative public sector approach in terms of how we collectively maximise our investment and efforts to revitalise the city centre and further detail will be brought forward as this work progresses.

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

None associated with this report. The Council's Equality and Diversity Officers will be consulted on any future changes to strategies or plans that are currently in place."

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer provided an overview of the report and, in terms of the City Centre Recovery Programme, reviewed footfall figures for the month of January, as well as retail sales, hospitality sales, retail footfall and hospitality footfall figures for December. She provided details around Phase 2 of the Programme which would, on the basis of engagement with businesses and representative bodies, focus upon themes such as attractiveness and vibrancy, family centric activities and marketing, as well as an enhanced incentive scheme and rewards app. A report would, on 22nd February, be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee providing further details of Phase 2 and associated budget allocations. She concluded by pointing out that, following discussions with Bid One, a footfall monitor would, as had been suggested previously by Members, be placed in Castle Street.

The Director of Development provided an update on the 'Your Belfast Rewards' scheme, together with details of the animation programme which would be delivered from March onwards. In terms of engagement, he confirmed that regular meetings would continue with local traders, including those in Castle Street, and with other retailers and wider stakeholders.

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

Delivering the Belfast Agenda - Housing Update

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To update Members on key housing-related activities and integration of this work into the Belfast Agenda Living Here Board and associated Action Plan.**

To update Members on the proposal to hold Members’ and City Partners Housing Workshops to review and understand the key challenges and opportunities in relation to housing and the key areas for priority focus.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to:**

- (i) note the update in relation to housing and the proposal for alignment and integration of housing related work strands into the Belfast Agenda Living Here Board; and**
- (ii) agree to hold a Members’ and City Partners workshop(s) on housing as set out below, with the first workshop proposed for March, 2019.**

3.0 Main Report

Background

- 3.1 The Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan set out the target to grow the population in Belfast by 66,000 by 2035. To achieve this target there is a need for approximately 31,600 new homes between 2020-2035. Aside from this overall requirement to increase the population, a specific stretch goal within the Belfast Agenda is to deliver 1,800 social housing units and agree a city target for affordable housing by 2021. The Belfast Agenda also contains objectives on increasing the supply of mixed tenure housing and encouraging city centre living. In addition a key policy with the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy is to increase the residential population of the city centre.**
- 3.2 These represent challenging targets and it is clear that significant work and collaboration is required to support the provision of total housing supply across the city.**
- 3.3 Although the Council does not have responsibility for the statutory delivery of housing it has a range of powers and is involved in various activities relating to housing. These cover the regulatory functions of planning and building control and the LDP; disposal of various Council lands for housing; city**

regeneration activities; city marketing and HMO licencing (due to transfer on 31 March 2019). Housing related reports have been brought into various Council Committees on all these issues, including reports to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on city centre living, but it is recognised that there is scope to try and align some of these workstrands to ensure a joined up approach in the context of the Belfast Agenda objectives.

- 3.4 Achieving the overall Belfast Agenda housing target requires a step change in the current level of delivery and it is critical that key statutory partners and wider stakeholders work together. As the lead body for the Belfast Agenda, the Council has an important role alongside other partners on this major issue. Through the Community Planning Partnership, strategic delivery boards, which includes the Living Here Board, have been set up to provide a structure for governance and support collaborative working across city partners on a range of issues.

3.5 **Belfast Agenda Living Here Board**

At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 7th December 2018, Members received a presentation on the Belfast Agenda that outlined the areas of attention for the next 3-9 months for the Living Here Board. Under the housing aspect within the Living Here Board, the agreed focus was on “Planning for housing that meets the needs of everyone”. The key issues identified included:

- Increasing the total housing supply
- Consideration of published commitments, particularly if they reflect the level of ambition needed to achieve long-term outcomes.

Three actions and timeframes were agreed by Members:

- Scoping of existing activity across the Council and key partners
- Elected Member Workshop to shape strategy and the Community Planning Partnership focus
- Development of cross partners action plan to support the Belfast Agenda

Progress and Next Steps

3.6 Members will be aware of previous activities undertaken to identify the key housing issues and challenges to the supply and delivery of housing to meet the needs outlined in the Belfast Agenda and LDP growth strategy. Recently, Members have been involved in the following work:

3.7 *London Study visit, 12-13 October 2017*

Five Members from across the political parties, along with representatives from the NI Housing Executive, NI Federation of Housing Associations and the BCC Local Development Plan and City Centre Development teams visited a number of mixed-use, mixed-tenure housing developments.

3.8 *City Centre Living Workshop, 23 October 2017*

The London study visit shaped the City Centre Living workshop that was attended by 53 people (inc. DfC, NIHE etc.), including 18 Members. The session was externally facilitated and considered a range of issues around city centre living. Various topics were identified and a subsequent report brought into Committee in January 2018. The key issues included the need to understand the city centre residential market; the need to consider potential intervention; a pilot scheme to delivery city centre living principles in a mixed-used development and Living Over The Shops.

3.9 *Living Over The Shops (LOTS) Workshops, June 2018*

These workshops explored issues around developing LOTS-type of accommodation in Belfast City Centre. As part of the workshops, officers from Dublin City Council working on the Living City Initiatives presented their approaches, challenges and experiences. There are elements of LOTS now coming forward in Belfast city centre but there remains a need to consider this in more detail if it is to be successful.

3.10 *Housing Workshop, 18 December 2018*

A joint BCC/DfC officer workshop took place with NIHE, DfC and internal council officers as a stocktake to explore how collectively we can work to improve the total housing supply in Belfast. Key blockages and challenges were identified and various initial issues and actions were identified as requiring further consideration by the respective organisations including land supply; procurement issues; a City Centre Waiting List; assessment of public land available for

development and the need to explore financial/funding models to support housing development.

3.11 *Meeting of the Living Here Board, 28 January 2019*

The Living Here Board had developed a high-level action plan that brought together certain aspects of the housing work streams as identified in the Belfast Agenda,. The Community Planning Partnership agreed the initial action plans for the Living Here Board including the housing strand. Subsequently there has been further engagement with partners and at a meeting of the Living Here Board on 28 January it was proposed that any additional work strands as identified in the Housing Workshop of 18 December and those emerging from any follow up session(s) are also integrated into an updated action plan linked to the Living Here Board. This would provide for a more coherent and joined up approach amongst partners and provide a conduit for housing related issues to be considered. This action plan remains a work in progress however and there is an opportunity now for Members input to this in order to further inform and shape the Action Plan.

3.12 As referred to above, following the Strategic Policy and Resources meeting in December and as discussed at the Living Here Board, it is now proposed to hold an Elected Members' and City Partners workshop (or workshops) in order to further support decision making and enhance Members' understanding of the wider housing context, with the following key objectives:

- Review and understand the key challenges and opportunities on housing (including demand and supply issues);
- Understand the role of city partners;
- To brief Members on developments in social and affordable housing and on the operation of the private rented sector across Belfast;
- To provide information on trends in the housing market;
- To consider examples of successful practice from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland regarding approaches to new supply, models that encourage mixed tenure and positive placemaking;
- To discuss ways to best use the Council's powers and

obligations to enable the supply of housing - in support of the Belfast Agenda and aligned with other BCC strategies and frameworks, including the Local Development Plan; and

- Update and explore the key areas for priority focus and embed the updated actions in the Living Here Action Plan

3.13 It is proposed to hold the first workshop in March subject to getting a suitable date arranged, with a further workshop to follow thereafter as required.

3.14 In addition, options for a conference on housing hosted by the Lord Mayor are among the plans to be considered at the workshop and further details will be brought back to Committee.

3.15 Equality and Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications

There are no negatively equality, good relation or rural needs implications at this point. The Council's Equality & Diversity Officer will be consulted during this process and any proposed approach will be subject to the Council's screening requirements to ensure that Equality and Good Relations implications and rural needs are fully considered.

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of hosting the Workshops will be met from within the Place and Economy departmental budget."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Infrastructure and Transport Update

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To update Members on the following infrastructure and transport matters:

1. Belfast Infrastructure Study
2. Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan
3. Translink Depot
4. Review of Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street Cycle Lane
5. Transport Scheme Consultations

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the update on the Belfast Infrastructure Study and the intention to hold a Members' Briefing to present the outworkings of the Study;**
- (ii) note the update on the Belfast Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan and agree to a future Members meeting with Dfl on the issue of problem parking;**
- (iii) note the update in relation to discussions with Translink regarding the East Belfast Translink Depot and the proposal that the Council obtains further advice to ensure this work is approached from an optimal city regeneration perspective;**
- (iv) consider the draft response to the Review of Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street Cycle Lane outlined in the attached appendix and, if appropriate, agree the response for submission to the Department for Infrastructure; and**
- (v) consider the various Transport Scheme Consultations being undertaken by the Department for Infrastructure as outlined in the attached appendix, and if appropriate confirm Council's support to these proposals.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 1. Infrastructure Study

3.2 At the September 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee it was agreed that specialist support should be commissioned to develop a Belfast Infrastructure Study. The aim of the study is to identify the infrastructure required to support delivery of the growth ambitions of the Belfast Agenda to drive physical and social regeneration. It will also identify the key strategic projects required to facilitate economic growth, positioning Belfast to attract inward investment, encourage development, and enable an accessible, inclusive and sustainable environment for residents and visitors.

3.3 Arup were appointed to develop the Infrastructure Study in July 2018 and have been engaging with key stakeholders throughout late 2018 to establish baseline information and undertake a gap analysis.

- 3.4 The study is based around two main categories of infrastructure i.e. Utilities and Strategic Transport and comprises three main stages:
1. Baseline Review; i.e. capacity and current planned interventions, as well as how to support growth ambitions;
 2. Infrastructure Priorities; timeframes, criticality and geographic clusters;
 3. Delivery; including for example the potential to maximise resources by greater integration of proposed interventions.
- 3.5 In addition, Arup is considering issues of Local Connectivity & Placemaking and exploring the potential for future traffic analysis using an area based planning approach to take account of the transport implications of large or multiple developments within a given area.
- 3.6 A Visioning Workshop, attended by key delivery stakeholders from across various infrastructure sectors, took place at City Hall in November 2018. The workshop was intended to begin to agree a collective approach to infrastructure planning to achieve the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.7 Arup are currently preparing an Infrastructure Needs & Delivery Assessment to identify the key interventions required. The Needs and Delivery Assessment will prioritise infrastructure delivery and identify opportunities to cluster key infrastructure project delivery to maximise the benefit through collaborative delivery. A draft report is expected during early 2019 at which stage there will be further engagement with key delivery stakeholders.
- 3.8 It is proposed that a Members Briefing will be scheduled in the coming months to present the initial outworkings of the Infrastructure Study.

2. Car Parking Strategy and Action Plan

- 3.9 Following Committee approval the Car Parking Strategy (CPS) was published in May 2018. The Strategy includes a number of recommended actions for the responsible statutory organisations to undertake to address the issues identified within the Strategy. An officer led Car Park Working Group has been established to oversee and report on the implementation of the recommended actions of the Car Park Strategy. These actions have been allocated into four main themes with a lead department / organisation appointed to oversee the delivery and reporting of the actions within each theme. A summary of

the four main work streams to deliver the Action Plan are included below along with an update on the progress of the actions:

(i) Operational

- 3.10 The Operational work stream is managed by City and Neighbourhood Services Off-Street Parking Unit and includes operational issues covering Parking Orders, tariffs, ticketing and enforcement.
- 3.11 The Off-Street Parking Unit (OSPU) are progressing the development of the Belfast Off Street Parking Order, taking cognisance of the Belfast Parking Strategy and Action Plan findings. This will include a review of the current parking tariffs and Blue Badge parking elements, which may require a consultation process dependant on the outcome of the review. The OSPU will be engaging with key stakeholders such as, but not limited to, Members, DfI, Translink, IMTAC, Disability Action NI, Trading Associations in areas where a change in parking tariffs may impact and internal departments such as Legal, City Regeneration and Development, Events and Business Support/Corporate Finance.
- 3.12 The CPS also suggested providing additional Belfast Bike docking stations within or adjacent to parking facilities. At the January 2019 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee it was agreed to carry out a strategic review of the Belfast Bikes scheme. The review will consider existing scheme coverage and identify options for potential expansion, including considering the recommendations made within the Car Parking Strategy

(ii) Parking Forum

- 3.13 The Parking Forum theme covers the actions relating to the wider car parking offer, including off-street, on-street and private parking suppliers. It is proposed that the Parking Forum should consist of statutory and private car parking suppliers across the city to deal with the city wide improvements to the parking offer made within the Car Parking Strategy. These actions include the use of smart technologies and advanced information systems to facilitate ease of parking and payment, the introduction of a quality standard to parking facilities such as 'Park Mark' and the introduction of a shuttle bus to operate between Multi-Storey Car Parks
- 3.14 A number of meetings have been held with the statutory operators and operators of some of the large private multi-

story car parks have been contacted with a view to bring forward a wider City Centre Parking Forum to provide a collaborative and coherent approach to the city's parking offer. It is intended to set up this formal Parking Forum to bring forward the actions over the coming months

- 3.15 An action within the Parking Forum Work stream was to initiate a shuttle bus service to connect the main city centre shopping and employment areas with the multi-storey car parks. In response to the severance of Castle Place following the Bank Buildings fire a free shuttle bus was established to provide improved connectivity links across the city centre. Following several weeks of service, and a sustained marketing campaign, uptake on the service was very limited, and hence the service was removed. It is however proposed that this action is kept under review and revisited in the instance of Multi-Storey Car Park development outside the city centre.

