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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

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

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 1st April, 2019 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 14)
5. Official Announcements
6. Request to Address the Council

(To consider a request to address the Council in relation to the motion on Suicide Prevention being proposed by Councillor Armitage)

7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 15 - 64)
8. People and Communities Committee (Pages 65 - 98)
9. City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 99 - 138)
10. Licensing Committee (Pages 139 - 144)
11. Planning Committee (Pages 145 - 158)
12. Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee (Pages 159-160)
13. Brexit Committee (Pages 161 - 170)
14. Notice of Motion

a) Suicide Prevention

Proposed by Councillor Armitage,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

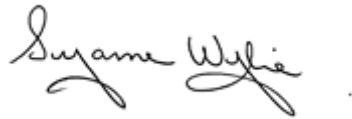
“This Council is deeply saddened by the increasing numbers of people dying by suicide in the city of Belfast. The Council recognises that each death is preventable and, therefore, is an even more painful episode for all; and understands the deep pain shared by families and close friends of those who have died by suicide.

Belfast needs to become a city safe from suicide and the Council needs to work with others to make Belfast a Zero Suicide City. This includes making the safe house in the City Centre permanent, supporting and resourcing those groups who work in counselling and suicide prevention, challenging the taboos of mental health and suicide and ensuring that there is adequate training and resources for all the citizens so that Belfast can react positively to assist those in need.

The Council also calls on the Northern Ireland Assembly to implement the Protect Life 2 Strategy on suicide prevention.”

(To be debated by the Council)

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

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

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 4th March, 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 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, Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McReynolds, Milne, 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 Alderman Browne and Councillors Graham, Howard and Mullan.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Armitage and Long declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the minute of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee minute of 13th February, under the heading "Progression of the Cultural Programme – Festivals and Events Update" in that they were members of the Eastside Partnership which received SIF funding but, relied on the dispensation in section 6.9 of the Local Government Code of Conduct, in order to remain in the meeting.

Aldermen Haire and McGimpsey and Councillors Dorrian, Johnston, Kyle and Newton also declared an interest in the same minute as members of the Eastside Partnership which received SIF Funding.

The following Members declared an interest in respect of the same minute and left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed:

- Councillor Baker – in that his brother was a Director in Feile an Phobail; and

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- Councillor Corr – in that his son worked for Feile an Phobail and also as he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board which received SIF funding.

Aldermen McCoubrey and Copeland and Councillor Beattie declared an interest in respect of the minute of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting of 13th February, under the heading “Belfast Harbour Commissioners - Proposed Memorandum of Understanding”, in that they were Board Members of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners but as the matter did not become the subject of debate, the Members did not get an opportunity to leave the meeting.

Alderman Sandford declared an interest in respect of the minutes of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting of 13th February, under the heading “Infrastructure and Transport Update”, in that his son worked for Translink and he left the meeting whilst the Translink Depot Relocation was being discussed.

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in respect of the minutes of the Licensing Committee minute of 20th February, under the heading “Update on Transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation – Fees and Fixed Penalty Notices”, in that he owned a number of HMO’s within the City, however, as the matter did not become the subject of debate, the Member did not get an opportunity to leave the meeting.

Councillor Murphy declared an interest in respect of the minute of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee minutes of 22nd February, under the heading “Citywide Tribunal Service” in that he was a member of the Ligoneil Improvement Association which was the landlord of the City Tribunal Service.

Alderman Kingston and Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest as members of the Greater Shankill Partnership.

Councillor McReynolds declared an interest as a member of Eastside Arts.

Minutes of the Council

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 4th February be taken as read and signed as correct.

Filming of Proceedings

The Council approved a request from the BBC to film for a short period during the meeting.

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Official Announcements

Expression of Sympathy

The Lord Mayor referred to the recent death of the father of Councillor Black and, on behalf of the Council, extended condolences to her family.

World Downs Syndrome Day

The Lord Mayor advised that World Downs Syndrome Day would be observed on Thursday, 21st March and she thanked the Party Group Leaders for agreeing to illuminate the City Hall on this day which would help raise public awareness of Downs Syndrome.

International Women's Day

The Lord Mayor reminded the Council that International Women's Day was on Friday, 8th March and advised that the Council was running an event for its staff and Elected Members. She also reminded the Members that the Annual International Women's Day Rally was on Saturday, 9th March, departing Writers' Square at 11.30 a.m. and arriving at the City Hall at 12.00 p.m. The theme of this year's event was 'The Time is Now – Women Rise Up'.

Retirement - Best Wishes

The Council's attention was drawn to the fact that Mrs. Mary Houston, Members' Attendant, was due to retire from the Council at the end of March after almost twenty-seven years of service.

Several Members highlighted the significant contribution which Mrs. Houston had made to the Democratic Services Section during her time in the Council and a number of the Members expressed how helpful she had been to them when they had initially joined the Council.

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, expressed her thanks to Mrs. Houston and wished her well in her retirement.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February be approved and adopted.

Assets Management – Proposed Transfer of Open Space at Moltke Street

At the request of Councillor Boyle, it was agreed that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would provide clarity around the timeline for the transfer of ownership of the open space at Moltke Street from Radius Housing to the Council.

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Amendment

Robinson Centre

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Hussey,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February under the heading "Robinson Centre" be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to adopt Option 1, that is, that there be no change to the current name.

On a recorded vote, nineteen Members voted for the amendment and thirty-three against, with one no vote, and it was declared lost.

<u>For 19</u>	<u>Against 33</u>	<u>No Vote 1</u>
The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Corr, Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McReynolds, Milne, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.	Councillor Bunting.

Amendment

Moved by The High Sheriff of Belfast (Alderman Sandford),
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February under the heading "Robinson Centre" be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to name the centre the "Castlereagh Leisure Centre".

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

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<u>For 18</u>	<u>Against 36</u>
<p>The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Hussey, Johnston, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.</p>	<p>The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Hutchinson, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McReynolds, Milne, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.</p>

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February under the heading "Robinson Centre" be rejected and accordingly the Council agrees to name the centre the "Ervine Centre".

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

<u>For 3</u>	<u>Against 34</u>	<u>No Vote 17</u>
<p>Councillors Corr Johnston, Hutchinson and Kyle.</p>	<p>The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Black, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Heading, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McReynolds, Milne, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill and Walsh.</p>	<p>The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Hussey, Johnston, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.</p>

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Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Nicholl,
Seconded by Councillor Magennis,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 5th and 12th February be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Anti-social Behaviour

At the request of Councillor Garrett, it was agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee in respect of the Council's animation programme for its Parks.

It was further agreed, at the request of Alderman Rodgers, that quarterly reports on vandalism within the Council's Parks would be incorporated within the anti-social behaviour report.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 5th and 12th February 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 13th February be approved and adopted.

City Events Programme

The Chief Executive referred to the Appendix associated with the City Events Programme 2019/20 report. She advised that in the table the proposed 2019-2020 Programme Agreed Estimates detailed that the total figure amounted to £1,092,114 and this should have been £1,127,114. The Chief Executive clarified that £1,127,114 had been included within the Departmental budget for 2019/20.

Noted.

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Amendment

**City Events Programme 2019/20/Progression of the
Cultural programme – Festivals and Events Update**

Moved by Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th February under the heading “City Events programme 2019/2020 and Progression of the Cultural Programme – Festivals and Events Update” be amended to provide that no funding be allocated to the Cultural Programme at this time, and that it be referred back to the Committee for further discussion and that the decision relating to the funding for the City Events Programme would proceed as agreed by the Committee.

On a recorded vote, six Members voted for the amendment and thirty-nine against, with six no votes, and it was declared lost.

<u>For 6</u>	<u>Against 39</u>	<u>No Vote 6</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); and Councillors Armitage, Long, McAllister, Nicholl and O'Neill.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Beattie, Black, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	Alderman Convery; and Councillors Attwood, Boyle, Heading, Lyons and Milne.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Beattie
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That, in accordance with Standing Order 47 (2) (c), the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th February under the heading “City Events Programme 2019/20 and Progression of the Cultural

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programme – Festivals and Events Update”, not be subject to call-in, as an unreasonable delay could be prejudicial to the Council’s or the public’s interests.

On a recorded vote, thirty-eight Members voted for the amendment and eight against, with four no votes, and it was declared carried.

<u>For 38</u>	<u>Against 8</u>	<u>No Vote 4</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey); The High Sheriff (Alderman Sandford); Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Beattie, Black, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O’Donnell, O’Hara, Pankhurst, Reynolds and Walsh.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor McDonough Brown); and Councillors Armitage, Heading, Long, Lyons, McAllister, Nicholl and O’Neill.	Alderman Convery; and Councillors Boyle, Collins and Milne.

Amendment

Infrastructure and Transport Update

Moved by Councillor O’Donnell,
Seconded by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hargey),

That the decision of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th February under the heading “Infrastructure and Transport Update” be amended to provide that the Council also enter into discussions with the Department for Infrastructure in relation to the development of other viable locations for the East Belfast Translink depot.

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

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th February were thereupon approved and adopted.

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Licensing Committee

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

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 20th February, 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 Armitage and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 19th February, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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

Moved by Alderman Haire,
Seconded by Councillor Johnston,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 11th February be approved and adopted.