(iii) Strategic Sites Assessment

- 3.16 This work stream is overseen by the City Regeneration and Development Team, with actions including the monitoring of parking stock across the city centre and identifying opportunities to consolidate surface parking to provide a more coherent parking offer while releasing development opportunities aligned to the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and the City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy.
- 3.17 The CPS recommended a shift away from surface level car parking as it offers limited capacity and is not a good use of city centre land. The CPS identified a number of benefits from carefully planned rationalisation, including reduced traffic volumes from fewer circulating vehicles; reduced air pollution, improved road safety, and opportunities for regeneration.
- 3.18 At the May 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee it was agreed that a Strategic Sites Assessment is undertaken to assess development and regeneration potential of Council's city centre surface car parks and adjacent public sector land and to consider locations best suited to support Departmental and Council needs (e.g. Programme for Government and the Belfast Agenda). Committee also agreed that the Strategic Sites Assessment would take due cognisance of parking income and the impact of potential development opportunities on current and future parking supply.

- 3.19 This comprehensive review is currently underway and a detailed report will be brought forward to Members in the very near future.
- 3.20 Members will also be aware that a number of new multi-storey car-parks (MSCPs) are introducing new supply to the city centre parking offer. A c.900 space MSCP opened during late January 2019 at City Quays and a c.575 space MSCP at Grosvenor Road received support from the NI Investment Fund in the same month. In addition, construction is expected to commence on the Ulster University MSCP in the coming months. The Strategic Sites Assessment Work stream will continue to monitor the allocation of the car parking offer across the city centre, taking into account upcoming development opportunities and large scale infrastructure projects such as York Street Interchange and the Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 2.

(iv) Transport

- 3.21 The actions within this work stream are generally the responsibility of the Department for Infrastructure, although officers from across the Council regularly engage with DfI on transport and parking issues. The CPS recommended a number of actions including:
- a review of on-street parking controls including tariffs, controlled zones and ticketing and payment systems;
 - Improved enforcement of inappropriate parking and of car parks operating outside their planning conditions;
 - Review and implementation of Resident Parking Zones;
 - New Park and Ride sites and review of parking costs at Park and Ride sites;
 - Improvements to cycling infrastructure including cycle parking provision, cycling routes and signage; and
 - Minimising traffic in the BMTP core.
- 3.22 The Department for Infrastructure are currently preparing the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Strategy (BMTS) which will provide the strategy required to bring forward a number of the actions of the Transport Workstream. The Director for Planning and Building Control represents the council on the Project Board overseeing the development of the BMTS and, once complete for consultation the BMTS will be brought to Members for consultation as part of the DfI consultation and approval process.
- 3.23 The Local Development Plan will contain policies relating to transportation and parking. The current draft Plan Strategy

contains a policy outlining reduced parking standards within designated areas of parking restraint for residential and non-residential development. Designations will be considered as part a revised BMTP (led by Dfl) and at the next stage of the LDP (Local Policies Plan). The LDP draft Plan Strategy also contains a policy to ensure major new development takes account of cyclists in terms of safe, convenience and secure cycle parking.

- 3.24 The recent introduction of the Glider service and future expansion proposals as part of the Belfast Region City Deal will continue to help achieve this ambition of reduced parking standards.
- 3.25 An update on progress on some of the actions within the Transport work stream, and in response to various Notices of Motion and committee discussions around problem parking, are included below.

Belfast Rapid Transport:

- 3.26 The Belfast Rapid Transport Phase 1 scheme went live in September 2018. Operating with the G1 Service (East-West) and the G2 Service (Titanic Quarter) Translink advise that the Glider Service has seen successful uptake with an increase of some 20% along the G1 route. The department are responding to this increase in uptake by procuring additional Glider units to operate the service. Translink also advise that a detailed Project Evaluation will be undertaken after one year of service and details will be provided to Members.
- 3.27 With the inclusion of BRT Phase 2 (North-South) within the Belfast Region City Deal application the department propose to progress plans to bring forward the phase 2 service in line with the City Deal requirements.
- 3.28 **Yorkgate Train Station**

There are emerging proposals being considered by the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company / Translink in relation to the potential upgrade of the existing facilities at Yorkgate, aimed at providing enhanced facilities to cater for current and increased future demand, particularly with the opening of the new UU Campus. Further details can be brought back to Committee in due course.

Park and Ride Facilities:

To support the uptake in public transport usage Dfl are in the process of implementing a number of schemes to facilitate improved Park and Ride facilities including:

- Currently expanding the Park and Ride facilities at Blacks Road
- Currently exploring options to expand the existing Park and Ride facilities at Sprucefield, Newtownards and Cairnshill;
- Currently exploring options to develop a new Park and Ride in the Tillysburn area;
- Currently expanding motorway bus lanes on the M1 and M2 to Park and Ride locations; and
- Additional Park and Ride improvements to be considered as part of BRT Phase 2

3.30 The Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company also have a Park and Ride Strategy aligned to their rail services with the objective of increasing Park and Ride facilities across the province in conjunction with increased rail use.

3.31 **Residents' Parking Zones:**

Dfl have completed one Residents' Parking Zone in the Rugby Road area, which opened in April 2018. The Department are to carry out a project evaluation following 12 months of operation taking into account the lessons learnt and subsequently a review of the Resident's Parking Zone Policy will be completed to address how schemes are delivered going forward.

3.32 Dfl are also currently designing options to progress a Residents' Parking Zone in the Iveagh Drive area and intend to commence consultation with the public in March 2019.

3.33 Members may recall that there was a Dfl /Members meeting in May 2018 to discuss problem parking. As a follow up to this and in light of various concerns that Members have raised on the issue of problem parking Dfl have advised that they will facilitate a further meeting on this issue and Members will be notified accordingly when Dfl confirm a date. Dfl have also confirmed that they will provide an update on infrastructure related issues including car parking at their next Bi-annual Report update meeting at Committee in June.

3. Translink Depot Relocation

- 3.34 At the October 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, the Committee agreed that the Council would engage with Translink to discuss the potential relocation of the bus depot from the current East Belfast location, with a report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 3.35 Officers have subsequently engaged with Translink to understand the logistical and operational requirements of a depot to deliver the eastbound services.
- 3.36 The current site sits just outside the East Bank Development Strategy boundary and Members will recall that the Strategy highlighted the importance of connectivity to surrounding areas and the identification of key sites for development. The potential regeneration contribution of this site and strategic linkages to the proposed Belfast Waterside scheme (former Sirocco Works) and surrounding development opportunities warrants consideration in the context of the wider East Bank area to ensure optimal use of land within a city centre context. It is recognised however that this must take into account operational requirements.
- 3.37 Translink have agreed in principle to working collaboratively with the Council in terms of a feasibility exercise to identify potential sites that could deliver their operational and logistical needs although this in the acknowledgement that the relocation of the facility is not currently included within the Translink Business Plan.
- 3.38 In order that this work is approached from an optimal city regeneration perspective it is proposed that the Council obtains specialist advice to ensure a comprehensive assessment of viable alternative sites and to understand the regeneration potential of the existing site. It must be highlighted however that the work would remain exploratory only at this stage and would be used to inform future discussions should Translink decide they wish to pursue any relocation option.

4. Review of Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street Cycle Lane

- 3.38 The Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street Cycle Lane scheme was supported by Council at the September 2015 meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee as part of the proposals to improve the city centre cycle network.

- 3.39 The scheme has been operational since March 2016 and DfI is carrying out a review to consider what improvements can be made to the operation of the scheme at this location. It is suggested that DfI consider changes to the design of the segregation along this route to prevent vehicles entering and parking in the lane and also to improve the amenity of the streets within the Linen Conservation Area. The proposed response is attached.

5. Transport Scheme Consultations

- 3.40 DfI have requested feedback from the Council on a number of minor transport schemes throughout the city including:

- six proposed waiting restrictions;
- a taxi bus rank at King Street;
- proposed abandonment at Whitla Street; and
- proposed abandonment of the Westlink backpath between Albert Street and Cullingtree Road.

- 3.41 It is suggested that the Council support these proposals in order to improve accessibility, traffic progression and road safety in the city. Further details on the proposals are attached.

3.42 Financial and Resource Implications

The financial implications of the studies and advices referred to above will be met from within the current departmental budget.

3.43 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

APPENDIX

Council Response - Review of Alfred Street/ Upper Arthur Street Cycle lane

The Council supported the introduction of the Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street scheme as part of the proposals to improve the city centre cycle network. The scheme contributes to delivering a number of the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in particular “Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city”. An indicator of this outcome is to increase “the percentage of all journeys which are made by walking, cycling or public transport”.

In relation to the review of the cycle lane, the Council would suggest that the following issues are considered:

1. the gaps between the wands are currently too wide, as a result vehicles can access the cycleway and park. Further consideration should be given to the design of the segregation in order to prevent the vehicles from accessing and parking in the cycle lane. Motorist can also access the cycleway from side junctions and consideration should be given to preventing access for vehicles at the various junctions along the route;
2. Alfred Street is within the Linen Conservation Area boundary. It should be noted that any development should be in sympathy with the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Development guidelines for Alfred Street state that consideration should be given to upgrading the amenity of Alfred Street. It is considered that the appearance of the wands is not sensitive to the Linenhall Conservation area and consideration should be given to an alternative design; and
3. Access from and to Ormeau Avenue from the Alfred Street Cycle way is problematic. Further measures should be considered to give greater priority for pedestrian and cyclists using the shared pavement.

It should be noted that Councils street cleansing vehicles will need access to the cycle lane and the design of the separation should allow access for these vehicles. The Council would request that any amendments to the design as part of this consultation are brought back to Council officers for discussion and approval.

Transport Scheme Consultations

DfI has requested feedback from the Council on a number of minor transport schemes throughout the city. Details on the proposals are outlined below and it is suggested that the Council welcome the proposals in order to improve traffic progression and road safety.

1. Waiting Restrictions:

1. Howard Street and East Bridge Street - Proposal to introduce waiting restrictions

DfI is proposing to take forward the necessary legislation to extend the waiting restrictions on sections of Howard Street and East Bridge Street. The current restriction is from 8am to 6pm and the amendment is to change it to 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday in line with the Glider bus lane operational hours. The restriction

is to ensure there is no parking during the operation of the Glider bus lane.

2. Station View - Proposed changes to waiting restrictions

Following construction of a lay-by outside the new apartment development on Station View a length of existing waiting restrictions (single yellow line) along the length of the lay-by is no longer required. The removal of this length of waiting restriction will require a new legislative process.

The proposal is to revoke the existing legislation that relates to 19m of waiting restrictions (single yellow line) at the lay-by and introduce a new amended legislation for reintroduction of two separate lengths of 'Prohibition of Waiting', Monday to Friday, 8.30am – 6.00pm, of approximately 8 m and 70m respectively.

3. Cooke Court, Cooke Mews and Lavina Square – Request for waiting restrictions

Follows concerns raised by a local residents group regarding parking issues in the above locations. Due to the density and duration of parking, DfI have identified traffic progression and road safety issues at the location and it is proposed that the waiting restrictions will be a combination of 'At Any Time' and 'Working Day' restrictions where parking is prohibited Mon-Fri 8.00am – 6.00pm.

4. Dromara Street – Proposed waiting restrictions

The issue of all day parking is causing difficulties for refuse collection vehicles on Dromara Street. The Department is proposing the introduction of additional waiting restrictions on the section of Dromara Street opposite no's 2 to 20. It is proposed to introduce in total approximately 47m of 'Prohibition'.

5. Balmoral Road - Proposed Waiting Restrictions

The Department is proposing to introduce waiting restrictions on a section of Balmoral Road following a request from DVLA to improve traffic progression in the area. It is considered that the proposal will reduce congestion along the route.

6. Crumlin Road – Proposed Waiting Restrictions

The Department propose to extend the waiting restrictions along the Crumlin Road outside the Mater Hospital and Court house building.

7. King Street, Belfast - Proposal to introduce a taxi bus rank

The taxi bus rank will operate Monday to Sunday 0700 - 2300hrs on the King Street (western side), in a lay-by at a point 6.5m south of its junction with Francis Street for a distance of 23.5 m in a southerly direction with a maximum of 4 taxi buses permitted in the rank.

8. Whitla Street - Proposed Abandonment

DfI is proposing to abandon the land/footpath on Whitla Street. The abandonment is deemed necessary to formally remove from DfI records part of an old street that no longer exists.

9. Westlink backpath between Albert Street and Cullingtree Road - Proposed Abandonment

The Department is proposing to abandon the land and footpath to facilitate an environmental improvement scheme in conjunction with Belfast City Council and NIHE.”

After a lengthy discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the update on the Belfast Infrastructure Study and the intention to hold a briefing for Members on the outworkings of the study;
- (ii) noted the update on the Belfast Car Parking Strategy and action plan and agreed that:
 - (a) the meeting which had been requested with the Department for Infrastructure on traffic calming, arising from a Council motion on 4th February, should include discussion around the longstanding problem of on-street parking; and
 - (b) that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust be requested to provide additional on-site parking at the Mater and Royal Victoria Hospitals;
- (iii) noted the update on discussions with Translink around the potential relocation of the East Belfast Translink Depot;
- (iv) approved the draft response to the review of the Alfred Street / Upper Arthur Street cycle lane, as set out within the appendix, subject to reference being made to the need for additional signage warning drivers that the cycle lane was two-way; and
- (v) agreed to support the minor transport schemes being proposed by the Department for Infrastructure, as set out within the appendix, as

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a means of improving accessibility, traffic progression and road safety across the City.

Designing Streets for Children Programme

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer informed the Committee that Belfast had, as part of its global 100 Resilient Cities work, been encouraged to apply for the 'Streets for Kids Programme'. The Programme, which was part of the US National Association of City Transportation Officials - Global Designing Cities Initiative (NACTO-GDCI), sought to develop new technical guidance and advance street designs which created safe public spaces for children of all ages and abilities to learn, play and move around a city.

She drew the Members' attention to the work which was being undertaken currently to revitalise the City centre and confirmed that Arup, a strategic partner in the 'urban childhoods' initiative, had, on the basis of its work to date, suggested that urban amenities which supported healthy child development contributed to improvements in public health and mobility and assisted in addressing issues such as urban loneliness, and climate change. Arup was working with the Commissioner for Resilience to host later in the year an event to connect, share and create ideas to support early childhood in urban settings with city leaders, development partners, designers, engineers and innovators.

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer explained that, from 2019 till 2021, NACTO-GDCI representatives would work directly with staff from eight selected cities to reimagine and redesign their streets to support comfortable, healthy and inspiring environments for all children. Staff would in 2019/20 receive one to two days of facilitated training, following which staff from four of those cities would be provided with more in-depth technical assistance/design support and funding for project implementation. Participating cities would, she pointed out, be required to commit only staff resources at this point.

She confirmed that, later in the Programme, the Council could potentially apply to partner NACTO-GDCI to design and deliver a demonstration project. NACTO-GDCI would provide match funding up to a maximum of approximately \$20,000 for project implementation. She pointed out that, should the Council decide to apply, Committee approval would be sought, given the need to commit financial resources.

The Committee granted approval for an application to be submitted to the 'Streets for Kids' Programme.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

(Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, attended in relation to the following two items.)

The Committee agreed that the following two reports should be considered jointly:

City Events Programme 2019/20

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members’ approval for a programme of events that will be delivered and supported by the Council’s City Events Unit, and the Tourism Culture Heritage and Arts team. This includes the Irish Athletics Boxing Association’s (IABA) 2020 Elite Men and Women’s Champions which is the subject of 2 notices of motion.

1.2 The Committee is also asked to note the route for this year’s St Patrick’s Day parade due to the diversionary requirements enforced due to the Bank Buildings fire.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

(i) approve the annual programme of Events for 2019/2020 within the attached appendix, based on previous year’s spend;

(ii) note the 2019 St Patrick’s Day Parade route;

(iii) approve the staging of the Irish Athletics Boxing Association’s (IABA) 2020 Elite Men and Women’s Champions. This item is based on a Notice of Motion presented to Members in March 2018 and subsequent report to Members in September 2018; and

(iv) approve the use of a Council venue, such as one of its parks, to be part of the package of support for the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championship.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 2019/2020 Events and Festivals Programme

On an annual basis, the Council’s City Events Unit delivers a series of large-scale public events, which are free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city, on behalf of Belfast City Council. In 2018/2019, it is estimated that these events generated over £6 million of additional economic activity, with 208,511 visitors attending the events programme (Christmas, St Patrick’s and Culture Night details still to be added).

3.2 The Culture and Arts Unit also support a number of annual programmes and activities. Members will be aware that a ten

year Cultural Strategy for Belfast is currently under development and is due to be presented to Committee at a later date. This strategy will set out long-term recommendations for events in the city including a proposed investment model to be operational from April 2020.

- 3.3 For 2019/20, the recommendation is to follow the approach of recent years with direct approval of support for specified events through departmental budgets. A separate report is being presented which asks committee to consider the allocation of non-recurrent funding to enhance the city's events and festivals offer. Details of this non-recurrent funding is set out in the *Progression of the Cultural Programme - Festival and Events Update* report to Committee.
- 3.4 In relation to the allocation of departmental budgets, the draft programme of events being delivered or supported by the Council's City Events Unit and other sections of the Place and Economy Department in 2019/2020 is outlined in the attached appendix. This includes a range of projects across the calendar year, beginning with the Lord Mayor's Day in April, through to the Christmas Lights Switch-On in November and finishing with the city's St Patrick's Day celebrations in 2020. In addition, there is also a significant grants programme for sporting events across the city via the Council's Support for Sport events grant, as well as support for investment in small-scale events and festivals and local cultural projects.
- 3.5 The cost of the proposed programme is £1,092,114, with this amount contained within the existing revenue finances that form part of Place and Economy Department's 2019-2020 estimates.
- 3.6 The majority of these events are run on an annual basis or have been supported over the last number of years with approval of committee. This is with the exception of IABA.

St Patrick's Day Parade Route, Sunday 17th March 2019

- 3.7 Due to the Bank Buildings fire, Members are asked to note the route for the 2019 parade. The route will see participants assemble along Linenhall Street, behind City Hall, from 10.00am to 12.20pm, with the parade departing at 12.30pm and moving to Writers' Square via Donegall Square South, Donegall Square West, Donegall Square North, Chichester Street, Victoria Street, High Street, Bridge Street on to Donegall Street and finish at Writers' Square. Despite the disruption caused by the enforced Bank Buildings road closures, it is anticipated that tens of thousands of visitors will

still see the procession, which is delivered by Beat Initiative in conjunction with the Council and community groups.

**IABA 2020 Elite Men and Women's Champions
(7 to 9 February tbc), Belfast Waterfront Hall**

- 3.8 On back of a Council Notice of Motion, Officers have been liaising with the IABA on the staging of the above championships. There are currently no concrete economic statistics attached to the competition, as the Elite Finals have not been held outside of the National Boxing Stadium in Dublin. However, it is estimated by the IABA, that the finals would attract approximately 2,000 people, alongside 100 competitors (20 bouts for male competitors and 20 bouts for female competitors plus coaching staff). The IABA estimates that visitors would create 950 overnight stays. At September's City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members agreed that Officers would continue to negotiate with IABA to build a greater understanding of the costs associated with holding the event, which is now costed at £69,470 (based on information from the IABA). Councillors also instructed Officers to analyse whether the Council could retain ticketing income from the event. Unfortunately, the IABA have indicated that this is not feasible. They have stated that this annual event would normally provide a revenue stream, with limited expenditure, to the Association, as it is normally staged at the IABA's own venue - the National Boxing Stadium in Dublin.

RSPBA NI 2019 Belfast Pipe Band Championships

- 3.9 Members will recall that the Council lost a bid for the World Pipe Band Championships which it had supported over a number of years. However this year the RSPBA would like to run one of their events in a Council venue and for Council to contribute £20,000.00.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.10 Members are asked to note the City Growth and Regeneration meeting, on 27th June 2018, agreed that any financial request from the Belfast City Marathon Ltd would be submitted for the Committee's consideration at a future date and would need to be placed within the context of other financial requests presented to the Council. Currently the Marathon are not seeking an increase in the Council's annual support, which stands at £26,000, but would look to diminish this level of support over the next five years (2019/20 - £26,000; 2020/21 - £20,000; 2021/22 - £15,000; 2022/23 - £10,000 and 2023/24 - £5,000). After this point, the Belfast City Marathon would be

hopeful to be in a position of self-financing the event and or review the staging of it and any funding approval will be subject to agreed set targets with the Belfast City Marathon Ltd.

- 3.11 Therefore, inclusive of the Belfast City Marathon costs, and subject to agreement of the city rate, the resources indicated within the programme for the 2019/20 events programme will be met through the existing 2019/2020 revenue estimates.

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

- 3.12 The proposed programme of events are open to all and as such have the potential to promote good relations & equality by bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds. There are no Rural Needs implications.

4.0 Document Attached

- 4.1 Draft City Events Programme 2019/2020.”

APPENDIX

Draft City Events Programme 2019/2020

	Proposed 2019-2020 Programme Agreed Estimates £
Lord Mayor's Day	45,000
Maritime inclusive of Titanic Commemoration	240,000
BBC Proms in the Park	90,000
Autumn Fair	50,000
Hallowe'en	155,000
Christmas	111,114
IABA Elite Boxing Championships	70,000
St Patrick's Day	155,000
Support for Sport	70,000

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RSPBA NI	20,000
Sail Training	20,000
Belfast City Marathon	26,000
Major Sports Events Bidding	10,000
NI Science Festival	35,000
Culture Night	20,000
Ciclovia	10,000
	£1,092,114

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 At the Strategic Policy and Resources meeting in December 2018, the Committee agreed to allocate one-off funding of £320,000 as additional support to events and festivals in financial year 2019/20 pending agreement on the 10-year Cultural Programme which will be presented to Committee later this year. This was on the understanding that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee would decide on the exact allocations. At the January 2019 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members agreed to defer consideration of a report setting out recommendations for an interim position for Events and Festivals in 2019/20. It was agreed that the report would be taken back to Committee in February following Party briefings. These have now taken place.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the implementation of recommendations for the development of Events and Festivals in the context of developing a long-term cultural programme (with some additional information provided) and to agree an interim position for 2019/20.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) consider whether it wishes to allocate £225,000 of this funding as outlined in 3.16.
- (ii) consider whether £95,000 of this funding is allocated for growth festivals, as outlined in 3.20, and that Council officers will develop and deliver a programme to support growth festivals in 19/20 subject to Committee approving the breakdown of funding allocations.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2018, it was agreed that further consideration should be given to an interim position for events and festivals. This interim position would be for one year only until a new cultural strategy would be agreed and implemented from April 2020 onwards that would include new funding processes. Members should note that events, festivals, culture and arts are funded in a number of ways as follows:

- Annual Events Programme – this is funded from the annual events budget and includes Council-organised events and a number of contracted events and funding contributions. A separate report is being presented on the 2019/20 programme.
- Core Multi-Annual Funding – a 4-year programme for supporting a wide range of culture and art organisations. The current programme runs from 2017-2020.
- Community Festivals Fund – a small-scale competitive programme which runs annually.
- Small Grants Programme for heritage and arts.

In addition there are some requests which are made on an annual basis such as Friendship Four and basketball. These are brought to Committee separately.

- 3.2** It was agreed that a report would be taken to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider allocating one-off funding to events and festivals in financial year 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 to be allocated

from the specified reserve for the development of a long-term cultural programme.

- 3.3** The background to the proposed approach is a series of key recommendations from the Events and Festivals strategy commissioned by the 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
- Making recommendations for the identification, securing, funding and delivery of events and festivals in Belfast.

- 3.4** The initial recommendations cover four main areas:

- 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
- Governance and delivery: Need to improve internal co-ordination; greater partnership with other funders; consider a commissioning model for certain types of events.

- 3.5** 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 Council
- Clear categorisation of the city's events and festivals offer.

Gap Analysis

- 3.6 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 therefore be subject to wider stakeholder engagement, public consultation and an Equality Impact Assessment.

Future funding

- 3.7 The development of a new competitive funding programme for events and festivals will also need to be developed alongside other core funding programmes for arts and heritage. This work will align to the new Cultural Strategy and will be subject to Committee approval.
- 3.8 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
 - A review of other challenges that impact on the growth of festivals and events in the city.

Key Issues

- 3.9 The timeline presented to the 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. Whilst existing funding programmes in areas such as arts and heritage and community festivals are due to run until March 2020, there is an ongoing gap for events and festivals as this has been allocated by Council on a year to year basis.

- 3.10 As Members will be aware, in recent years Events and Festivals have been supported through recurring departmental budgets and non-recurrent one-off allocations. Full details on the proposed allocation of departmental budgets to City Events for 2019/20 is included in the *Draft City Events Programme 2019/20* report to this Committee. The recommendations set out below therefore relate to the allocation of one-off non-recurrent funding as approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.11 There is also an opportunity to use 2019/20 to test the categorisation and evaluation measures set out in the FEI report as well as the proposed levels of funding in advance of the introduction of new funding programmes.
- 3.12 City and Growth Committee of March 2018 agreed to protect funding for Neighbourhood Festivals and that major events would only happen every few years, with the understanding that these would be financed through building up a special reserve.
- 3.13 Therefore of the potential categories identified by FEI: Major, Signature, Growth and Neighbourhood, the additional funding in 2019/20 will focus on two key categories.
- Signature
 - Growth.
- 3.14 The rationale for this is that Neighbourhood Festivals will be eligible to apply for Council's Community Festivals Fund whilst Major Events are subject to a long-term development and bidding processes.
- 3.15 Included at Appendix 1 is the industry categorisation of events supplied by FEI and presented to Committee in March 2018.

Signature

- 3.16 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. For future funding assessments, these categorisations will be subject to robust scrutiny. However, on the initial assessment of FEI, potential signature events in the city based on current status include both events 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:

- 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. Festival organisers would be required to work with Council officers to implement recommendations set out in the FEI report.
- 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.

- 3.17 Please note that the Maritime Festival is set to be receive £240,000 of funding allocated from existing departmental budgets. This is an increase of £22,000 from the amount invested in 18/19. This will enhance the programme to test Signature status as set out in FEI report.
- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 From April 2020, the required levels of funding to deliver a strategic programme of festivals and events will be considered where appropriate as a part of a new competitive cultural investment programme aligned to a new cultural strategy, and for those commissioned events all organisations will have to meet the criteria set out for any of the proposed categorisations.

Growth

- 3.20 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. It should be noted that this is additional funding to that provided through the annual budget for some of these events as listed in the annual events report.
- 3.21 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.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.22 Strategic Policy and Resources allocated a budget of £320,000 for an interim programme of additional festivals events for 2019/20. This is from the specified reserve for the long-term Cultural Programme. The Maritime Festival will be funded through the annual budget as in previous years.

**3.23 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.

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

Cultural Programme - Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey,

That, in terms of the Cultural Programme, the Committee agrees:

- (a) that the funding of £320,000, which had been approved previously by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the delivery of an interim year of festivals and events in 2019/20, be allocated as follows:
 - i. Feile an Phobail - £200,000;
 - ii. Belfast International Arts Festival - £25,000;
 - iii. Eastside Arts Festival - £40,000; (non-recurring)
 - iv. CS Lewis Festival - £40,000 (non-recurring).
- (b) that the budget of £50,000 set aside for the Autumn Fair be re-allocated, along with £35,000 from the Hallowe'en budget to:
 - i. Orangefest - £40,000; and
 - ii. Greater Shankill Winter Festival - £45,000
- (c) that, should the Autumn Fair be required, consideration be given to funding it under the City Centre Recovery Programme;

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- (d) that a letter be forwarded to the Executive Office seeking match funding of £40,000 for the Greater Shankill Winter Festival, as well as other Council diversionary festival investment; and
- (e) that the planned Cultural Transformation Strategy needs to include more signature festivals and a strengthened growth festivals element.

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

City Events Programme 2019/20

In relation to the City Events Programme 2019/20, the Committee agreed:

- (a) to approve the programme of events, as set out within the appendix to the report, subject to the removal of the Autumn Fair and a reduction of £35,000 in the Hallowe'en budget;
- (b) to note the revised route for this year's St. Patrick's Day parade;
- (c) to approve the staging of the IABA 2020 Elite Men and Women's Champions event; and
- (d) to approve the use of a Council venue, as part of a package of support for the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Championships.