Amendment

**Impact of Brexit on the ICC Belfast
and the Ulster Hall**

At the request of Councillor Walsh, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the Brexit Committee outlining the impact that Brexit was having on the ICC Belfast and the Ulster Hall.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Shareholders' Committee of 11th February were thereupon approved and adopted.

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Brexit Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor McAteer and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Brexit Committee of 14th February be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Million Trees

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Long.

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

Support for Roads Infrastructure in Scotland

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

“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;

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- Supports the campaign in Ayrshire and Dumfries and 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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Reynolds.

On a vote by show of hands, twenty-nine Members voted for the motion and nineteen against and it was declared carried.

Rainbow Flag at City Hall

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Baker.

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

SEND Act and Out of School Hours Provision

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

“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

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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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Canavan.

The proposer agreed, at the request of Councillor Lyons, to the following addition to the last paragraph of the motion:

“This Council agrees that a cross party delegation meet with the Department of Education, the Education Authority, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Out of School Hours Service providers.”

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

Feasibility Support

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

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

Dog-Friendly Properties

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Long.

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

Climate Emergency

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

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 22nd March, 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Collins.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Ms. R. Crozier, Customer focus Programme Director;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

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

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd February 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 March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 2 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.

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The Gasworks Estate

The Committee authorised the outstanding account of £237,001.63 to be written off, in accordance with Section M12 of the Council's Financial Regulations.

City Growth and Innovation Commission

The Committee considered a report which proposed the establishment of an action-oriented Commission – to be established for a period of one year - to create a step change in driving innovation and growth. The purpose of the Commission would be to support the Council in the further development and implementation of its priorities as set out in the Belfast Agenda. A particular focus would be given to the priorities of (1) growing the economy and (2) city development. The Commission would seek to deliver the core objective of inclusive growth.

The establishment of a Commission would inform the development of the next phase of growth required to meet the city's ambitions in the Belfast Agenda, that is, 2021 and beyond:

- that major programmes are integrated and joined up, that is, economic growth must also be sustainable;
- that resilience is built-in; so we are better able to withstand shocks and stresses, and by reducing risk make Belfast increasingly attractive to investment;
- that economic growth is inclusive - the benefits are spread, facilitated through specific interventions;
- that opportunities to fund and accelerate this growth are identified and realised;
- that NI Civil Service / NI government / Invest NI are aligned to the plans developed; and
- that the Commission operates in parallel to the development of a Resilience Strategy for Belfast. That way, resources and opportunities arising from our membership of 100 Resilient Cities would be targeted towards delivery of resilient inclusive growth.

The Council's Chief Executive will chair the Commission and lead its work. The Chief Executive will be accountable to both the Strategic Policy and Resources and City Growth and Regeneration Committees for ensuring the Commission meets its goals and works within its terms of reference. The Commission will engage regularly with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and provide substantive progress reports.

Accountability for the day-to-day operation of the Commission (Senior Responsible Officer) will rest with the Commissioner for Resilience, who will be tasked with advising and supporting the commission, identifying resources (including from 100RC) and producing final outputs, as part of her requirement to produce a Resilience Strategy for the city.

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The Commissioner for Resilience will work alongside the Director of City and Organisational Strategy to ensure that the effective support is in place to support the Commission and its work streams, provide research and ensure it is integrated with with Community Planning and the City Deal.

The Committee agreed that a City Growth and Innovation Commission be established to integrate and join up major strategic projects facing the city of Belfast for the next 10-20 years.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

Motion: Rainbow Flag at City Hall

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th March, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor Baker, to the Committee for consideration:

“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.”

Proposal

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter and that a report be submitted to the Committee on those dates that are included in the illuminate programme where there is a festival or celebration also held in the city and how they could receive dual recognition of a flag and illumination of the building.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the Committee agrees to the motion and to fly the rainbow flag over the City Hall on 3rd August, 2019, in principle, subject to an equality screening being undertaken and that a report be submitted to the Committee on those dates that are included in the illuminate programme

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where there is a festival or celebration also held in the city and how they could receive dual recognition of a flag and illumination of the building.

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

The amendment was then put to the meeting as the substantive motion and was agreed.

Motion: Feasibility Support

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

“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.”

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

Motion: Dog Friendly Properties

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

“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.”

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

Motion: Climate Emergency

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 4th March, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading:

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“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.”

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

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

**Motion: Half Fare SmartPass Scheme –
Response for the Department for Infrastructure**

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that the Council on 7th January had passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Corr Johnston and seconded by Alderman Copeland:

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

He advised the Committee that a response had now been received from Mr. Chris McLean of the Department for Infrastructure’s Public Transport Division.

Mr. McLean had explained that the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme (the Scheme) provided free and discounted public transport as an important means of reducing social exclusion and highlighted the fact that the Northern Ireland Executive supported over 22 million public transport journeys in 2017/18.

He pointed out that, to extend the eligibility criteria to all Universal Credit claimants, as called for within the first part of the motion, would be a major policy change and would not be a decision which a civil servant could take in the absence of a Minister. However, the request would be brought to the attention of an incoming Minister for Infrastructure

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and would have to be considered in light of the significant financial pressures being faced by the Scheme.

In terms of authorising the use of the SmartPass on all public transport services, such as the Belfast Taxis Community Interest Company and Shankill Road Taxis, Mr. McLean confirmed that the scheme was open to private operators delivering public transport services under a commercial bus service permit. Those operators applying to participate in the Scheme were required to meet the necessary application and audit requirements set by the Department for Infrastructure. He pointed out that the Belfast Taxis Community Interest Company had submitted an application to join the Scheme and that it was being considered currently. He added that, once an operator could demonstrate that they met the criteria to join the Scheme, Ministerial approval would normally be sought. However, in the absence of a Minister, this issue would have to be considered in the context of the Executive Formation and Exercise of Functions Act 2018.

The Committee noted the response.

Governance

Governance Arrangements

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To consider the governance arrangements to apply for the new Council term commencing in 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee is requested to;

- **Consider the issues and to give an initial view on the preferred governance arrangements for the new Council.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

At the meeting of the new Council following the local government elections in May, it will be necessary to agree the new council’s governance arrangements for the period 2019-23. In order to allow officers to prepare, Members are asked to consider the following issues and a full report will be brought to Strategic Policy and Resources in April.

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Key issues

3.2 1. Council governance arrangements

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides for a number of types of governance arrangements, namely:

- Traditional committee arrangements (default position)
- Executive model

In 2014, the Council adopted a Constitution which, amongst other things, agreed the default governance arrangements prescribed in the 2014 Act namely:

- Traditional Committee system
- Positions of responsibility selected using the D'hondt model
- Committee places allocated using the quota greatest remainder model

It would have required a qualified majority vote (80%) in order to choose any of the alternatives.

Looking forward to the new Council term, should the Council agree to continue with the existing arrangements as set out in the Council Constitution, then the decision making process requires a simple majority vote to do so.

Issue to consider:

- Do members wish to continue with existing governance arrangements ie traditional committee system?

3.3 2. Standing Committees

The council currently has established seven Standing Committees which promote cross-departmental and thematic working across the organisation supporting the delivery of the Belfast Agenda and the developing process of Outcomes Based Accountability:

Committee	Number of Members	Responsibility
Strategic Policy and Resources	20	Responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies and for setting the budget overseeing the appropriate use of Council finances
City Growth and Regeneration	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and inclusive growth of the city

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People and Communities	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, services and projects aimed at improving life at a local level
Licensing	20	Responsible for the consideration of all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues
Planning	14	Responsible for all the Council's planning functions
Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders'	14	Responsible for making the decisions required by the Shareholders' Agreement and ensure that the Company complies with the contract for the operation of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls
Brexit	20	Responsible for researching, monitoring and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of the UK's leaving the European Union

Issues to consider:

- Do we wish to continue with these Committees?
- Do we wish to maintain the current remit of each Committee?
- Do we wish to continue with these Committees with the same numbers of members?
- Do we wish to retain the Brexit Committee?

3.4 3. Annual review of Committee membership

In the current council term, members were appointed to the Committees for the full four-year term. It is considered that it would be better in the new term for the members to be appointed for one-year terms, and reappointed at each Annual Meeting. This would allow for any changes in political affiliation which can occur during a council term to be accounted for. The City Solicitor believes this to be in keeping both the spirit and intent of the 2014 Act.

Issue to consider:

- Would members be supportive of a change to a one-year committee membership term?

3.5 4. Method of appointing positions of responsibility including PCSP and DPCSPs

The positions of responsibility include the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, some prescribed outside bodies and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and the four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs). In dealing with the appointments of members to the PCSP and DPCSPs, the Council needs to ensure that the

appointments are made in accordance with not only the LGA 2014 but also the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and are considered as part of the allocation of positions of responsibility.

The solution, which was agreed by all parties in 2015, was that the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs were made by allocating those parties' D'hondt choices from the bottom up. Therefore, the parties' earlier choices for positions of responsibility were not adversely affected by the requirements of the Justice Act as to how the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs had to be made.

Issue to consider:

- Are we happy to again employ this solution in 2019?