City of Belfast Youth Orchestra - Proposal

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Alderman McGimpsey and

Resolved – That the Committee agrees that £10,000 be allocated from the 2018/19 City of Music Fund to the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra.

Eastern Economic Corridor - Conference Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meetings on 5th December and 9th January, it had been provided with updates on the work which was being undertaken currently by the Economic Development Unit around the development of a Belfast – Dublin Economic Corridor.

The Director of Development reported that reference had, at those meetings, been made to plans for a proposed conference on 28th February, which would seek to highlight co-operation opportunities along the economic corridor and the Council had been working with the other seven partners to develop the concept further. It had commissioned the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre and Dublin City University to collectively conduct further research around the economic opportunities along the corridor. In order

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to shape the conference and adopt an agreed approach, a steering group of senior officials from the participating councils had been established. He explained that, at a meeting of the steering group in January, four councils had raised concerns in relation to the timing of the conference, in light of Brexit and the perceived difficulty of engaging local stakeholders, competition with other events taking place in February and March and the need to secure buy in from Central Government. He stressed that all of the councils remained fully committed to the partnership and had agreed to discuss a future date for the conference.

He confirmed that the aforementioned research was due to be completed by 28th February and that it was proposed that the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre would, at a future meeting, present the Committee with its findings and outline the opportunities for collaboration with the other councils along the corridor. One of the aspirations of that collaboration would involve the creation of a Statement of Intent between the eight participating councils committing them to explore future opportunities to work together on, for example, infrastructure, investment and employment. He pointed out that the Statement of Intent would be based around the research outcomes and that it would, when finalised, be submitted to the Committee for approval.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre out the outcome of its research.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Heathrow Expansion - Procurement for Logistics Hubs

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- **update the Committee on the procurement process underway by Heathrow Airport to create a number of logistics “hubs” as part of their expansion plans; and**
- **note that the Council has submitted a proposal to have one of the hubs located on the North Foreshore site.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- (i) that the Council's North Foreshore site is one of 65 shortlisted as a potential location for a “logistics hub” to be established by Heathrow as part of their expansion plans;**

- (ii) the scale of the development and the potential supply chain opportunities for local companies created as a result of the expansion of Heathrow Airport; and
- (iii) the timeframe for future decisions on this project.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** In 2018, the UK government approved a third runway at Heathrow. The expansion of Heathrow will be one of the largest infrastructure projects in the UK. In order to accommodate the third runway, it will be necessary to re-position and build over part of the M25 motorway adjacent to the airport, re-position some of the local access roads, divert local rivers, provide space for houses, offices, car parking and freight services and replace a number of existing airport facilities.
- 3.2** The airport expansion will increase capacity from 86 million to 130 million passengers per year. It is estimated that the development will create about 60,000 new jobs and generate around £70bn in total economic benefit by the 2050s. The scale of the construction project itself is unprecedented: the value of the works will be in excess of £15billion and there is a commitment by Heathrow to ensure that 60% of the procurement spend (£9billion) is spent outside of London.
- 3.3** In recognition of the scale of investment and the potential for all parts of the UK to benefit from supply chain and skills development opportunities, Heathrow sought expressions of interest for up to four Logistics Hub locations. The proposal was that these could be used as off-site centres for construction and manufacturing in order to help the airport to deliver its expansion plan, within an agreed timeframe and with minimal on-site disruption.
- 3.4** From an initial 121 applications, 65 potential sites were shortlisted. Six of the sites are located in Northern Ireland. In June 2018, senior representatives from Heathrow's Procurement Team met with representatives from all sites as well as with some of the potential first and second tier suppliers for the expansion works. While limited detail has been given on the final number of sites that may be needed, there have been indications that there may be up to four sites selected across the UK.
- 3.5** In December 2018, the next stage of the procurement process was initiated, as Heathrow issued a PQQ to the 65 bidders. The

closing date for the PQQ was 25 January 2019. Heathrow is seeking not only relevant sites for the hub but it also wants operators who will run these hubs. Belfast City Council would not have either the interest in, nor the capacity to, operate a logistics hub. However, the presence of a hub in Belfast could support those local companies who are successful in securing work with the airport and could help leave a legacy in terms of the collective knowledge and expertise that may be located at the hub over the lifetime of the construction. If the North Foreshore was to be successful at the next stage of the process, the Council would have to initiate an open and transparent process to engage an operator or agree a lease with an operator for the land.

- 3.6 In terms of timetable for the works, Heathrow plans to open the third runway by 2025. However, given that the works involve re-routing part of the M25, as well as significant infrastructure works in nearby towns and villages, the work programme is likely to last for up to ten years. The first hub is likely to be open in 2020/2021.
- 3.7 The North Foreshore site is potentially attractive to those interested in operating a hub, given its proximity to road, port and airport connections. It is also adjacent to potential construction and engineering-based supply chain businesses based around the Harbour Estate.
- 3.8 Members should also note that, in addition to the potential logistics hub, there are also significant opportunities for local businesses to enter the supply chain and become a supplier to Heathrow. Officers from the Economic Development Team are currently working with Invest NI and the NI Chamber of Commerce to put in place a series of awareness-raising events as well as business support activities to help local businesses to win some of the supply chain opportunities arising from the airport expansion.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.9 No specific financial or resource implications at this point. If the Council enters into a lease agreement with a potential operator to provide access to the land, details of the commercial terms will need to be agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Council will also need to agree to release the site for this use.

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

- 3.10 No specific equality of good relations implications. No specific rural needs impact.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Strategic and Operational

Belfast Branded Arterial Route Signage

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

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To update mem on arterial route signage across the city and request consideration to replace this in line with new city brand.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to agree to update the signage along arterial routes before the end of this financial year, on the basis of Option 2 of the three options considered within this report.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Marketing and Communications team has been working hard over the past year to promote the new city brand to stakeholders and embed it into council public facing channels, including city dressing.**
- 3.2 The branding of the city’s arterial and street signage has been identified as a key priority within the overall Brand Implementation Plan. Signage is crucial in building brand equity and awareness in relation to the city’s identity among the public and private sector, citizens and target audiences (visitors, investors) etc.**
- 3.3 Creating a consistent presentation of the city brand requires co-operation with key stakeholders and now that the Marketing and Brand Manager is in post, there will be a focus on brand implementation. However, it is important that the Council is seen to be taking an active lead where possible. Priority should**

be given to the re-branding of such visible and impactful signage as it will not only drive awareness of the new brand with stakeholders such as city partners, but it will encourage them to embrace and implement the brand.

- 3.4 We are also addressing other signage throughout the city (including lamppost banners). Here we have been working with Place and Economy to identify council-owned sites and have designed new Belfast branded artwork for these areas, due to be installed (via Place and Economy budget) week commencing 18th February with a completion date of no later than the end of March. We're also encouraging stakeholders to use the Belfast brand on the DfI-owned city centre lamppost sites.

Why we need to update the signage?

- Updating the signage is a great opportunity to highlight the new brand (drives visible awareness and confidence) and is a key part of the wider brand implementation plan.
- Stakeholders have queried why the old branding is still on display across the city so we need to address these concerns as a matter of urgency.
- The arterial routes are in prime spots with high visibility so need to take priority.
- Signage displaying the old brand counteracts the positive work we are doing around the new brand.

What do we need to update?

- 3.5 From previous correspondence with signage contractors, we've identified six sign types:

1. Large motorway sign (M1 and M5)
2. Medium twin leg frame
3. Small twin leg frame
4. Large F post sign
5. Medium F post sign
6. Small F post sign

- 3.6 We've been advised that there are 17 of these signs spread out along the following areas:
M5, M1, Sydenham Bypass, Holywood Road, Knocknagoney, Ballygowan Road, Rosepark, Ormeau Road, Lady Dixon.

How can we update them? Three options have been identified:

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	PROS	CONS
1. Removing all the old signage and do not replace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least expensive option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not using potential to highlight brand • Dilutes wider brand implementation • We would still have contractor and road closure costs for removal
2. Replace with new signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good visibility, clean, simple approach, replacing old with new • Budget to do this now 	
3. Wrapping existing panels with new vinyls/repainting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good brand visibility • Slightly less expensive than replacing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will not look as professional as new signs • B shape on some will make reskinning more challenging

- 3.7** Based on our evaluation of the three options, we are recommending option 2, where all 17 signs are replaced with new Belfast brand signage at the cost of £17,840. Marketing and Communications have identified this within their 2018/2019 budget so it is within existing budget.
- 3.8** Overall, the team feels strongly that it would be a wasted branding opportunity to go to the expense of removing the old signs and not replacing them. They are high visibility areas, and as such, it makes sense to promote the new city brand in these prominent locations.
- 3.9** The signage will be installed at the same time as lamppost banner updates and other activity within our Brand Implementation Plan. This multi-pronged approach will help strengthen the brand and increase interest and awareness opposite people who live and work in Belfast as well as people who visit. It will also give our stakeholders and city partners confidence in the brand.
- 3.10** If we update the arterial route signage, it will also give us the opportunity ensure that all branded signs are in the right locations following Local Government Reform boundary changes.

3.11 In tandem with this work, we will investigate opportunities for dynamic advertising signage and advance this further down the line in with Road Service guidance.

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

- 1. Removing all the old signage and not replacing (leaving posts and frames in place) - £4,835**
- 2. Replacing with new signage (including new panels which suit starburst brand) - £17,840**
- 3. Wrapping existing panels with new vinyl only - £17,300**

In all cases the Marketing and Communications unit has identified this money within its 2018/2019 budget so there is no additional resource requirement.

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

None.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt option 2 within the report and agreed also to erect signage at the McKinsty Roundabout on the Stewartstown Road welcoming visitors to the Colin area and Belfast.

Change of Date for Monthly Meeting

The Committee agreed to move its next monthly meeting from Wednesday 13th till Wednesday, 6th March to prevent it from coinciding with MIPIM 2019, which the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and a number of senior officers had obtained approval previously to attend.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

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MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);
Aldermen Copeland and L. Patterson, and
Councillors Clarke, Dudgeon, Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson,
Magennis, and Nic Biorna.

In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Mrs. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. J. Cunningham, Regulatory Services Manager; and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Spence and Councillors Collins, Craig, Groves and McReynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 16th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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 – AM;PM

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.

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The Regulatory Services Manager informed the Committee that an application 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 AM:PM, 38-44 Upper Arthur Street.

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 AM:PM had, on 6th January, 2017, been fined £2750 and instructed to pay costs of £66, following an inspection by Council officers, which had found that entertainment was being provided on the second floor without an Entertainments Licence, that the rear escape stairs and door were obstructed, that the rear escape corridor on the ground floor was obstructed, that the fire door was held open on the ground floor escape route, that all escape routes were not maintained with non-slippery and even surfaces and that the Entertainments Licence was not being displayed.

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 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 application and that neither the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service or the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered any objections.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to renew the Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of AM:PM, 38-44 Upper Arthur Street.

**Application for the Grant of a 14-Day Occasional
Outdoor Entertainments Licence for Dunmurry Park,
Kingsway**

The Regulatory Services Manager informed the Members that an application had been received for the grant of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Dunmurry Park, Kingsway. He informed the Committee that the Park was owned and maintained by Belfast City Council which intended to offer the use of the space for small community type events.

He pointed out that a public notice of the application had been placed and that no written representation had been lodged as a result of the advertisement. He also confirmed that that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

He further informed the Members that officers from the Building Control Service had engaged with representatives from Parks Services regarding the general long-term use of the space. He advised the Members that Mr. L. McKinley, City Parks Manager, was present should the Committee be minded to discuss the application with him.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to hear from Mr. L. McKinley, City Parks Manager, and he was welcomed to the meeting.

A Member asked Mr. McKinley what type and size of events were envisaged for the Park as it was located in an interface area and had a history of antisocial behaviour associated with it. He added that engaging with the local community with regard to any planned events would be necessary. Mr. McKinley informed the Members that the majority of events held within Dunmurry Park would be small to medium sized, cross community events and that all local residents would be consulted in advance of any event taking place.

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

The Committee agreed to the grant of the 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence from Monday to Sunday, 11:30am to 11:00pm, with the following special conditions:

- Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals.
- Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council.
- Any requests to provide entertainment later than 11.00 pm must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event.

The Committee further agreed that should an application to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm be granted and the Council subsequently were to receive a significant number of complaints regarding noise or if the complaint is of such significant impact, that authority be granted to the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor, to reduce the finishing time for any subsequent nights of the event, in which case, the promoter would be required to make contingency arrangements

**Temporary Street Trading Licence –
Donegall Place**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Committee is reminded that at your meeting of 16 January 2019, you approved the application for a Temporary Street Trading Licence to Mr Gavin Gregg of City Picnic to trade Tuesday to Thursday from 8am to 5pm and Friday and Saturday 8am to 2am the following morning selling hot and**

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cold food and non-alcoholic beverages from a catering trailer on Donegall Place.

- 1.2 Four inspections have been carried out including at night and there were no issues found.
- 1.3 It was agreed 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 undertake to maintain the area adjacent to the premises with regard to litter.
- 1.4 It was further agreed that the City Solicitor would provide a legal opinion for consideration at the February meeting regarding protocol for future applications for Temporary Street Trading Licences in Donegall Place. A copy of the Minute is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The Licence expires on 19th February 2019.
- 1.6 Mr Arthur McAnerney of City Picnic has now applied to trade the same days and hours selling the same products from the same trailer in Donegall Place.

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

Legislative background for Temporary Street Trading

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** The legislation permits the Council to grant a temporary licence to an applicant for up to 7 days. No more than 5 Temporary Licences may be issued to any one applicant in a year.
- 3.3** 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.
- 3.4** 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.
- 3.5** The Committee is however entitled to depart from its usual policy where there are exceptional circumstances, which would warrant it to do so.
- 3.6** 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

- 3.7** 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.
- 3.8** 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.