3.6 5. Standing Orders

One of the first acts of business of the new Council at their meeting on 21 May will be to agree a new set of Standing Orders. It is recommended that an opportunity is taken to review some sections of the Standing Orders in:

Standing Order 47: Call-in

Following recent legal advice, it is recommended that Members considers some amendments to the process of call-in in order to more accurately reflect the legislation as it currently stands. Specifically this would add provisions:

- i. That on a procedural call-in authority be delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to obtain legal advice, to be tabled at the meeting of the ad hoc committee, if it is their view that this will assist in addressing the issues raised within the call-in
- ii. That in suspending the operation of call-in on the grounds that the unreasonable delay that would be caused could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interests, the proposer will be required to give reasons as to why this is the case
- iii. That to allow the timely implementation of decisions arising from the Contracts for Award report, delegated authority be given to SP&R for that purpose
- iv. In relation to call-ins submitted under Section 41(1)(b) of the 2014 Act, the Chief Executive will wait until the expiry of the period for valid call-ins to be submitted before determining if the required 15% threshold is still in place.

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If that is the case then the opinion of a practising barrister or solicitor will be sought.

- v. That any decision called in under Section 41(1)(b) of the 2014 Act and subsequently referred back to the Council for decision after the call-in has been disposed of, will be taken by a simple majority vote.

Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion

That Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda

Standing Order 64: Amendments to the Standing Orders and repeals

That changes to the Standing Orders can be agreed at one Council meeting as opposed to two consecutive Council meetings as is the current requirement.

Issues to consider:

- Would Members be supportive in principle of these proposed amendments and a more detailed report would be brought back to April's Strategic Policy and Resources?

Other areas of political governance which Members are asked to consider relate to:

3.7 6. Appointment of Working Groups

The Council decided to appoint a number of Working Groups in 2015. These Working Groups are not specified in the 2014 Act and the Council is free to use whatever mechanism it sees fit to appoint members to them. It is suggested that some of the current Working Groups could be re-aligned to the most relevant thematic committee in order to make their decision-making process more efficient.

Current Working Group	Recommendation
Audit and Risk Panel	Retain
Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders	Retain both and review individual Terms of Reference and the name of each group with minutes being issued to any independent members within two days of meeting
North Foreshore Members' Steering Group	Matters could be considered by City, Growth and Regeneration

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Reference Group on Older People	Matters could be considered by People and Communities although some consultation may be required with sector
Shared City Partnership	Retain
Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group	Matters could be considered by People and Communities and/or Strategic Policy and Resources Committees

Issues to consider:

- Would Members be supportive of reviewing the current Working Groups as outlined above?

3.8 7. Area Working Groups

Some consideration needs to be given to the terms of reference for the Area-Based Working Groups. Members are already aware that the financial position of the Council has changed significantly and there will not in the near future be a LIF3/BIF2 etc. This will significantly impact the role of the AWGs during this period. It is therefore recommended that there is a move to a more strategic area-based framework approach based on local needs encompassing:

- council service and facility provision
- external or multi-agency service and facility provision
- agreed local area plans to improve outcomes for local people
- longer term local regeneration and investment plans (including capital, revenue or other projects with multiple funding sources)

It is recommended that the AWGs are reviewed within this context and that, following holding a series of workshops with each Area Working Group, a revised Terms of Reference are drawn up (to be taken into Committee late summer / autumn).

Issue to consider:

- Would Members be supportive of this approach?

3.9 8. Process for nomination for High Sheriff

The current Council agreed to use a separate D'hondt process to decide which Parties would be entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff for each year of the Council term. This process sits outside the positions of

responsibility process as the appointment is made by the Secretary of State.

Issue to consider:

- Do we wish to use this process again from 2019?

3.10 9. Appointment to Outside Bodies

There are a number of appointments to Outside Bodies. In 2015, the Council decided to use the Sainte Lague method to make these appointments. A report on the appointments to be made would be presented to the first meeting of the new Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June.

Issue to consider:

- Do we wish to use this method again or the more common D'hondt method?

3.11 10. Rate of Members' Allowance

The Council did not agree in 2017 and 2018 to increase the Members' Allowances by the rate of inflation as it was permitted to do. In the new Council, do we wish to increase the basic and special responsibility allowances to the maximum permissible (as all other of the 10 Councils do currently)?

Issue to consider:

- Do we wish to do so for 2019?

3.12 Financial and Resource Implications

None at this stage.

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

None at this stage.”

The City Solicitor outlined the main aspects of the report and the decisions which would be required to be taken by the new Council. With regard to the amendments to Standing Order 47: Call-in, he pointed that he was withdrawing the suggested amendment at paragraph 5(v) and that these decisions would remain subject to Qualified Majority Voting.

The Committee noted the report seeking an initial view on the preferred governance arrangements for the new Council and that a further report would be submitted to the next meeting.

Revision of the Council's Scheme of Allowances

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th October 2018, it had considered a report on amendments to the Scheme of Allowances. The Committee had agreed to defer consideration of the report and agreed also that a letter be forwarded to the Local Government Commissioner for Standards to ascertain clarification on the imposing of sanctions on Councillors who had been found to have breached the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors, following the response to which, a briefing on the matter be held for all Members of the Council. A letter was sent to the Commissioner and in her response she confirmed that the Commissioner had no power to give any direction to the Council in respect of measures to be implemented by it in relation to any penalty imposed other than to notify the Chief Executive in respect of a suspension or disqualification or other sanction.

The City Solicitor explained that the Council was required, under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, to publish a Scheme of Allowances, which sets out the allowances and support services that apply to a Councillor.

The Council's current Scheme did not cover what should happen if a Councillor was disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors. The issue of most concern to Members last October, in light of the Commissioner's interim ruling against Councillor Bunting, was that the Council was being left to determine what penalty should be imposed on a Member who was found to be in breach of the Code and who had a partial suspension imposed upon them.

It would seem that it should be relatively clear that a Member who is either disqualified or who is fully suspended for a period should have the payment of any allowances and the access to other facilities such as equipment and rooms in City Hall removed.

The Committee would be aware that Alderman Ruth Patterson had been suspended from acting as a Councillor for a period of six months with effect from 11th March, 2019. Therefore, it seemed incumbent upon the Council to stop her allowances from that date, require the return of any equipment on loan from the Council and prevent her use of the Members' Common Room, Party Room and Car Park.

The following amendment to the Scheme of Allowances was recommended for approval by the Committee in order to give effect to this:

"Disqualification or Suspension of a Councillor

The Local Government Commissioner for Standards may impose sanctions on a Councillor who is found to have breached the Northern Ireland Code of Conduct for Councillors. Such sanction may be imposed at the conclusion of the Commissioner's adjudication process of the alleged breach or at the conclusion of an interim adjudication by the Commissioner.

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For the purpose of this Scheme of Allowances, the following action will be taken upon receipt by the Chief Executive of a decision by the Commissioner which results in the disqualification or the suspension of a Councillor.

Disqualification

If a Councillor is disqualified, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of disqualification.

Suspension

If a Councillor is wholly suspended for a period, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of suspension.

The City Solicitor explained that there would be no penalties applied in relation to the payment of allowances or the provision of all support services in the case of partial suspensions or suspensions following an interim adjudication as in both those cases he felt that it would be disproportionate to do so.

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees to approve the amendment to the Scheme of Allowances as set out in relation to the disqualification or suspension of a Councillor.

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

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

City Region Growth Deal – Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To present to Committee the Heads of Term document which sets out the funding commitment for the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) £850M investment Programme which was announced by the Chancellor in his budget statement on 29th October 2018.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked:

- To approve the Heads of Term document**

- To note the next steps in developing an implementation plan and funding agreement for the delivery of the BRCD programme and associated projects
- To approve the commissioning of further work to take forward the BRCD Digital pillar including the development of specific projects, identification of additional funding and delivery mechanisms and engagement with key partners at a cost of £250,000 from within existing budgets

Committee should note that the costs for this digital work will be allocated across the partners in the BRCD.

3.0 Main report

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

Heads of Term

- 3.2** The next stage in the process was the production of a Heads of Term document which has been drawn up by MHCLG and NIO and outlines at a high level the funding commitments from both UK and Regional governments and the partners. Once approved this document will then be signed by both governments, the six councils and the two universities.
- 3.3** The BRCD Heads of Term reflects the programme of investment presented in the BRCD proposition document and the format and level of content reflects HoT documents drawn up for other city deals. As anticipated there are caveats contained within the document relating to the absence of the NI Executive and its impact on funding allocations, and the BRCD partners will continue to work closely with colleagues in NICS to ensure the programme aligns with regional priorities and projects are focussed on key growth sectors. Also given the scale and complexity of the overall programme and associated projects it will be at least a year before full business cases can be developed and money can begin to be allocated.