Consultation on the Application

- 3.9 DfI Roads, PSNI and Belfast City Centre Management have been asked for their views on the proposal. None has any objection. (Attached as Appendix 1)

Legal Opinion

- 3.10 Members will recall that at their last meeting, the Director of Economic Development advised that the proposed grant of temporary licences was intended to provide assistance to a business which had been displaced because of the cordon that surrounded Bank Buildings. Efforts to find a unit for the business 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.
- 3.11 Abuse of process is a two-fold test. It must involve the improper use of procedure and it must be for an unintended, malicious, or perverse purpose.
- 3.12 The restriction within the legislation relates to the number of licences which can be granted to a particular applicant, it does not restrict the number of temporary licences which can be granted for any particular location. Therefore in principle there is nothing to prohibit the Council from granting more than 5 Temporary Licences for a particular location.
- 3.13 On a strict interpretation of the legislation it could be argued that the grant of additional licences for the benefit of the same business is using proper procedure for an unintended purpose. However, in exercising its powers the Council has an obligation to do so fairly and in a manner which is consistent with the purpose of the legislation.
- 3.14 Upon consideration of the legislation as a whole it is clear that the intention was to allow some flexibility whilst at the same time ensuring that an applicant could not circumvent either the requirement to apply for a permanent licence or the fact that a site was not designated.
- 3.15 It is clear that the business is not intending to do either of these things. In the context of the exceptional circumstances in which the business finds itself, it is considered that the further grant of 5 licences is unlikely to be an abuse of process.

Fee

- 3.16 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 5 Temporary Street Trading Licences at a cost of £2,500. Members are asked to consider once more waiving the fee on this occasion, as the payment is an internal Council transaction.

Delegated Authority

- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 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.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.19 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.

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

- 3.20 There are no issues associated with this report."

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th January, the grant of a Temporary Street Trading Licence for Donegall Place was approved to enable the owners of City Picnic, who remained displaced from their premises as a result of the fire in Bank

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Buildings in August, 2018, to continue lawful trading on the site until they were able to return to their premises.

The Regulatory Services Manger informed the Members that the Temporary Street Trading Licence had expired and a further application from Mr. A. McAnerney, one of two owners of City Picnic, had been received to allow trading to continue.

He advised the Committee that the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Department for Infrastructure and Belfast City Centre Management had been consulted with and had no objections to the application.

The Divisional Solicitor informed the Committee that the legislation permitted the consideration of Temporary Street Trading Licences to provide flexibility, and to allow cities to deal with special events. She further informed the Members that, in the particular circumstances, the applicant was not attempting to circumvent the legislation and that Legal Services was content for the Committee to consider the application from City Picnic.

The Committee agreed to approve the application for a Temporary Street Trading Licence for Donegall Place to Mr. A. McAnerney to trade Tuesday to Thursday from 8am to 5pm and Friday and Saturday, from 8am to 2am the following morning, and that the Licensee must undertake to maintain the area adjacent to the premises with regard to litter.

It was also agreed that that authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control to renew the licence upon application on not more than four further occasions.

The Committee further 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.

Non-Delegated Matters

Update on Transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation – Fees and Fixed Penalty Notices

(Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016 and is due to be commenced on 1st April 2019. The Department of Communities (DfC) will also be laying some subordinate Regulations at the same time, one of which is the Houses of Multiple Occupation (Fees) Regulations (NI) 2019. This sets the maximum level of fee for an application for a HMO licence at £45 per person per annum.**

- 1.2 DfC has carried out a stakeholder engagement in relation to the subordinate legislation and the feedback from stakeholders had been fully reviewed. No concerns were raised in that engagement in relation to the maximum fee which is being proposed in the Regulations.
- 1.3 Whilst the Regulations set a maximum fee level of £45 it is proposed to set the fee at £37 per person per annum which, it is estimated, will allow the service to be provided on a cost neutral basis. The fee will be subject to review after two years by both council officers and DfC.
- 1.4 This report also provides the Committee with detail regarding the powers available to the Council under the 2016 Act in relation to the enforcement of the HMO licensing regime via the imposition Fixed Penalty Notices.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the update information regarding the fees for the Houses of Multiple Occupation licensing function;
- agree to set a fee of £37 per person per annum in respect of an application for a HMO licence;
- agree additional fees for an application to vary a licence, and those for supplying a certified copies from, or of, the register;
- note the information regarding the use of Fixed Penalty Notices as enforcement functions that are available to the Council under the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016;
- agree the value of any fixed penalty notices that may be issued.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Fees

- 3.1 Members are reminded that The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016 and is due to be commenced on 1st April 2019. This will transfer responsibility for regulating HMOs from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to local district councils. The new scheme will be a licensing scheme which assesses

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whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence. This paper relates to the proposed fees which are to be introduced as part of that new scheme.

- 3.2 Following the preparation of a draft budget, and a subsequent detailed review by external consultants, officers of both DfC and Councils consider that a fee of £37 per person per annum would provide for full cost recovery for the service.
- 3.3 The budget reflects the need to provide for full cost recovery for the service.
- 3.4 In preparing the draft budget, the estimated expenditure includes full staff costs, non-staff costs and overhead costs. Overhead costs include the costs of a solicitor who will be recruited to provide the additional legal support that will be needed to support the new licensing regime.
- 3.5 The estimated income includes deferred income from the old Registration Scheme which will be received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and income from new applications. The budget does not include transition costs already provided by DfC to Council to support the implementation of the new licencing scheme, for example training costs and the new ICT system.
- 3.6 Members will note that while the costs of the new scheme are anticipated to remain relatively constant, apart from planned inflationary increases, estimated annual income is not evenly spread across each financial year. The total budget for the new HMO service has thus been established to include income and expenditure over five years, ie the life span of a licence. Years with higher income due to higher numbers of renewals (ie 2019 and 2020) generate an annual surplus, which are off set over the five year budget period against those years where smaller numbers of properties are due to renew and which will thus generate less income (ie 2021, 2022 and 2023).
- 3.7 A new Licencing fee of £37 per person per annum will be required to ensure that the new scheme does not run at a deficit. This represents a 47% increase on the existing registration scheme's fees (i.e. £25/person/annum). However, it should be noted that this this represents an increase of just 98p per person per month, and that there have been no fee increases since the current fee rates were established in 2008.
- 3.8 Tables 1 and 2 (below) demonstrate that from the analysis carried out, over the 5 years 2019 – 2023, and 2024 -2028, the scheme should be cost neutral to councils and should not require any subsidy.

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**Table 1: Estimated budget for the HMO licencing scheme
2019 - 2023**

Projected surplus/deficit for HMO service 2019 – 2023						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Total income	£1,300,984	£1,431,844	£942,774	£926,273	£493,083	£5,094,958
Total expenditure	£979,039	£998,620	£1,018,592	£1,038,964	£1,059,743	£5,094,958
Net deficit/surplus	£321,945	£433,224	(£75,818)	(£112,691)	(£566,660)	£0

**Table 2: Estimated budget for the HMO licencing scheme
2024 - 2028**

Projected surplus/deficit for HMO service 2024 – 2028						
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	Total
Total income	£777,947	£1,257,966	£1,548,970	£1,001,229	£1,039,133	£5,625,245
Total expenditure	£1,080,938	£1,102,557	£1,124,608	£1,147,100	£1,170,042	£5,625,245
Net deficit/surplus	(£302,991)	£155,409	£424,362	(£145,871)	(£130,909)	£0

DfC engagement

- 3.9** On 14th November 2018, the DfC launched a stakeholder engagement, which included the issuing of 2607 letters to landlords and agents registered under the current scheme, and the publication of the new scheme’s details on the DfC website. The communication also outlined the new registration fees for the scheme. The engagement closed on 30th November 2018.
- 3.10** No significant concerns were raised to the DfC by stakeholders in response to the proposed new licensing fee arrangements.
- 3.11** The level of fee payable per occupant will be £37 per person per year with the full fee payable on renewal. Setting a maximum amount at £45 in the regulations will give councils the scope to increase the fee if required to compensate for any future deficit in income without amendment to subordinate regulation.
- 3.12** The ongoing financial impacts of the new service will be monitored by, and reported to, the DfC, via a MoU. Further, DfC intend to undertake a review of the service during year 2 of the new regime, which will include a review of financial performance.

Variations to a licence

- 3.13 As well as the licence fees outlined above, Council is required to establish and agree the cost of variations to a licence. Officers propose the following, based on the cost of a licence (ie £37 per person per year for 5 years = £185) :

Table 3: proposed licence variation fees

Licence variations	
Item	Cost
Addition of a new owner or managing agent	£185
Addition of a new occupant	£185 for each new occupant + £75 inspection fee (per visit)

Maximum fee for copy of the HMO Register

- 3.14 The council is also required to set the maximum fee to provide a certified copy of an entry relating to an HMO to any person who falls with section 62(9) of the Act, and a certified copy of its register, or of an extract from it, to any statutory authority, for the subordinate Regulations.

- 3.15 Officers have considered the cost for similar copies across the council, and propose the following:

Table 4: proposed maximum fees for copy of the HMO Register

Maximum fee for copy of HMO register	
Item	Maximum cost
A certified copy of an entry relating to an HMO to any person who falls within section 62(9) of the Act	£15
A certified copy of its register, or of an extract from it, to any statutory authority	£15

Fixed Penalty Notices

- 3.16 The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 provides a wide variety of enforcement options to be available to the Council, including the ability to serve Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN).
- 3.17 A fixed penalty notice ("FPN") is a notice giving the recipient the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for an offence, by paying a fixed sum of money within a particular period.

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- 3.18 Section 64-66 of the 2016 Act gives councils the power to issue fixed penalty notices which tend to be conferred in respect of lower level offending.**
- 3.19 Members should note the issuing of a notice is an alternative to prosecuting the offender, in instances where an authorised officer, following an investigation, has reason to believe that a person has committed an offence under any of the relevant provisions, and there are grounds for instituting proceedings for an offence.**
- 3.20 Section 64 of the 2016 Act lists the offences and maximum amount of the FPN's. These are included Appendix 1. The 2016 Act states that the amount for each fixed penalty notice 'is to be determined by the council'.**
- 3.21 In March 2014, following a report on the Landlord Registration Scheme, Council agreed that FPN in the scheme should be set at the maximum levels specified in the legislation, see table 4:**

Table 5:

Offence	Criminal penalty	FPN
Failure of a landlord to register	£2,500	£500
Landlord found guilty of providing false information	£2,500	£500
Landlord fails to provide evidence of registration	£500	£100

- 3.22 On this basis, officers are recommending that the fixed penalty levels for the offences under the new HMO (NI) Act 2016 are set on the same basis. These are detailed in Appendix 1.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.23 Regarding the fees, it is anticipated that the new HMO licencing scheme transferring from NIHE will remain cost neutral to councils given the increase in fees outlined above. As noted, the number of HMO applications to the new scheme will not be even, year by year. This therefore gives peaks and troughs in income. However, over a five year period the income offsets the expenditure meaning that this service will be cost neutral to the council.**
- 3.24 Regarding the Fixed Penalty Notices, given the inherent difficulties in projecting the variation in the income that may be derived from this source, it has not been possible to accurately determine how much income might be received from these enforcement actions, and any attempts to quantify such income is deemed speculative and variable. Given this, fixed penalty income has not been included in the revenue estimates for the first five years of the scheme. It is currently**

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envisaged that income from enforcement action will be re-invested back into the scheme, for example, on education related activities.

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

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

4.0 **Appendices**

The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016, Fixed Penalty Notices and Criminal Penalties Table.

Appendix 1

**The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016
Proposed Fixed Penalty Notice Fines**

No.	Offence	Relevant Section	Maximum FPN	Maximum Penalty
1	Unlicensed HMO: Agent	30(1)	£5,000	£20,000
2	Unlicensed HMO: Owner	30(2)	£5,000	£20,000
3	Unlicensed HMO: Owner instructs agent to let as HMO	30(3)	£2,500	£10,000
4	Breach of occupancy condition	31(1)	£5,000	£20,000
5	Breach of licence conditions: owner/agent	31 (2)	£2,500	£10,000
6	Breach of licence conditions: person not named on licence	31(3)	£2,500	£10,000
7	Person represents HMO as licensed when it is not	32	£2,500	£10,000
8	Agent operating but not named on licence - other	33(1)	£2,500	£10,000
9	Agent operating but not named on licence - owner	33(2)	£2,500	£10,000
10	Failure to comply with rectification notice	37(1)	£2,500	£10,000
11	Failure to comply with information notice	49	£200	£500
12	Contravention of overcrowding notice	60(1)	£5,000	£20,000
13	Contravention of occupancy requirement of suitability notice	60(2)	£5,000	£20,000
14	Uses or permits use of HMO subject to a hazard notice	60(4)	£5,000	£20,000
15	Refusal to provide information under 68 & 70	75	£200	£500
16	Owner fails to complete works specified in hazard notice	60(6)	£500	£1,000
17	Obstruction whilst seeking entry (without or with a warrant)	80(5)	£500	£1,000
18	Obstruction of person complying with a rectification notice	82 (4)	£500	£1,000
19	Obstruction of works needed under with Part 4 notices, TENS & rectification notices	81(4)	£500	£1,000
20	Providing false or misleading information	Para 14, Schedule 2	£200	£500
21	Unlawful occupation	Para 8, Schedule 3	£500	£1,000

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Proposal

Prior to discussion of the matter, it was

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman L. Patterson,

That consideration of the Fees and Fixed Penalty Notices for Houses of Multiple Occupation be deferred, pending engagement with the Landlords Association of Northern Ireland (LANI).

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed:

- To note the update information regarding the fees for the Houses of Multiple Occupation licensing function;
- to set a fee of £37 per person per annum in respect of an application for a HMO licence;
- to note the information regarding the use of Fixed Penalty Notices as enforcement functions that are available to the Council under the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016;
- to set the additional fees, as recommended in the report, for an application to vary a licence;
- to set the additional fees, as recommended in the report, for supplying certified copies from, or of, the register; and
- to set the fees, as recommended in the report, for fixed penalty notices that may be issued.