Programme Development

- 3.4 The BRCD partners have already started work on the next phase of the programme which involves the development of:
- A Financial Plan and Agreement
 - A Deal Document- detailed document covering all elements included within Heads of terms, including Governance Framework
 - An Implementation Plan- summarising milestones for key deliverables, outputs, resources and risk mitigation for each project
 - Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for the individual BRCD projects
- 3.5 As outlined to members at the November Committee Belfast City Council will be expected to act as the lead authority and accountable body, and therefore we are now putting in place the appropriate management structures to manage and deliver the programme and key documents required during this phase. This includes structures both across the BRCD partners as well as internal frameworks in areas including;
- Governance and Decision Making
 - Financial Planning and Management
 - Programme and Project Management
 - Performance Monitoring and Assurance
 - Communication and Engagement
- 3.6 All of these strands will not only need to build on the partnership arrangements already established at programme level but will have to be tailored at Investment Pillar level given the size and complexities of the projects and to ensure synergies at pillar and programme level.
- 3.7 In addition specific city region structures will need to be established to develop the Digital strand of the programme, given that this is not owned by a specific partner, the specialist nature of the projects and the potential for significant private sector investment. BCC Smart Belfast team has done some initial research on organisations that could help with the Digital Pillar and the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany has emerged as leading the way in digital innovation and smart districts / testbeds, having been closely involved in the recent development of the Dublin Docklands, the Prague Innovation District and Eindhoven's Brainport. It is proposed that BRCD

engage Fraunhofer to support the development of the Digital strand in a two staged approach.

3.8 Stage one will be to undertake an initial scoping piece that will

- set out an approach to taking the digital projects forward,
- outline appropriate governance structures,
- identify level of resources and specialist advice, and
- provide specific recommendations on how to engage with the private sector and secure investment.

3.9 The recommendations from this piece of work would form stage two of the process, developing the structures expertise and resources to take the digital strand forward and supporting the development of the Outline Business Cases which are required to release the funding. The appointment of Fraunhofer to take forward stage two will be subject to the outcome of stage one.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

- external expertise to take forward the BRCD Digital strand including the development of specific projects, identification of additional funding and delivery mechanisms and engagement with key partners at a cost of £250,000.
- Committee should note that the costs for this of work will be allocated across the partners in the BRCD. This is included within the existing BRCD budget.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/
Rural Needs Assessment

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

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

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The Committee adopted the recommendations and provided delegated authority for the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive to sign the Heads of Terms.

Customer Focus Programme Update

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Following the completion of an Outline Business Case (OBC) and Customer Focus Discovery phase the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed a blueprint for Customer Focus and the design principles that are required to deliver this major transformation programme.

1.2 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee also agreed the recruitment of the post of Strategic Programme Director which has now been successfully filled on a three year interim basis.

1.3 Governance for the Customer Focus programme of work has been established to oversee the implementation of this key programme of work through the creation of a Customer Focus Programme board reporting to CMT and SP&R. Members of the board include:

- **Director of Finance and Resources (Chair and SRO),**
- **Director of City and Neighbourhood Services,**
- **Director of City and Organisational Strategy,**
- **Customer Focus Programme Director,**
- **Head of Marketing and Communications,**
- **Head of Digital Services,**
- **Continuous Improvement Manager**
- **Business representation as required.**

1.4 It was agreed that a detailed plan would be created and presented to committee. This report outlines the implementation approach, key milestones of the detailed plan, the programme workstreams and the resource requirements that will be necessary to successfully take forward the Customer Focus programme of work.

1.5 One of the products of the Customer Focus Programme will be a redesigned website. To ensure its effectiveness, a set of principles for a new domain name strategy has been defined.

1.6 Finally, Communication and engagement will be critical to delivering service improvement effectively. A communications plan for the programme has been drawn up.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve:

- 1. The Customer Focus Programme approach to implementation, programme plan and workstreams outlined in the report.**
- 2. The alignment of the Continuous Improvement Programme review of Business Support and continuing engagement with Trade Unions.**
- 3. The procurement of a 'Strategic Delivery Partner'.**
- 4. Recruitment of a new Customer Hub Manager.**
- 5. Recruitment of a new Operational Director for CNS on a permanent basis.**
- 6. Agree the principles for a new Domain Name Strategy (Appendix 8 – Domain Name Policy) and to put on hold development of new websites until completion of the Web workstream.**
- 7. That a pilot implementation of a Video Relay Service for sign language will be undertaken for a period of one year from April 2019.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Detailed Planning Phase

The Customer Focus programme has been broken down into a number of key workstreams. The key milestones for the programme can be found in (Appendix 5) and the detailed scope of each workstream can be found in (Appendix 6). The workstreams are:

- 1 Customer Hub workstream – Design and operation of a corporate 'Customer Hub' which will deal with customer contact for all departments and services, across all channels (online, mobile, telephone, face-to-face, email...) and which will oversee the introduction of a single telephone number for the Council. A key focus in the design of the Customer Hub will be a streamlined process to proactively manage the information requirements of**

elected members. The Customer Hub Manager role is integral to managing the service of the new Customer Hub. It is an important role to recruit early in the programme to bring user experience skills and capacity to the programme and to influence the design and establishment of the Customer Hub.

- 2 Website workstream – Website design and creation of a new Council website which will include a new design, navigation, citizen logon and customer portal for online transactions.
- 3 Corporate Relationship Management (CRM) workstream – Design and implementation of a new corporate CRM which will be used to manage and analyse all customer interactions and data, with the goal of improving customer service relationships.
- 4 Integration workstream – Implementation of a new approach to integration between critical line of business systems, website and the new corporate CRM.
- 5 Service Design and Implementation workstream – Overseeing key business change elements such as user centred design, communications, training and Organisational Design (OD). A user centred approach will be developed by the Strategic Hub to ensure that the design of the Council's services are focused upon who will use those services, aiming to achieve improvements in user experience (UX) and making services more cost effective to deliver. The OD element will include a review of roles/responsibilities, job descriptions, contractual changes and recruitment.
- 6 Emerging opportunities workstream – This workstream will focus on the introduction of newly designed services based on the new user centred design approach. The first area where the approach will be used is within Cleansing and Waste services, initially focussing on the design of an online 'Bulky Waste' service.

3.2 Implementation Approach

A 'wide and thin' approach to service delivery will enable a cultural change in Customer Focus to take place across all of the Council's customer facing services, this will also enable the fast deployment of customer services into the Customer Hub. Having successfully developed customer services to a shallow level across all services, deeper integration to the back office will digitally enable, and deliver more efficient and

user focussed services. The programme will be prioritised on a service by service basis, beginning with Cleansing and Waste services and focussing on self-service booking of Bulky Waste collections to begin with.

There are a number of enabling projects at corporate level that will impact on our Business Support functions including the HR and Finance reviews. Work is also underway to improve the corporate support network for Strategic Directors and the Chief Executive's office. As we work through the customer programme there will be further impacts on Business Support particularly where they provide front facing customer technical support. To ensure that this is undertaken in an aligned manner and that staff/TUs messages are handled correctly, Continuous Improvement will, in tandem with the customer programme, undertake a service design review of our Business Support function. This will be a long term piece of work to dovetail with the enabling projects and customer programme. Communication and engagement will be critical to delivering service improvement effectively.

3.3 Resource Requirements

As part of the work to define each workstream, a detailed estimate of the resources required to deliver the Customer Focus programme has been carried out. The majority of the roles needed can be realigned and prioritised from within existing internal services. Resources will be used from:

- Digital Services (technical)
- Continuous Improvement (service design)
- Finance and Resources (programme management)
- Marketing and Communications (website and change management)

3.4 Rose Crozier has been appointed as the Programme Director. This has created a vacancy in C&NS at operational director level. This post was recently advertised on a fixed term but did not lead to an appointment. For this reason approval is now sought to recruit the post on a permanent basis. It should be noted that the appointment of this post will not exceed the approved establishment for the organisation, since the Customer Focus Programme Director is a fixed term appointment for approximately three years.

3.5 Strategic Delivery Partner

To fast track implementation, we are seeking to procure a strategic delivery partner to assist with the design and implementation of a corporate approach to Customer Management including the creation of a Customer Hub and modernisation of the Council's website. The Council needs to make savings, increase efficiency and also meet the expectations of the city's citizens in delivering services which are centred on their needs. We wish to take an agile service design approach to transformation in order to make significant and accelerated progress to meet these key aims. The role of the delivery partner will include:

1. Design and implementation of a Multi-Channel Customer Hub, taking a 'wide and thin' approach to managing customer services.
2. Delivering a business process review of Cleansing and Waste services to facilitate a 'digital first' approach to agile user-centred service design.
3. Transfer of knowledge to allow the Council to continue service design in other areas.
4. Programme oversight to ensure projects align with established design principles ensuring seamless UX (User Experience) design and integration.

3.6 Domain Name Policy

It is proposed that a revised domain name policy should be put in place to ensure that the development of any new website or mobile app is aligned with the principles and resource requirements of the Customer Focus programme. Governance responsibility for new business cases will be overseen by the Customer Focus Programme Board.

3.7 Pilot of Video Relay Service

A Language Strategy was launched in April 2018 to increase access, promote diversity and inclusion and this includes the development and implementation of five language strands; Sign Languages, Irish Language, Ulster-Scots language, new communities' languages; and languages and communications for disabled people.

Belfast City Council has identified the need to support Sign Language users; British Sign Language and Irish Sign Language in accessing their services. We recognise the barriers in telephone communication and face to face

communication with council staff for Sign Language users and we are committed to removing these barriers through the provision of a Video Relay Service and Video Remote Interpreting service. This will pave the way in ensuring Sign Language users can communicate effectively with Council staff via Registered Sign Language Interpreters.

We estimate approximately 3,500 British Sign Language users in Northern Ireland either reside or commute to the City of Belfast on a daily basis.

A pilot for a period of 12 months from 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 to provide a Video Relay Service and Video Remote Interpreting service for British Sign Language users. We want to be in a position to monitor the effectiveness of the service within a pilot timeframe before rolling it out on a long term contract.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.8 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed in November 2017 to fund the Customer Programme on a non-recurrent basis and established a specified reserve with an initial balance of £500k. This reserve will be used to fund the Strategic Delivery Partner (£200 - £250k).
- 3.9 The full-time permanent Customer Hub Manager will be initially financed from the Council's existing invest-to-save budget.
- 3.10 Capital and revenue costs for staff, technology and external support will need to be worked up as part of the year-end finance report and 2020/21 estimates process.
- 3.11 The Video Relay Pilot has been included within existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.12 The Equality and Diversity Officer has indicated that an EQIA will be required to support the Customer Focus Programme."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy

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 progress of the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) and to seek agreement to the publication of the draft strategy for public consultation.

1.2 The People and Communities Committee agreed the proposed approach to the development of the BOSS at its meeting in October 2016 and since then Belfast City Council appointed external consultants AECOM to support this work. The draft BOSS is a city level strategy and is the product of a collaborative working relationship with officers from the planning department and numerous engagement sessions with a range of internal and external partners and stakeholders at each stage of the strategy development process.

1.3 The BOSS and the audit of open spaces will be important for planning purposes and will help inform the Local Development Plan (LDP), deliver the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda, align to the Green and Blue Infrastructure plan (GBIP), inform area working and future area/ neighbourhood based plans and approaches and secure development contributions for investment in open spaces.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to agree:

- the draft BOSS attached to this report.
- to publish the draft BOSS for a period of 12 weeks public consultation from May – July 2019.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) is an update of the previous Open Spaces Strategy – ‘Your City, Your Space’ completed in 2005, which led to many improvements and successes; through this strategy we:

- invested £150m in our open spaces network;
- achieved 19 Green Flag Awards;
- attracted funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and European streams;

- increased numbers and participation levels at local events and outreach programmes;
- constructed and developed the Connswater Community Greenway;
- increased the number of friend's groups within our open spaces; and
- delivered a range of physical improvements across our open spaces network in partnership with the statutory, community and voluntary sector.

3.2 Belfast City Council appointed AECOM to help prepare a new BOSS for the Council Area. The new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) requires an updated open spaces strategy as part of its evidence base. The draft BOSS has evolved as a strategic document pitched at a city level. To help us produce this strategy we established a Strategy Advisory Group which was made up of external partners and stakeholders (statutory, community and voluntary organisations). We also set up an internal Strategy Oversight Steering group made up of officers from across the council to provide oversight and guidance. These groups created a long-term vision for the future of Belfast's open spaces in line with the aspirations of the Belfast Agenda and the LDP. Our vision, is that by 2035.

Belfast will have a well-connected network of high-quality open spaces recognised for the value and benefits they provide to everyone who lives in, works in and visits our city.

3.3 In 2018, we carried out an open space audit which assessed open space provision, park and play area accessibility and future actions based on the city's growth strategy. Open spaces were mapped and classified across the city, which will also be used in the future to help us focus on areas of under provision or poor accessibility at a local/ neighbourhood level.

3.4 To make sure that existing and new open spaces are fit for the future, we established a suite of seven guiding strategic principles (SP), providing the roadmap and identifying opportunities for achieving the vision. Belfast's open spaces will:

- SP1: Provide welcoming shared spaces
- SP2: Improve connectivity
- SP3: Improve health and well-being
- SP4: Support place-making and enhance the built environment

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- **SP5: Increase resilience to climate change**
- **SP6: Protect and enhance the natural environment**
- **SP7: Be celebrated and support learning**

3.5 We have identified a range of opportunities and headline actions that are currently underway or planned for our open space network across the city, over the next five years, which are aligned to the seven strategic principles above. The delivery of the headline actions will rely on existing budgets or sourcing external and partner funding over the life of the strategy. To help realise our vision, strategic principles and opportunities and deliver the headline actions, we will continue to work closely with our partners and stakeholders. We will regularly review progress of the delivery plan, complete a full review of the strategy in 2024 and agree the next phase of actions.

3.6 The current draft of the strategy is attached in Appendix 1. It is intended to use this as the basis for public consultation from May to July 2019. Any comments received during the public consultation period will be taken into account in finalising the BOSS and during this time officers are happy to make themselves available to meet with members if required. A final strategy document will be presented to Strategic Policy and Resources in September 2019.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.7 The delivery of the BOSS will rely on existing budget, working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders and sourcing external/ partner funding over the life of the strategy.

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

3.8 The review of the BOSS identifies positive minor equality and good relations impacts and mitigating actions for some S75 groups. There are no rural needs implications arising directly from this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Social Value

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

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 update members on the work being undertaken to review the Council's approach to social value and to set out a proposed timeframe for the work, in the context of the recent Notice of Motion presented at the January 2019 meeting of Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the social clauses notice of motion submitted by Councillor Beattie to the Council meeting on 7th January 2019 and subsequently presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources meeting on 25th January;
- Note the ongoing work to develop the Inclusive Growth Strategy as the Council's all-encompassing approach to social value;
- Note the work being undertaken to develop an Inclusive Growth Procurement Framework aligned to overarching strategy and agree to the next steps proposed for its development.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 As Members will be aware, a notice of motion was presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its 25th January meeting by Councillor Ciaran Beattie (see Appendix 1). The motion calls on the Council to develop and adopt a social value strategy specifically aimed at adopting a more progressive approach to social clauses, with inbuilt mechanisms for social needs assessments and the establishment of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. An outcome-based approach to social value is endorsed by the motion as well as a recognition that the strategy should be used to tackle poverty, particularly within areas of deprivation.

3.2 Members will also be aware that, for some time, the Council has been engaged in a range of activities to support "social value". Social value means measuring investment by using more than just commercial metrics and considering other impacts that have a more "social" focus. The ethos of social value aligns with the commitments set out in the Belfast Agenda to support inclusive growth.

3.3 Officers are currently developing an Inclusive Growth Strategy which will articulate the Council's statement of intent on

inclusive growth, clearly outlining our ambitions and the mechanisms to be utilised to achieve our overarching ambitions. The strategy will also be clear on how we will monitor and report on the impact of our measures. The scope and focus of this strategy will incorporate the ethos of social value, effectively becoming the Council's approach to delivering social value.

- 3.4 The scope of the Inclusive Growth Strategy will be far-reaching, challenging Officers to consider how inclusive growth is integrated across its functions, interventions and initiatives. One of the most effective levers at the Council's disposal to achieve our inclusive growth ambitions is through procurement. This is not a new area of work for the Council. Our existing Social Clause Policy currently provides a mechanism to integrate social clauses within the commissioning process, primarily geared towards leveraging employment and work placement opportunities for the unemployed and graduates. The current approach is a relatively blunt tool and there is an opportunity to evolve our existing approach to a more progressive and flexible model which will have more impact. This would entail integrating social, economic and environmental requirements as a core deliverable of a contract with an associated value as part of the award criterion when appointing contracts.
- 3.5 The Council has piloted this approach in a number of strategic contracts including the operator contract for the Innovation Factory and the Leisure Transformation Programme capital build. The outcome of these pilots has identified that this approach has the ability to deliver a greater level and wider spectrum of social and economic benefits than is currently delivered through our Social Clause policy.
- 3.6 Best practice review of English local authorities has identified that social value is regularly incorporated in their procurement approaches, with a number of authorities undertaking particularly progressive approaches, such as Manchester City Council. A key driver for this was the introduction of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012. This legislation came into force in England and Wales in 2013 requiring commissioners of public services to consider how they can secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Since its adoption, proactive lobbying has taken place to bring forward legislation in respect of a Social Value Act for Northern Ireland. Due to the absence of an Assembly progress has not been achieved in this regard. The European Directive

that formed the basis of the Social Value Act is, however, applicable in Northern Ireland.

- 3.7 The absence of this legalisation in Northern Ireland does not prevent the Council from integrating social value through the commissioning process, as this is permissible under the main Procurement Legislation, the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The main difference with the situation in England and Wales therefore, is that the Council can elect to integrate social value on a voluntary basis, as opposed to a mandatory requirement through a Social Value Act.
- 3.8 Taking into account the procurement pilots undertaken, the ambition of the notice of motion and best practice gained from local authorities in England, it is proposed that the Council develop an Inclusive Growth Procurement Framework. Aligned to the ambitions within the Inclusive Growth Strategy the framework will provide a practical tool to integrate, manage and measure the social, economic and environmental benefits achieved through our procurement and commissioning process. If approved, the Framework would replace the Council's current social clause policy.
- 3.9 Officers have already been undertaking development work for some time. This has involved a review of best practice approaches and engagement with officers from across Council including Legal Services and Corporate Procurement Services. The next steps in the framework's development are as follows:
- Joint development of the framework in line with the Inclusive Growth Strategy, recognising the ambitions and outcomes defined within this will need to be reflected within the procurement framework. A working group with representation the Strategic Hub, Corporate Procurement Services and Economic Development will be responsible for drafting the procurement framework. It is expected development of the framework will consider:
 - Implication on procurement processes;
 - Consideration of how social, economic and environmental benefits can be aligned to areas of need;
 - Governance arrangements for integrating social value within the procurement process;
 - Mechanisms to effectively monitor and measurement contractor performance in this area;
 - Resource implications of adopting the framework, to include the screening, development, implementation

and measurement of the framework, need for staff training etc.