It was further agreed that officers would seek to engage with LANI and that any concerns raised, be brought back to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Update on Transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation – Antisocial Behaviour and Standard Conditions

(Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016 and is due to be commenced**

on 1st April 2019. The Department of Communities (DfC) will also be laying some subordinate Regulations at the same time.

1.2 This paper provides Members with information regarding the Standard Conditions and the approach to managing Anti-Social Behaviour.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to endorse:

- the proposed Standard Conditions;
- the proposed approach to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members are reminded that The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 received Royal Assent on 12th May 2016 and is due to be commenced on 1st April 2019. This will transfer responsibility for regulating HMOs from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to local district councils.

Standard conditions

3.2 The proposed standard conditions are attached in Appendix 1. The conditions imposed within this document will apply to all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in Northern Ireland, and will be attached to all licences as they are issued. They are imposed for the purpose of regulating both the management, use and occupation of the HMO, and its condition and contents.

3.3 The Council may include further conditions in the licence in addition to the conditions contained in this document. Such conditions, if imposed, shall be appended to the licence certificate.

3.4 It is noted that if effectively implemented and sufficiently resourced, a new HMO regulatory framework for HMOs in Northern Ireland has the potential to have a positive impact on the lives of those living in HMOs, the owners of HMOs, and the residents of the communities in which HMOs are located. It is acknowledged that responsible HMO landlords want to be good neighbours, take the behaviour of their tenants seriously and already endeavour to resolve any alleged anti-social behaviour linked to their properties. Councils will continue to support landlords in doing so.

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

- 3.5 The proposed 'Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in HMO Properties, A Guide for Owners and Managing Agents' is attached in Appendix 2. This will apply to all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in Northern Ireland, and will be attached to all licences as they are issued.
- 3.6 Section 10(6) of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 sets out the matters which are relevant for deciding whether an owner or managing agent is a fit and proper person for the purposes of the act.
- 3.7 It is acknowledged that legal action, and in particular issuing court proceedings, is a remedy of last resort in most cases and should only be considered where informal action has failed and the problem persists or where the problems are considered sufficiently serious so as to warrant legal action.
- 3.8 In instances where breach of conditions problems persist, the use of Fixed Penalty Notices and consequently prosecution are available to councils. Ultimately, councils have an ability to revoke a licence, where a successful prosecution undermines the ability of an owner or managing agent to fulfil the requirements of being a fit and proper person.
- 3.9 The Licensing Committee has assumed responsibility for determining a fit and proper person check, and in the revocation of licences, except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the City Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately.
- 3.10 Amongst other considerations, the council must have regard to any anti-social behaviour engaged in by the owner or manager, and the owner or manager's conduct as regards any anti-social behaviour engaged in by the occupants of any relevant living accommodation whilst in the accommodation, or adversely affecting the occupants of any such accommodation.
- 3.11 For the purpose of Section 10(6) "anti-social behaviour" means acting or threatening to act in a manner causing or likely to cause a nuisance or annoyance to a person residing in, visiting or otherwise engaging in a lawful activity in residential premises or in the locality of such premises, or using or threatening to use residential premises for illegal purposes.
- 3.12 The guide has been prepared to assist landlords to comply with this new statutory obligation. It provides guidance to landlords on the remedies and preventative measures that can

be taken to manage anti-social behaviour, how to best demonstrate compliance via record keeping and intervention, and the development of an anti-social behaviour plan.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

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

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

The Committee agreed to endorse the proposed Standard Conditions and the proposed approach to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour.

Assessment of Bus Tour Ticket Selling

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th September, it had agreed to vary the Designating Resolution for stationary street trading sites in Castle Junction and Castle Place to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets and that any resulting applications to sell tickets would be considered by the Committee and, if approved, be granted on a one-year trial basis. The Committee also agreed that officers would, in consultation with Visit Belfast and other relevant agencies, develop potential criteria to assess the success of a trial period.

The Regulatory Services Manager informed the Members that officers had been working in collaboration with Visit Belfast, the Department for Infrastructure's Public Transport Division, Belfast City Centre Management, Police Service of Northern Ireland and Tourism NI to gauge the visitor experience of the tours in Belfast.

He advised the Committee that an application had been received from Mr. J. Rea to vary his Street Trading Licence to allow him to sell bus tour tickets at castle Place and that officers felt it was necessary to have the aforementioned criteria in place before Mr. Rea's application was considered.

He informed Members that in the development of the proposed criteria, the following concerns were considered:

- What “good experience” and “quality” would look like from a visitor point of view in buying the bus tour tickets from the stalls?;
- How could previous problems in terms of approaching visitors and relations between the companies be avoided?;
- What can the Council reasonably request the Licensed Street Trader to do given they are not the owner of the bus tour companies?

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The Regulatory Services Manager added that a customer service focussed training programme could be endorsed and encouraged, however, it was noted that any training could not be made mandatory or specified as a condition of the Licence unless it was a grant or a renewal of a licence.

He advised the Members that, at the end of the one year period, officers would review feedback from key agencies and review any complaints received. He added that Visit Belfast would continue with its role of monitoring activity and behaviour and that officers would carry out increased inspections of the stalls, particularly during the summer months.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed so set the following criteria for evaluating the trial period for the sale of bus tour tickets:

- the uptake of training offered to the Street Trader;
- the number of reports of alleged abusive or intimidating behaviour by Licenced Street Traders or bus company representatives;
- the number of reports of alleged harassment involving Licenced Street Traders and different bus companies; and
- the number of complaints to PSNI, Visit Belfast, BCC, BCCM or other statutory agencies.

It was further agreed that the Divisional Solicitor would seek options as to how Street Traders could be encouraged to facilitate more open competition amongst Bus Tour Operators.

**Consideration of Entertainments Licences
where the Applicant has been convicted of an Offence**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting of the 16th January 2019, the Committee agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining the options available to the Committee regarding authority to grant future applications where the applicant has been previously convicted of an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 (the Order).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented, the Committee is requested to consider the proposals set out at 3.7 and agree how future applications should be presented to the Committee

where the applicant has been previously convicted of an offence under the Order.

2.2 As all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing matters are not delegated any decision will be subject to ratification by Council.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Committee is reminded that, at your meeting on 18th January 2017, you agreed that you would consider the revocation of an Entertainments Licence immediately after a licence holder is convicted of an offence.

3.2 This means that as soon as an applicant is convicted of an offence, rather than when their licence falls due for renewal, the Licensee is invited to appear before Committee and convince Members as to why their Licence should not be revoked.

3.3 This has the benefit that, regardless of any Court penalty, Members have the opportunity to impress upon the Licensee the severity of their offence and seek assurances in relation to future management of the premises. Whilst it is not possible to attach Conditions to an extant Licence an undertaking can be sought from a Licensee in terms of additional controls to be put in place at the premises. Compliance with such an undertaking is relevant to their fitness in any future renewal application.

3.4 In addition to the above, the Order requires the Council to consider any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence where the applicant or their company has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the Council.

3.5 Members are advised that since 2011, the Committee has considered 125 Committee reports for 50 premises as a consequence of legal action and previous convictions of applicants. Many of the applicant's offences have been considered on more than one occasion due to the '5 year rule'. After the initial consideration of the conviction, none has been refused a grant of Licence.

3.6 On the majority of occasions, as there have been no further infringements, Committee have agreed to grant these applications without hearing from the applicants even though the applicants are required to attend the Committee meeting.

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- 3.7 After discussion with Legal Services the following proposals have been drawn up which it is believed will streamline the Committee process for both Members and applicants:**
- 1. As agreed at your meeting of 18 January 2017 you will continue to consider the revocation of an Entertainments Licence immediately after a licence holder is convicted of an offence. At that meeting the Licensee will still be required to appear before Committee and convince Members as to why their Licence should not be revoked.**
 - 2. Thereafter, assuming the Committee does not revoke the Licence at the post-conviction Committee meeting, authority is delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control to approve any subsequent applications where the applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a Licence being submitted to the Council.**
 - 3. Such delegated authority will only be exercised on the basis that:**
 - a. All safety, technical and managerial matters have been maintained in accordance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Entertainments Licence,**
 - b. There has been no recurrence of the breach for which the applicant was convicted, or any other offences have been committed,**
 - c. There are no representations in respect of the application.**
 - 4. All subsequent applications will be included in the 'Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority' Committee Report.**
 - 5. Additionally, the Director of Planning and Building Control in consultation with the City Solicitor will still bring any application where the applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the attention of the Licensing Committee for consideration should the circumstances of that application dictate.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.8 Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment which is catered for within existing budgets.**

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

3.9 There are no issues associated with this report.

The Committee agreed that, when an application is received for the renewal of an Entertainments Licence where the applicant had been convicted of an offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 (the Order) within the previous five years, that the following measures are adopted in the application of the Order:

- To consider the revocation of an Entertainments Licence immediately after a licence holder is convicted of an offence. The Licensee will be required to appear before Committee and convince Members as to why their Licence should not be revoked; and
- thereafter, assuming the Committee does not revoke the Licence at the post-conviction Committee meeting, that authority be delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control to approve any subsequent applications where the applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a Licence being submitted to the Council.

The Committee further agreed that such delegated authority will only be exercised on the basis that:

- All safety, technical and managerial matters have been maintained in accordance with the terms, conditions and restrictions of the Entertainments Licence;
- There has been no recurrence of the breach for which the applicant was convicted, or any other offences have been committed;
- There are no representations in respect of the application;
- That all subsequent applications be included in the 'Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority' Committee Report; and
- That the Director of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the City Solicitor, will bring any application where the applicant has been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted, to the attention of the Licensing Committee for consideration.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 19th February, 2019

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Dorrian, Hussey, Hutchinson,
Johnston, Mullan and Nicholl.

In attendance: 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 Councillor Bunting.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th and 17th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th February, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Motion – Street Furniture

(Councillor Boyle attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was advised that, at the meeting of the Council held on 4th February, the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Dudgeon, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“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.

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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.”

The Chairperson invited Councillor Boyle to speak to the Committee on the Motion. He explained that he wanted contact details for utility companies to be more easily accessible in order that the public could report incidents of graffiti or damage to street furniture to the companies directly.

The Director confirmed to the Committee that not all items of street furniture required planning permission and that the requirement to provide contact details was not a material planning consideration. However, he explained to the Members that, where an application was in front of the Committee, it could add an informative on the consent requiring the owners of the equipment to include contact details on the piece of street furniture. He outlined to the Committee that cross-departmental meetings were taking place to look at the issue of graffiti on street furniture.

In response to a Member’s question, he confirmed to the Committee that it could, by condition, require that owners maintained street furniture in good order, whereby the enforcement team would ensure that those conditions were upheld.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the outcomes of any cross-departmental discussions relating to the issues of graffiti/defacing of street furniture;
2. noted that it could add an informative on any future planning consents, which would require the owners of such equipment to provide contact details;
3. noted that it could add a condition on any future planning consents, which would require the owners of such equipment to maintain it in good order, which can be regulated by the enforcement team as necessary; and
4. agreed that contact details for utility companies would be provided in a future issue of the City Matters magazine.

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,

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together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

Planning Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Building Control, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 8th January and 11th February, 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 for the purpose of effecting improvement of the amenities of the area by upgrading the footpath leading from Glen Road to Hawthorne Glen and Lenadoon Estates.

Miscellaneous Items

Listed Building

The Committee considered correspondence which had been received from the Historic Environment Division (HED) regarding the proposed listing of Ballynaveigh National School, Florenceville Drive, BT7 3GY.

The Committee supported the proposed listing.

Notice of Article 4 Directions on Adelaide Park and Malone Park Conservation Areas

(Mr. D. O’Kane, Principal Planning Officer, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was advised that Article 4 Directions enabled the Council to restrict permitted development rights associated with householder development that could currently be undertaken without the need for planning permission.

The Principal Planning Officer reminded the Committee that two public consultation exercises had been carried out, in 2016 and 2017, to ascertain the level of support for Article 4 Directions to be issued within Adelaide Park and Malone Park Conservation Areas. A significant majority of residents supported the introduction of the Directions covering the following:

- Replacing window frames and doors to front elevations and side elevations;
- Painting the exterior of houses;
- The creation of porches to external doors;
- The erection of gates, fences, walls or other means of enclosure within the curtilage of a property. This would apply anywhere within

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the curtilage of the property in the case of Adelaide Park and from the front building line of the property to the front boundary in the case of Malone Park; and

- The creation of hardstanding to front lawns.

The Committee had agreed, at its meeting on 19th September, 2017, to support the serving of Article 4 Directions within those Conservation Areas and a formal request was subsequently submitted to the Department for Infrastructure seeking the necessary approvals.

The Principal Planning Officer advised the Members that, in January 2019, the Department had issued approval of both Directions under Article 4(2) of Planning (General permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015, without modification and that the Council would therefore progress with the implementation of the Directions in both areas.

The Committee noted:

1. the Department for Infrastructure's approval and the Council's intention to progress with final implementation of Article 4 Directions in Adelaide Park and Malone Park Conservation Areas; and
2. that notice would be served to all residents affected by the Directions.

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 following two items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Update on Sprucefield

(Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Development Planning and Policy Manager provided the Committee with an update on the retail planning application for Sprucefield which had recently been submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had, at its meeting on 25th January, agreed to:

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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.

Planning Service Review

The Director of Planning and Building Control provided the Committee with an overview of the outcome of the structural review of the Planning Service. He explained that he was seeking the Committee's agreement for the creation of 2.5 Planning Officers instead of the previously agreed three Technical Support Officers. The Members were advised that the costs associated with the service review were covered from within existing budgets.

The Committee noted an update on the alignment of a number of former Department of the Environment (DOE) posts, the re-designation of a further number of Council posts and the creation of a number of posts. The Director explained that a small number of DOE post-holders would remain within the structure, as they had not volunteered to align to the new structure at that time and, as such, would remain on their former Northern Ireland Civil Service terms and conditions.