- **Engagement will take place with the Commercial Panel to consider the implication of the framework, and to inform its development in line with other agendas i.e. efficiency programme;**
- **Presentation of the draft Procurement Framework at the June meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for members' consideration and endorsement.**

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of the development of the Procurement Framework.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Consideration will be given in the development of the framework as to Equality and Good Relations implications."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Request to Join Queen's University Belfast Climate Commission

(Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee was advised that the UK Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, Claire Perry, had launched an initiative in January to create a network of new and extended city climate commissions in Edinburgh, Belfast and Leeds. The project aimed to help the UK meet the requirements of the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and the UK Climate Change Act by building local capacities and stimulating the flow of green finance into cities across the UK.

Known as the Place-based Climate Action Network (P-CAN), the project would help the local delivery of the UK's climate change objectives by supporting action in UK cities through a partnership made up of the private, public and third sectors.

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) was investing £3.5 million in P-CAN over the course of five years. It would be hosted by the London School of Economics and Political Science, the University of Leeds, the University of Edinburgh and Queen's University, Belfast. It would seek to increase engagement between university researchers and the public, private and third sectors in building environmental resilience in the context of a changing climate.

Belfast City Council had been asked to join the Climate Commission for Belfast, which sought to accelerate and sustain the transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society through the creation of local climate commissions, following the Leeds model

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developed in 2017, as well as other broader measures focused on increasing investment in low-carbon, climate-resilient development.

Given the Council's membership of the 100 Resilient Cities programme, and its work to develop a resilience strategy for Belfast, which would seek to build our environmental resilience as a city, the Commission was a timely opportunity to work with other cities and key strategic partners in this area.

It was reported that the Council's participation would involve contributing to discussion with public and private sector partners on improving Belfast's environmental resilience, contributing ideas on optimum ways to build a climate resilient society and practical ways to deliver transition to a low-carbon city.

The Lord Mayor had previously wrote a letter of support for the application from QUB to join the programme. Should the Committee agree to this proposal, the Lord Mayor would be asked to participate in the launch of the Commission on the 9 April, in Belfast.

The Committee agreed:

- That Belfast City Council accepts the invitation from Queen's University Belfast to join the ESRC-funded 'Climate Commission' for Belfast;
- That the Commissioner for Resilience, Grainia Long, joins the Commission as part of her broader work to develop a resilience strategy for Belfast; and
- To note that the work would also inform our broader sustainable development goals as led by the Council's Sustainable Development Manager, and would help to inform how we meet our obligations under the UK Climate Change Act.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

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 assets. 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 –

Projects

- IT Programme - Replacement of the NI Planning Portal – agree the recommendation that the Council supports the DfI-led regional project to replace the current Northern Ireland Planning Portal with another shared regional IT system. Members are asked to note that this is subject to
- the capital cost to Local Government being split evenly between the 11 councils with the operating costs to be determined in the context of the contract awarded (as agreed by SOLACE);
- the regional project demonstrating clear and robust progress – this includes commitment from all Council by April 2019;
- BCC being part of the first wave of councils to implement the new IT system; and
- BCC taking a lead role in the project, including representation on the Project Governance Board and providing staff resources to the core project team. The resources required for this are 2 x Grade PO4 posts for a temporary period of 3 years. Members are asked to agree this resource support and to note this will be part of the Council's capital contribution towards the project
- IT Programme – Customer Focus Programme – Members have agreed an ambitious Customer Focus Strategy for the Council which has been designed to significantly improve the quality of the services that the Council provide while substantially reducing the costs of service delivery. Work is already underway on the delivery of the strategy however the effective implementation of the strategy will require an associated IT Programme to underpin it and to ensure the Customer Focus strategy can be successfully delivered

Movements

- In light of the timescales required (Planning Portal – commitment from all local councils by April 2019 and Customer Focus - to deliver on the agreed customer focus strategy) it is recommended that both projects are moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme. It is however recommended that both projects are held at *Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk* pending satisfactory tender returns. An update will be brought back to Committee at this stage along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- In addition Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 IT Programme- NI Planning Portal Replacement

Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Alistair Reid (Aidan Thatcher)
Client Department	Place and Economy (Planning Service and Building Control)

Members will be aware that the Northern Ireland Planning Portal (NIPP) provides the public website interface which citizens use to find information and comment on planning applications. It also provides back-office software that the Council's Planning Service uses to process planning applications as well as supporting the administration of regional property certificates. The NIPP was implemented by the former Department of Environment in 2010 as a central IT solution and was inherited by the 11 councils as a shared system in 2015 on the transfer of planning powers to local government. The contract for the Planning Portal is managed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and is due to expire at the end of March 2019. DfI is currently negotiating a contract modification to ensure continued technical support for the NIPP beyond March 2019 until the end of 2020.

Members will be aware that the current NIPP is far from fit for purpose and is a significant impediment to the Council for further improving its planning service. The NIPP was introduced in 2010 as a hybrid solution based on a Commercial off the Shelf (COTS) product that has been heavily customised for Northern Ireland purposes. This has meant that the COTS element has not followed the natural upgrade path and is several years behind the latest version. The need to replace the Planning Portal by 2019/20 is a critical service risk.

Since 2016, local government has been participating in the DfI-led regional project that is examining the options to replace the NIPP. The Council agreed to participate and contribute to the cost of the regional project. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed whilst the Councils agreed the minimum requirements upon which the Draft Outline Business Case was built, and to agree the funding model, and how much contribution from the Department v Local Government. DfI have now published a revised Outline Business Case (OBC) in January 2019. The recommendation is to replace the NIPP with another shared regional system remains and it proposes to

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fast-track the process with implementation by 2022. The Department's proposals (as agreed with Local Councils via SOLACE) set out in the OBC are:

- that the NIPP is replaced with a single regional IT system shared between the 11 councils and Dfl;
- that the IT system will be a COTS product to meet the requirements of the regionally agreed Minimum Viable Product;
- the new system will allow some local configuration to meet individual council needs (e.g. reports, templates, searching etc.); and
- that procurement will follow the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation.

Timing – Due to the limitations with support of the ongoing system Councils are being requested to confirm their support for the new regionally led proposal by April 2019. If this is agreed then it is anticipated that a new system will be in place by 2022.

Costs – A financing model has been agreed by SOLACE with 45% of the capital costs to be funded by Dfl, with the remainder to be evenly split of between the 11 councils with operating costs to be determined in the context of the contract awarded. Members are asked to note that indicative costs have been tested as part of the OBC process however the total cost will not be known until the tender return.

In parallel the Council has been examining other options which are available and an alternative to BCC agreeing to the Department's regional solution is for it to procure its own standalone IT system. Officers have undertaken market research to establish the availability and cost of planning IT solutions in the market place.

Officers have appraised the options and are recommending to Members that the Council supports the Dfl-led regional project as opposed to the Council procuring a stand-alone system. There are a number of reasons for this including that -

- the regional option provides greater capacity to deliver and there would be a significantly reduced level of risk overall
- BCC procuring a standalone IT system would likely result in political fallout with the Department and other 11 councils as it would be a serious setback to the regional project.

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- would also likely impinge on NI customers who would have to use two different public website interfaces, which is far from ideal in terms of consistency across the region.
- the costs of both options are likely to be similar, although there is a greater costs risk around data migration if BCC were to go alone. The BCC standalone option would also require significantly greater up-front capital investment and staff resourcing.

Members are therefore asked to agree that the Council supports the DFI-led regional solution subject to the following:

- BCC taking a lead role in the project e.g. in the areas of procurement, finalisation of the specification, design, build, implementation and governance. This will include representation on the Project Governance Board and providing staff resources to the core project team;
- the full Minimum Viable Produce is required (not a “MVP-light option”). This would deliver all of the functionality that would enable critical service improvements, particularly online submission functionality;
- the cost to local government is split evenly between the 11 councils in terms of capital for the product, and operating costs to be determined in the context of the contract awarded;
- the regional project demonstrates clear and robust progress, including commitment from the other councils, by no later than April 2019; and
- BCC is part of the first wave of councils to implement the new IT system

Members will note from the above the proposal that the Council provides staff resources to support the new system. This resource is crucial as it will enable BCC to take a lead role in the implementation of the project and mean that the new IT system best meets the Council’s needs. The Department has also confirmed that the greater staff resource the Council contributes to the project, the less cash contribution it will need to make. Members are therefore asked to agree 2 x Grade PO4 posts for a temporary period of 3 years to support the project as part of the Council’s capital contribution.

Members are asked to agree that the IT Programme- NI Planning Portal Replacement project be moved to Stage 3 - Committed on the Capital Programme given the timescales and the need for an agreement from Council’s by April 2019. It is however recommended that this project is held at Tier 0- -

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Schemes at Risk pending the final tender return. An update will be brought back to Committee at this stage along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

Members are asked to note that a separate report was brought to the Planning Committee on 12th March regarding the proposed way forward for this project and highlighting that this was subject to approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.2 IT Programme – Customer Focus

Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Ronan Cregan
Client Department	Finance and Resources Services

Members will be aware that Council have approved the Customer Focus Programme, which will deliver Council services differently, in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of the people. The customer focussed business strategy has the potential to significantly improve the quality of the services that the Council provide, while substantially reducing the costs of service delivery. The business strategy will help the Council to focus better on the needs of its customers; better understand the cost of service delivery; realise efficiency savings; and provide customer insight to improve decisions making.

Members will be aware that an integral part of the Customer Focus Programme is the necessary technology requirements and back up. The anticipated outputs of the IT Programme-Customer Focus project includes; corporate CRM implementation, telephony solution to deliver customer focus requirements, new website design and content management system, new integration platform, mobile application development platform and internet service resilience. It is envisaged that the outcomes of this project will be a customer hub with enhanced customer contact experience; enhanced technology; streamlined website and applications that are easy to navigate; and enhanced quality of data and customer insights that would be used to improve business performance.

As outlined above the Customer Focus IT Programme will contain a number of distinct but inter-related IT projects. Officers have already undertaken research on the potential solutions. However it is not possible at this point to accurately

allocate a budget for this Programme. The only way to obtain definitive costings will be to go out to the market via an open procurement process.

In order to support the agreed Customer Focus Strategy and the timescales that have been agreed by Members as part of this it is recommended that the associated Customer Focus IT Programme is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme. This will ensure that the technological solutions required can be procured on time. It is however recommended that this Programme is held at *Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk* pending the tender return prices. Further updates will be brought back to Committee as this Programme progresses along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

In addition Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated for the Customer Focus IT Programme with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.

3.3 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial – The final budget for both projects will be brought back to Committee for sign-off and confirmation that it is within the affordability limits of the Council upon receipt of the tender returns. Both projects will be held at Tier 0 pending this.

Resources – Planning Portal - 2 x Grade PO4 posts for a temporary period of 3 years to support the project as part of the Council’s capital contribution

IT Programme – Customer Focus– Officer time to deliver as required

3.4 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.

Area Working Update

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Area Working Group Minutes

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the East Belfast Area Working Group of 7th March 2019.

Ballymacarrett Walkway –

‘Belfast City Council Options site’

The Committee agreed the recommended proposal from the East Area Working Group on 7th March that Option 2 be progressed for the Belfast City Council ‘Options Site’, namely a high level ‘masterplan’ reflecting all existing/new interests, and proposing the most appropriate location for each land-use zoning (that is, play-park/recreational space, private development, community and young people services provision).

Finance, Resources and Procurement

**CIPFA Prudential Code Capital Strategy and
Treasury Management Indicators 2019/20**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and the supporting Prudential and Treasury Codes produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), require the council to consider the affordability and sustainability of capital expenditure decisions through the reporting of prudential and treasury management indicators.

1.2 An update to the Prudential Code now requires the Council to produce a Capital Strategy for 2019/20, This report provides information for Members on the Capital Strategy, incorporating the prudential indicators for Belfast City Council for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22, and the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of this report and the prudential and treasury management indicators included within the appendices to the report.**

And agree:

- The Authorised Borrowing Limit for the Council of £165m for 2019/20**

- **The Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20, which has been included as Appendix B to this report**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 requires the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. In doing so, the Council is required to agree a minimum revenue provision policy annually and set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators, the key objectives of which are to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.**
- 3.2 At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 9 December 2011, Members approved the Council’s Treasury Management Policy which is based on the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The Treasury Management Policy requires that a Treasury Management Strategy be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on an annual basis and that it is supported by a mid-year and year end treasury management reports.**
- 3.3 The Capital Strategy, incorporating the prudential indicators, is included as Appendix A, while the treasury management strategy and treasury management indicators have been included as Appendix B.**
- 3.4 The comparison of “Gross Borrowing” to “Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is the main indicator of prudence when considering the proposed capital investment plans of the Council. Estimated gross borrowing should not exceed the CFR for the current year plus two years. The Council’s estimated gross borrowing position, illustrated in Table 6, Appendix A, is comfortably within the CFR in the medium term. The Director of Finance and Resources therefore considers the estimated levels of gross borrowing as being prudent.**
- 3.5 Table 9 (Appendix A) shows the estimated financing costs for capital expenditure as a percentage of the estimated net revenue stream for the Council, based on the medium financial plan. These illustrate that in the medium term, capital financing costs will represent 12.06% of the Council’s net running costs. On this basis the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the level of capital expenditure is affordable.**

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- 3.6 The Finance Act requires the Council to set an affordable borrowing limit, relating to gross debt. The Prudential Code defines the affordable limit as the “Authorised Borrowing Limit” and gross borrowing must not exceed this limit. Table 8 (Appendix A) sets out the recommended “Authorised Borrowing Limit” for the Council as being £165m for 2019/20.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.7 As detailed in the report.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.8 None.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to accept the most economically advantageous tender; and
- agreed to accede to Standing order 55(a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts 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
Employee Counselling Service (T1953)	John Tully	1+1
Occupational Health Physician Services (T1954)	John Tully	1+1
Corporate Mobile Phone Contract	Ronan Cregan	3 years
City Matters	John Tully	3+1
Customer Focus – Technical Delivery Partner	Ronan Cregan	2 years
Integration Platform	Ronan Cregan	2+1+1
Corporate CRM Licensing	Ronan Cregan	Annual

Table 2 - Contracts for extension of contract period

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Title of Tender	Director Responsible	Proposed Extension

Table 3 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System/Product	Supplier	Annual estimate
Management of the Corporate Energy Management Contract	M&C Energy Group Ltd (Schneider Electric)	£51,000
Construction of a scalable Value Model for Digital Innovation Ecosystem	Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Engineering	£222,000

Procurement Contract Award Criteria

In accordance with the decision of the Council of 4th March, the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report providing an update on the basis on which the Council awards contracts.

He reported that all procurement exercises carried out by officers on behalf of the Council are subject to, and must comply with, all the statutory requirements of public procurement legislation and with corporate governance. The legal framework in relation to procurement was made up of a number of different elements, including EU legislation (*EU Public Contract Directive 2014* implemented in the UK by the *Public Procurement Regulations 2015* ('*The Regulations*')), Northern Ireland legislation and the general law of contract. The Council's corporate procurement processes and governance was compliant with the legislation and followed best practice.

The Evaluation or Award criteria are the criteria used to assess procurement submissions to decide which supplier best meets the Council's needs and thus which supplier was awarded the contract. Officers ensure that Council need is clearly and concisely detailed on the specification, which, in line with Council governance must also include award criteria. This criteria, and only this criteria, is used to then assess and award the contract.

As per *The Regulations*, and the Department of Finance (NI) procurement guidance, the Council had adopted, and embedded in corporate governance that contract award criteria was based on the *Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT)*. The application of *MEAT* enables the Council to take account of quality criteria, that is, those that reflect qualitative, technical and sustainable aspects of the bid as well as cost, and is done using a Price: Quality Ratio, where 'weighting' is applied to each element. The weighting was influenced by a number of factors, including the complexity of the procurement exercise, the state of the market place, the importance of the supplies/service, and the degree of creativity or flexibility that was required in its execution. For example the more complex the project, the more difficult the project would be to manage and control; the more unusual the project the harder it would be to make predictions about resource levels and the skill required of the supplier. Experience, technical competence, management skill and management systems would take on a far more significant level of importance for complex projects. For the price/quality mechanisms to reflect this, quality should carry a heavier weight than price.