The Committee noted the update and agreed to the reallocation of funding towards the creation of 2.5 Planning Officer posts instead of the previously agreed 3 Technical Support Officers.

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 Items

The Committee noted that the following items had been withdrawn from the agenda:

- LA04/2018/2679/F - External alterations and reduction in the office footprint from the previously approved (extant permission) under planning references Z/2011/0358/O and LA04/2015/0144/RM on site between Boucher Place and Blackstaff River;
- LA04/2018/1271/F - Detached Garden Store at Plot 67 Downshire Hall, Harberton Park;
- LA04/2018 /1274/F - Detached garage with part roof space storage Plot 67 Downshire Hall, Harberton Park; and
- LA04/2018/1292/F - Detached Store Plot 53 Nugent Hall, Harberton Park.

(Reconsidered item) 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

The Committee was reminded that the application had been withdrawn from the previous month's agenda to allow the Planning Authority to consider a revised scheme which had been submitted following a review of operational requirements.

The case officer provided the Committee with an overview of the application and advised that the amendments had been considered acceptable. He explained that the existing building was a mix of single, two and three storeys, and that the proposed replacement building was predominantly two storeys in height, with a three storey void element.

The Committee was advised that the application had been re-advertised on 25th January, and that neighbours had been re-notified.

The Members were advised that one representation had been received in relation to the original proposals but that the objection had since been withdrawn after clarification had been provided.

The case officer explained that Rivers Agency, NIEA, Environmental Health, the Department for Communities' (DfC) Historic Environment Division and DfI Roads Service had offered no objections to the proposals.

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

LA04/2018/1991/F & LA04/2018/1968/LBC - Demolition of existing non-listed buildings and redevelopment of site to accommodate office led mixed use development comprising office, industrial floorspace, active ground floor uses retail, restaurants, cafes and basement parking and associated access and circulation ; proposals include the retention and restoration of the listed Seaver building comprising façade restoration, new roof and reintroduction of dormers, replacement windows and reinstatement of original entrance to southern façade at Former Belfast Telegraph complex at 124-144 Royal Avenue and 1-29 Little Donegall Street, Belfast

The Committee was provided with a detailed overview of the proposals. The case officer explained that the proposed building had evolved through a number of design iterations and that the final scheme comprised the listed Seaver building bolstered on both sides by new-build offices with an internal arcade feature.

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The case officer explained that the Council was the applicant and that a full pre-Application Discussion had taken place in relation to the proposals.

The Committee was advised of the main issues which had been considered, which, amongst others, included the principle of demolition of the non-listed buildings, the height and design of the proposed new building, the impact on traffic and parking and consideration of developer contributions. She explained to the Members that the proposal had been assessed against the Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 (BUAP) and the draft development plan (dBMAP 2015).

The case officer drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items pack, where two objections had been received previous to the most recent scheme and had not been referenced within the report. She advised the Members that one related to concerns regarding possible structural damage, and access issues, to an adjoining building during demolition and building works.

In response to a Member's query, the case officer clarified that the agent had been encouraged to ensure arrangements were made with adjacent landowners to address those concerns and that the Building Control application would address any further issues.

The Members were advised that the second objection was in reference to the initial proposal being out of character with the listed building and that, after re-notification of the amended scheme, no objections had been received.

The case officer also highlighted that a late objection had been received from Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS), as outlined in the Late Items pack, and she confirmed to the Committee that the issues raised had been duly considered and that conditions had been recommended where appropriate.

The case officer outlined to the Committee the responses from a number of consultees, including Transport NI, HED, NI Water, Environmental Health, Rivers Agency and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). A number of those consultees had recommended conditions and informatives.

The Committee received representation from Mr. P. Beacom, BelTel LLP, and Mr. M. Kininmonth, Senior Architect in Allford Hall Monaghan Morris. Together they outlined to the Committee that the design sought to respect and enhance the listed Seaver Building as well as integrate it with the series of different roof heights to suit the wider topography of the site. Mr. Kininmonth advised that they had engaged in a positive and well attended public consultation as part of the process.

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

LA04/2018/2451/F - Refurbishment of existing play area with the proposed introduction of MUGA playing surface with goal posts & basketball nets & perimeter fencing with outdoor play park equipment, 30 metres south west of 9 Britannic Terrace

(Councillor Armitage left the meeting at this point)

The Committee was provided with an overview of the proposal for the refurbishment of an existing play area to include a Multi-Use Games Area and a paved BBQ area.

The case officer explained that the Council was the co-applicant.

He advised the Committee that the application complied with the Development Plan and Planning Policy context. He also explained that DfI Roads and Environmental Health had been consulted and had expressed no objections to the proposal. The Members were also advised that the application had been neighbour notified and advertised in the press and that no third party representations had been received.

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

LA04/2018/2378/F - Public realm improvements comprising the re-surfacing of existing footways and on-street parking areas with natural stone, granite and asphalt; granite kerbs; boundary enhancements; new/replacement street trees and furniture; realignments to existing pedestrian crossings; minor junction improvements at Century Street and Manor Street and advisory cycle lanes on Lower Oldpark Road

(Councillor Armitage returned to the Committee table at this point)

The Committee considered the aforementioned application for public realm improvements to include re-surfacing of footways, replacement street furniture and advisory cycle lanes.

The case officer advised the Members that the Department for Communities (DfC) was the applicant.

He explained that HED, NIEA, NI Water and the Council's Tree and Landscape Team had been consulted and had offered no objections to the scheme.

The Committee was advised that no further response had been received from DfI Roads following its response to the initial plans. The Committee noted that amended plans had since been submitted by the applicant to address technical issues which had been raised by DfI Roads.

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The case officer highlighted that one objection had been received in relation to an unsafe tree and he confirmed to the Members that the tree would be removed as part of the proposals.

In response to a Member's question relating to future-proofing the works, the case officer confirmed to the Committee that, where possible, the applicant would align its works with other agencies working in the area.

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

LA04/2017/0308/F - Apartment development comprising 14 two bed social housing apartments and associated car parking at 123 Barnett's Road

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application for an apartment development containing 14 two bedroom social housing apartments, associated car parking and the widening of existing vehicular access to Barnetts Road.

The case officer explained to the Members that the proposal would fulfil the main objectives of Draft BMAP and the SPPS, with the provision of much-needed social housing in a sustainable location.

She confirmed to the Committee that DAERA, Rivers Agency, NI Water, Shared Environmental Services, Environmental Health and the Council's Tree Officer had been consulted and had offered no objections to the proposal. The Committee noted that the final response from Transport NI was outstanding. It had offered no objection in principle and it was therefore considered that any technical matters could be dealt with through conditions.

The case officer advised the Members that 21 objections had been received in relation to the original proposals, with two objections received in response to the amended plans. She explained that the responses cited issues with residential amenity, impact on traffic and parking, impact on the area, impact on the environment, the Human Rights Act and measures during the construction period. She clarified to the Committee that each of the issues had been addressed within the report.

In response to a Member's question regarding the provision of car parking spaces, the case officer confirmed that the apartments would be for those aged 55 and over where, generally, the requirement for parking spaces was lower than average and that a parking survey demonstrated that sufficient on street parking in the area could accommodate the shortfall.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Armitage, and
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

F694

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That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the availability of parking, agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to take place.

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

The officer's recommendation to approve the application, subject to imposing the conditions as set out in the case officer's report, was thereupon put to the Committee and agreed. The Committee agreed to delegate power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2018/2278/F - Amendment to previously approved
LA04/2017/1779/F at Sacred Heart Parochial Hall to include
new entrance from Gracehill Court**

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application, which was an amendment to a previously approved scheme, which included the relocation of the approved men's shed and new mezzanine craft and activity rooms.

The Committee noted that the Council was the co-applicant.

The case officer advised the Committee that twenty neighbours had been notified and that it had been advertised in the press, with no representations having been received.

She advised the Committee that the proposal complied with planning policies and the development plan.

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

**LA04/2018/1940/F Re Location of garden centre from northern
to southern side of building including demolition of existing
garden centre buildings, amendments to elevations on
southern(Balmoral Road) side of building, service yard
alterations and fencing, amendments to footways on
Balmoral Road to create service vehicle temporary parking
and alterations to car park at 38 Boucher Road.**

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the major application on the Boucher Road.

The case officer advised the Committee that the key issues in the assessment of the proposal included the principle of demolition and relocation on the site, access, movement, parking and transportation, flood risk and impact on built heritage.

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He explained that the proposal had been assessed against, and was considered to comply with, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS), BUAP, BMAP, PPS3, PPS6, PPS15 and Parking Standards.

The Members were advised that Environmental Health, NI Water, HED Historic Monuments, Rivers Agency, DAERA Water Management Unit and DAERA Regulation Unit had raised no issues of concern. The case officer reported that a response from DfI Roads Service was outstanding.

The case officer drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items pack, where a number of issues had been raised by Braniff Associates relating to the access plan for the site. He outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised.

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

LA04/2017/1682/F - 33 dwellings, garages and all other associated site works to include 16. apartments, 4. town-houses, 8 semi-detached dwellings and 5 detached dwellings on Lands at Lacefield, Campbell College, lands to the rear of Cabin Hill Court

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application.

She reported that the proposal related to the revision of a previous approval Z/2010/1313/F, where 14 dwellings had been completed. She explained that the proposal in front of the Committee would result in an overall total of 47 dwellings on the site, three units fewer than the original approval.

The Members were advised that the key issues in the assessment of the proposal included the principle of development and the impact on the character, residential amenity, access and parking and on the adjacent listed building.

She explained that one objection had been received relating to the impact of the proposed development on the objector's second access point to an existing dwelling and relating to additional noise generated from the proposal. She clarified to the Committee that the issues raised had been addressed within her report.

The Committee was advised that NIEA, NI Water and HED had been consulted and had expressed no objections to the proposals, subject to the conditions as detailed within the report.

The case officer pointed out that the Planning Service was awaiting a final response from DfI Roads but that an informal response had indicated that it was content with the proposed development in principle.

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In response to a Member's question as to whether the parking standards had been met for the application, the case officer stated that the DfI Roads consultation was outstanding and, if approved, delegated authority should be given to the Director to confirm those conditions.

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

**LA04/2018/2402/F - Change of use from dwelling to HMO
at 79 Great Northern Street**

The case officer outlined the details of an application for the change of use from a single occupancy dwelling to a House of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

She clarified to the Members that the application was within the Meadowbank HMO Policy Area (2/15), which meant that permission would only be granted where the number of HMO dwellings did not exceed 30% of all dwellings within the area.

She confirmed that the Council's records indicated that the 30% figure had been exceeded and that the principle of the conversation to an HMO at that location was therefore unacceptable.

The Committee agreed to refuse the application as it was contrary to Policy HMO1, as the 30% limit for HMOs within the area had already been exceeded.

**LA04/2018/1890/F - Upgrade to open space to allow for
more diverse recreational uses, introduction of a new
playground, and an upgrade to path network, West of
Stewartstown Road and South of Pantridge Road**

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, which sought permission for the upgrading of the existing open space to allow for more diverse recreational use, the introduction of a new playground and an upgrade of the path network.

It was noted that it was a Major application and that the Council was the applicant.

The case officer highlighted that, as detailed within the Late Items pack, responses had since been received from the Council's Tree Officer and from the Department for Infrastructure Roads Service confirming that they had no objections to the application.

The Committee granted approval to the application and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

Chairperson

F697

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Monday, 11th February, 2019

MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors Clarke, Dorrian, Graham, Johnston,
McAteer, Mullan and Nic Biorna

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; and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th February.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

RESTRICTED ITEM

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

Performance Report – Q3

The Managing Director of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) provided the Committee with an overview of the Company's performance during October, November and December 2018, of the year to date performance and analysis of actual performance against the budget for the financial year 2018/2019.

G54

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders Committee
Monday, 11th February, 2019

She outlined to the Members that it was the third quarter of the third year of operation for the new company, with the new Belfast Waterfront venue having been operational since the end of April, 2016.

She explained to the Members that, for the December year to date, BWUH Ltd. was within budget, with total sales income of £594k, 12 percent ahead of budget, and eight percent ahead of the previous year. She informed the Members that BWUH Ltd. had hosted a number of high profile conferences and events including the Royal College of Nursing, IMEKO, and the International Society for Eye Research and Eurofed Lipid conferences. At the end of quarter three, these conferences have generated 75,037 delegate days, which resulted in an economic impact for Belfast city of £28m.

The Managing Director advised the Committee that Brexit uncertainty was having an impact on ability to close out sales and a number of events had been cancelled or postponed for the last quarter as a direct result of Brexit.

The Committee was advised that, in December 2018, over £1m of entertainments sales occurred with 75 percent coming from online sales. The Managing Director reported that a Christmas campaign was strongly attributable to turning a £7.5k marketing spend into £48k of direct sales and that the pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, had a record-breaking 99 percent occupancy in public performances, welcoming 24,000 patrons.

She highlighted to the Members that entertainment ticket sales were ahead of plan following a successful pantomime season which has encouraged uptake for 2019/20 with 2000 tickets having been sold for 2019 The Frozen Princes pantomime.

The Members were informed that procurement of a PA system had been completed and the new PA system was to be installed in March 2019.

The Committee noted that, while casual labour was being managed more efficiently, the operations team were focused on driving further improvements. Further analysis had been undertaken to understand the differences in casual labour cost between the Waterfront Hall and the Ulster Hall. While the work was ongoing, it was noted that casual labour cost in the Ulster Hall was roughly double that of the Waterfront as a percentage of room hire revenue and was mainly due to the comparatively low room hire revenue per event at the Ulster Hall versus the Waterfront Hall. Room hire rates for entertainment events at the Ulster Hall typically averaged £2k per event versus £5k-£7k at the Waterfront.

The Managing Director informed the Members that correspondence with Amadeus was ongoing and that a full catering tender was being prepared to be issued in February and was due to be completed in April 2019.

In response to a Member's question regarding the catering within the business, the Managing Director provided the Committee with an update on a number of issues which had previously been raised.

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The Managing Director reported that the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Team was continuing to work in partnership with Aware NI to raise vital funds for the Charity. She reported that the Client Support team had raised money by selling unused gift shop stock and organising several staff raffles raising over £5,000.

The Chairperson thanked the Managing Director and the Business Support Director for the update which had been provided and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the Performance Report Update for Quarter 3 of 2018/2019.

Chairperson

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Brexit Committee

Thursday, 14th February, 2019

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston and McGimpsey;
Councillors Beattie, Canavan,
Carson, Hutchinson, Lyons, McAteer, O'Hara and
Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development
Manager;
Mrs. C. Sullivan, Business, Research and Development
Officer; and
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Dorrian, Dudgeon and Reynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th January were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th February.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentations

Youth Panel

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting a deputation from the Youth Panel which included Miss M. Aaroy, Miss A. McCallin and Miss Z. Conlon from the Belfast Youth Forum, Miss N. Mallagnah from the Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Mr. P. Smith and Ms. T. Connolly from Our Future, Our Voice and Mr. L. Patterson from the UK Youth Parliament.

The deputation indicated that the purpose of the presentation was to update the Committee on the views and concerns of young people with regard to Brexit.

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The Members were then provided with a presentation on Brexit and how young people in Northern Ireland were concerned with the impact of Brexit on services including:

- Health and education;
- Identity and racism;
- Freedom of movement; and
- Rights and the Good Friday Agreement.

The deputation informed the Committee that uncertainty around the future of essential services such as healthcare and education with regard to funding and cross-border logistics should be a priority concern. They highlighted the fears of young people with regard to their future education and the potential fees associated with universities.

They further advised that young people had a lack of understanding on what a deal or no-deal Brexit would look like for them and, in particular, how their freedom of movement would be affected.

The deputation presented questions to the Members with regard to how the Council could assist young people to understand Brexit, future funding and investment, and protecting workers' rights after Brexit.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the deputation from the Youth Panel for their presentation.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed to receive further presentations from the Youth Panel as they felt it would be beneficial to decision making to have an understanding of the views of young people in Northern Ireland.

**Correspondence Received -
Mr David Sterling – EU Settlement Scheme**

The Members were reminded that, at its meeting on 6th December 2018, it was agreed that the Committee would write to Mr. David Sterling, Head of the Civil Service, to consider the provision of an advice service to support EU citizens who are resident in Northern Ireland with making EU Settlement Scheme applications.

The Committee was advised that a response dated 1st February had been received.

In the letter, Mr. Sterling outlined how immigration was a priority, given the profound contribution that EU nationals make to the Northern Ireland economy and society. He added that the Advice Sector had been identified as a priority one area for Brexit day one delivery plans and additional funding had been requested to prepare the Advice Sector for an increase in demand.

The letter detailed the Home Office's Safeguarding Strategy, which had been developed to ensure that the Scheme was accessible to vulnerable EU nationals and the range of support mechanisms it was planning to implement, including:

**Brexit Committee,
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- Toolkits;
- Grant Scheme;
- Digital Assistance;
- Chip Checker Locations.

The Committee noted the correspondence received from Mr. David Sterling, Head of the Civil Service.

EU Settlement Scheme Information Day - Update

(Ms. K. Walsh, Business, Research and Development Manager, attended in connection with this item)

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the EU Settlement Scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the update provided.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Members are reminded that a report was brought to the January meeting of this Committee outlining plans for an information session on the EU Settlement Scheme in City Hall. It was agreed that local organisations who successfully obtain funding from the Home Office funding scheme to allow them to support EU citizens to apply to the Scheme, be invited to provide the information at the session. It had also been proposed that the information session be held in late February/early March.

We are aware that a local consortium has applied for funding from the Home Office Fund but a decision has not yet been made on their application. However it has emerged that if they do receive funding it must be spent in the financial year 19/20.

The scheme is currently open to some EU citizens and their family members and will open fully by 30 March 2019. The current advice from the Home Office is that the deadline for applying will be 30 June 2021, or 31 December 2020 if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. The Home Office’s website also advises ‘You can apply now if you’re eligible, but you’ll

probably get pre-settled status rather than settled status if you do not currently have 5 years' 'continuous residence'.

It was announced on 21 January 2019 that there will be no fee when the scheme opens fully. Anyone who has applied already, or who applies and pays a fee during the test phases, will have their fee refunded and details of the refunds process will be published shortly.

Members are advised that the next meeting of Migrant Forum has been scheduled for 4th March and that an update on the EU Settlement Scheme is on the agenda for this meeting. Through the Migrant Forum officers will liaise with the Executive Office and where appropriate we will work with them in disseminating information around the EU Settlement Scheme

Given these circumstances it is suggested that the Information Session is moved to April and that we use the meeting of the Migrant Forum in March to get their views on the format the information session should take, and what channels we should use to promote the session to ensure that all relevant groups are aware of it.

A briefing document on the EU Settlement Scheme is attached as appendix 1 which includes information on the difference between settled and pre-settled status.

Officers will disseminate this information to businesses and community and voluntary organisations through existing networks. We will also continue to participate in the Home Office teleconferences in relation to the Scheme and update Members as appropriate.

Financial and 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.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications relating to this report.”

Noted.

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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 informed the Members that, the visit took place on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th January and the delegation consisted of the Lord Mayor, Councillors Walsh and Lyons, and two officers. She informed the Members that, during the course of the visit, the delegation had met with the following:

- Andrew Elliot, Head of Office, NI Executive Office in Brussels;
- Nina Obermaier, Adviser to Taskforce 50;
- Hermione Gough, Director for UK-EU Partnership at the UK's Permanent Representation to the European Union;
- Mr. Dieter Cavalleri Minister in charge of Parliamentary Affairs and Brexit at the Mission of Switzerland to the EU;
- Micheal Ó Conchuir, Secretary General European Alliance Group - European Committee of the Regions;
- David Brück & Amal Kaoua Deputy Directors Brexit Unit, Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU;
- The 3 Northern Ireland MEPs - Diane Dodds MEP, Martina Anderson MEP and Jim Nicholson MEP;
- Mairead McGuinness MEP, Vice President of the European Parliament and an Irish MEP from Midlands-North-West Constituency;
- Matt Carthy MEP, Irish MEP from Midlands-North-West Constituency;
- Gabriele Zimmer MEP who sits on the European Parliament's Brexit Steering Group;

She further advised that a meeting had been arranged with Mr. Elmar Brok, MEP and that, due to scheduling difficulties, it hadn't been possible to meet in Brussels. However, Mr. Brok had subsequently travelled to Belfast and had taken the opportunity to meet with the Lord Mayor.

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The Business, Research and Development Officer informed the Members of the key themes within all of the discussions that had taken place during the delegation, and highlighted that it had been important that views from all of the different perspectives with regard to Brexit, from Belfast and the wider region were presented and that ongoing engagement would be welcomed.

She further informed the Committee that the key points that came out of the meetings which had occurred during the delegation were:

- Cross border bodies will continue to operate and even under a 'no deal' scenario, Peace and Interreg funding has been agreed to the end of 2020;
- A case will have to be made in relation to accessing future EU funding programmes and this is likely to be based on what is available for third party countries – there are current examples of non-EU countries accessing funding programmes but this will be subject to UK government's agreement to make the relevant levels of financial contributions to the relevant programmes;
- Whilst there is a desire for an orderly exit and the avoidance of a 'no deal' scenario, 'no deal' planning needs to be taking place – and has increased over recent weeks;
- Visits are important as they help inform both officials and MEPs in Brussels of what is happening on the ground – there was positive feedback about previous engagement with a range of political representatives and civic society in NI;
- Switzerland's relationship with the EU has been ongoing for 40 years and is constantly evolving – although Switzerland was obviously never a member of the EU to begin with.

A Member indicated that he felt that the delegation to Brussels was a worthwhile visit and that the level of engagement and the broad spectrum of individuals who partook in meetings with the delegation demonstrated the success and value of the trip.

The Committee noted the update.

Update on Day 1 Preparedness

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to outline for Members work that is currently being undertaken in relation to the Council's Brexit Day 1 preparedness.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the update.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Members are reminded that that the Committee was updated in November 2018 on the work that officers have recently undertaken in relational to identifying potential Day 1 service implications in relation to Brexit. An internal audit was undertaken and this identified that there are several key areas within Council where there may be a potential impact in the event of a no deal Brexit. These areas included:

- HR;
- finance/funding;
- procurement;
- waste;
- port health;
- product safety;
- communications; and
- business continuity management.

Further work is currently ongoing to define potential day 1 impacts, risks and possible mitigations and a business continuity approach is being taken to addressing potential Day 1 impacts. A cross departmental meeting was recently held with representatives from key services to identify key actions for moving forward. Members are asked to note that following on from this meeting the following actions are being undertaken:

- 1) That Council's critical services are completing Brexit Resilience Measures template to identify the potential impact that Brexit may have on service delivery over the 8-week period from 19 March to 10 May and the necessary resilience measures that need to be taken before 29 March.
- 2) That the responsible officers review and update their Business Continuity Plan ensuring that it deals with service delivery post Brexit, and communicates it to staff before 29 March.

Members should also note that from 19 March emergency planning staff will provide situational reporting and daily

position statements to the Council's senior management team on critical services. Arrangements exist across Northern Ireland to respond to emergencies and ensure that the support provided to the public is co-ordinated. In Belfast the agencies use the Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group to undertake planning to enable this response.

Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group members will meet before and after EU Exit to ensure all agencies can raise concerns if these arise. Normal emergency planning arrangements will be available to respond to emergencies if required. This may be as a result of a civil contingencies issue such as severe weather or if there is an EU Exit related issue which could cause a threat to life situation to arise or significant cumulative impacts have occurred which necessitate a locally co-ordinated response. The Emergency Co-ordination Centre in City Hall will be on standby to activate if required. Refresher training for staff who may be asked to work in the centre has commenced. The Council will establish an internal information hub from 19 March 2019 to maintain shared situational awareness across all departments/functions. This will include any potential business continuity issues, concerns which need escalated to central government or rising tide issues which could lead to an emergency activation being required.

Work has also been ongoing in several areas around preparations for Brexit including liaising with central government departments and working on civil contingency planning with other relevant partners. Central government departments are developing plans to prevent and mitigate any potential impacts of EU Exit. The Executive Office is leading this work across the NI Civil Service and is establishing co-ordination arrangements to ensure that any potential issues can be identified and addressed as quickly as possible. These arrangements will be established prior to EU Exit and continue until required but will be scaled up/down as needed. Co-ordination arrangements will still be required if there is a deal but at a reduced scale. Belfast City Council works with a wide range of departments to deliver normal services. The Council will link with the central government co-ordination arrangements to discuss and escalate any issues which arise in relation to EU Exit.

A further report updating Members on the preparations being made in relation to Day 1 preparedness will be brought to the Committee in March.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial implications relating to this report but the work that is being undertaken to further define potential day 1 impacts, risks and mitigations may have financial and resource implications and these will be reported to Members as required. It is likely that there will be direct costs associated with preparing for Brexit e.g. in relation to civil contingency planning, and where possible these will be claimed back from central government.

Members should note that the Council has not included an increase in its recurrent budgets because of the uncertainty, however, if one-off costs are to be incurred these will be financed through Council's general reserves

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

There are no implications relating to this report.”

After discussion, during which a Member commended the report and the work that had been undertaken by the Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

Update on Brexit Scenario Planning Workshop

The Commissioner for Resilience reminded the Committee that they had been invited to attend a Brexit Scenario Planning Workshop on 21st February. She advised the Members that it would be an informal 90 minute session on mapping out how Belfast City Council wanted to approach its medium term scenario planning and discussion on how the future relationship between the EU and the UK would be governed.

The Commissioner for Resilience informed the Members that the workshop would also examine the future funding relationship with the EU.

The Committee noted the update.

**Update on FSB Report – ‘Making Northern
Ireland an Enhanced Economic Zone’**

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To make the Committee aware of the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) proposal for Northern Ireland to be

designated as an ‘enhanced economic zone’ in response to the ongoing Brexit negotiations.

This publication was prepared in October 2018 by the FSB NI, as part of their efforts to explore options in response to the Brexit process and to present an alternative scenario for the region.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked:

- To note the content of the report;
- To consider inviting a representative from Federation of Small Businesses to a future Committee meeting.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) represents the small and medium sized enterprises (SME) that tends to dominate the Belfast and regional private sector. Belfast has 10,560 VAT registered businesses (14% of the regional total). Almost one fifth of these businesses are micro and small businesses, employing less than 50 employees.

During 2018, the FSB, working with Ulster University, held several focus groups in the region to provide a forum for business owners to express their views on Brexit. The key messages from the focus groups were in terms of a desire to minimise disruption and to take account of the region’s unique position to identify opportunities for the future.

Following this feedback, the FSB have produced a proposal that explores a future role for NI as an ‘enhanced economic zone’. This proposal is designed to enable tariff-free trade between both the UK and EU markets after Brexit; providing access to the UK market for Ireland and the rest of the EU and vice versa and regulatory assurance for goods entering the EU through NI.

The report acknowledges that it does not address all the challenges posed by Brexit and that compromises will be needed but it offers a pragmatic solution from the business community for consideration. A copy of the report is available on the FSB website at: [FSB proposal](#)

The proposals are dependent on a number of assumptions. This includes a Withdrawal Agreement being in place that would include reference to the designation of NI as an Enhanced Economic Zone; that the UK/EU trade continues as-is at least until the end of the transition period in 2020; and the likely extension of the transition period to facilitate agreement on the future relationship.

The paper outlines a high level bespoke model for the region, examining the potential of NI to become an Enhanced Economic Zone post Brexit. Council officers have made contact with FSB for further detail. It is suggested that the Committee may wish to hear directly from FSB to further explore the proposal and specific considerations for Belfast.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report.

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

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs issues attached to this report.”

After discussion, the Committee noted the content of the report and agreed to invite a representative from the Federation of Small Businesses to the next meeting of the Brexit Committee.

Chairperson

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