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Because of the individual nature of procurements there was no hard and fast rule in relation to ratios. However, appendix 1 to the report provided examples based on best practice and HM treasury guidance and should be applied based on specific contract requirements.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Equality and Good Relations

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

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 11th March 2019, including:

- authorising the rescope of BPR5 Supporting Communities – Roma element;
- agreeing the areas selected for the BPR3 Transform for Change project on the basis of the Belfast Interface Project and approve the selection criteria for the remaining areas;
- agreeing that officers would submit a report to a future meeting of the Partnership regarding potential programmes which supported the research findings of the research into the experiences of the Muslim community in Belfast in relation to the recommendation regarding civic leadership, a subgroup comprising of Elected Members, Independent Members of the Partnership, the Lord Mayor, the Council’s Corporate Communications and a representative from the Executive Office should be established to consider how this aspect could be strengthened;
- that the matter on the Motion on anti-Semitism would be deferred to enable officers to obtain advice from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other minority groups living in Northern Ireland;
- that a letter be sent to the PSNI from the Chairperson of the Shared City outlining the importance of its representation on the Partnership and seeking a nominee to fill the current vacancy;
- that correspondence be sent to Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce to establish if it was still wishing for representation on the Partnership and, if so, seeking a nomination;
- that letters be sent to each of the four main church leaders relating to Belfast requesting confirmation that each was content with the arrangement, as previously agreed by the Council, and seeking views on the sequence in which each church should be represented. The leaders would be advised that nominees should be aware of and

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involved in good relations work which would be relatable to Belfast. This approach would enable the four-year cycle to commence in June to be aligned with the beginning of the new four-year term for Council;

- to commence work on the good relations audit 2019 using the approach outlined in the report;
- to note that initial work will commence prior to receiving a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office in respect of the District Council Good Relations Programme 19/20 to allow for timescales to be met developing estimates for next year's plans;
- to adopt the proposed model for a 2019 Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme and the Review Panel's recommendation in respect of the 2018 programme;
- that consideration be given to adopting a protocol in relation to the appointment of the individual assessor on the review panel;
- to officers submitting an update in respect of the Council's current governance arrangements around the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme to a future meeting;
- that officers engage in discussions with the Council's Corporate Communications Section, with a view to formulating a communications plan around the positive outcomes of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme; and
- to note the overall indicative amounts for Tranche 1 of the Good Relations Small Grants Programme and the Summer Intervention Programme which would be subject to the delegated authority of the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and further clarification from TEO regarding the level of funding being awarded for 2019/20 for Summer Intervention Funding.

**Equality and Diversity: Quarter 3 Equality
Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided members with a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for Quarter 3 (October to December 2018).

Operational Issues

**Request to use the City Hall
Grounds for Orangefest**

The Committee was reminded that requests for the use of the City Hall grounds were normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally, however, it was necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.

The Members will recall that in 2015 approval was given to the Grand Orange Lodge to have an Orangefest event in the City Hall Grounds on the 12th July for a three year period up to 2018.

A request has now been received for a similar event to take place on Friday 12th July 2019 from 11 am to 7 pm. The proposed event would be similar to previous years and would involve “a mini-market, catering demonstrations in marquees, and a small open-air children’s entertainments programme”. The organisers’ estimate of attendance was 3,000 to 5,000 people. The event would take place on the front lawns only and consequently areas such as the Titanic garden and Cenotaph would remain open to the public.

The Committee approved the request for this event in 2019, 2020 and 2021.

**Request for use of City Hall Grounds –
Belfast Photo Festival Photographic Exhibition**

The Director of Legal and Civic Services reported that the following request set out below also fell into this category of those which should be considered by the Committee.

A request has recently been received from the organiser of the Belfast Photo Festival (BPF) to have a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall from 1st to 23rd June, 2019. The BPF was the visual arts festival of Northern Ireland and one of the leading photography festivals in the UK. Launched in 2011, the festival attracted 85,000 visitors across 24 city centre venues and was one of the city’s major art events.

The key issues in respect of this request was whether or not the Committee wished to grant permission for the exhibition to take place over a 3 week period in the City Hall grounds.

Each year the city wide festival includes the grounds of Belfast City Hall as a primary location for both photographic exhibitions and other events. Previous exhibits have included the DeLorean Print Project in 2015 which proved to be very successful and brought a real spectacle to the City Hall lawns. In 2018 the exhibition looked at music and photography and ‘the camera’s role in capturing individuality within the music industry and the industry’s influence on the formation of identity’. For the 2019 exhibition the theme is “Truth” which reflects on the question if the camera never lies.

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Good Relations staff have reviewed the exhibition images and confirmed that although the exhibition includes a range of images, some of which relate to sensitive events such as the 9/11 Twin Towers attack. These images may challenge the perceptions of the audience but Good Relations cannot see any negative good relations implications that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request.

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

The Committee considered the following applications for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality which had been received up to 11th March, 2019:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Queen's University Belfast Ladies Boat Club	11 May 2019	Ladies Boat Club 50th Anniversary Dinner – dinner to mark 50 years since inception of the ladies boat club at Queens, reflecting on clubs history, local athletes and what the club offers student. Numbers attending –150	C	No - Charity	No	Approve No room charge No hospitality
Belfast Media Group	31 May 2019	Best of the North Awards 2019 – celebratory event for the services, businesses, products and people based in North Belfast and their contribution to North Belfast and the community. Numbers attending 350	B & C 1 in 3 rule	Yes - £825	No	Approve Room charge No hospitality

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Belfast Pride	26 July 2019	Belfast Pride Awards – LGBT Community awards ceremony. Drinks reception followed by presentations. Numbers attending 300+	A, C & D	No - Charity	No	Approve, No Charge No hospitality
Travel Trade Corporation with support from Tourism NI	18 August 2019	Trafalgar Awards Evening for senior personnel in the TTC. This ceremony will award presentation, drinks and refreshments. It is part of a large programme of events for the Travel Trade Corporation Global Conference. Numbers attending 130	A, B & C	No (£300 waived as linked to Tourism NI)	Yes, wine reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Patient and Client Council	10 October 2019	10 Year Anniversary Relaunch Event to celebrate contribution of public to local health and social care services. Launch of new support service. Numbers attending 300+	C	Yes £300	No	Approve Room charge No hospitality
The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)	23 November 2019	Graduation Ceremony for Chartership Qualifications for construction management and leadership. The event will be a ceremony, reception and networking. Numbers attending 130	C	No - Charity	No	Approve No charge No hospitality

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JCI (Junior Chamber International) Belfast	23 November 2019	JCI UK National Convention Awards and Gala Dinner 2019 – award ceremony and dinner reception to close the 3 day conference. Numbers attending 250	A & B	No (£825 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Flax Trust	5 December 2019	Flax Trust Inter-Community School Choirs Award; competition event of 9 choirs from 18 schools to win a trophy and monetary award. Numbers attending - 550	C & D	No - Charity	No	Approve No Charge No Hospitality
2020 EVENTS						
British Association for Music Therapy	3 April 2020	BAMT Conference 2020 Reception and Launch – Opening reception with speeches, buffet and dancing as part of a 3 day conference taking place in Queens University Belfast. Numbers attending –300	A & B	No - Charity	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA)	21 May 2020	Welcome Reception for the 45th PSA Offshore Refresher Conference - conference reception as part of a 4 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending –300	A & B	No (£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Approve No charge Wine Reception

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International Association of Gaming Advisors (IAGA)	16 June 2020	2020 International Gaming Summit & GREF Annual Conference Cocktail Reception – Welcome reception as part of a 3 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending –250	A & B	No (£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Approve No charge Wine Reception
2021 EVENTS						
Ulster University, UK Psychological Trauma Society	17 June 2021	Welcome Reception for the ESTSS 2021 Conference – reception for international delegates as part of a 4 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 400	A & B	No (£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Approve No charge Wine Reception
2022 EVENTS						
Lions Club International	13 March 2022	Opening Board of Directors Dinner – this is the first board meeting in 101 year history to take place in Ireland and Belfast was chosen. This dinner will mark the beginning of 6 day events programme. Numbers attending –150	A & B	No (£825 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	Yes, Wine Reception (linked to Visit Belfast)	Approve No charge Wine Reception

The Committee approved the recommendations.

Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 4th March, 2019.

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Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board of 11th March, 2019.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 5th March, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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

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

Apologies

An apology was recorded on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th and 12th January were signed as correct, subject to the addition of Councillor Black having removed herself from the room at the meeting on 12th January during discussions in respect of item 2 (a) Community Development Grants Programme 2019/20 under the heading 'Declarations of Interest'.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in respect of agenda item 4 (b), King George V Playing Fields Preferential Use, in that he was a Shareholder of Glentoran Football Club and he removed himself from the room while the matter was under consideration.

Councillor McAteer declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6 (b), Connswater Community Greenway Trust Animation Plan, as it referred to the West Belfast Partnership Board of which she was a member but as the matter did not become the subject of debate, the Member did not get an opportunity to leave the meeting.

Restricted Items

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 following item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure

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

Cavehill Adventurous Playground

The Committee considered a report which, as previously requested, detailed options and the potential impact of removing the entrance fee for the Adventurous Playground. The Committee was asked to consider the following four options and to note that, if it choose to adopt either options two, three or four, the corresponding loss of budget needed to be found from with the agreed budgets set for 2019/20:

1. Option 1 – to do nothing;
2. Option 2 – to reduce the entrance cost to £1.50 (budget to be found £9,000);
3. Option 3 – to reduce the entrance cost to £1.00 (budget to be found £13,500); and
4. Option 4 – to remove the entrance cost (budget to be found £22,500).

Following consideration of the options, the Committee agreed:

- to defer the matter to enable a report to be submitted to the April meeting which would contain suggestions as to how options three and four could be progressed; and
- that the report would include a detailed budget breakdown of the 2019/20 Parks budget and detail specific possible options as to where the loss of income associated with the two options could be found.

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 25th February, the following key items had been considered:

- update in respect of revisions to the Memorial Management Policy;
- update on the Memorial Safety Inspections Programme; and
- update in respect of New Commonwealth War Graves.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 25th February 2019.

Physical Programme/Asset Management

**Request for land, City of Belfast Playing
Fields, Mallusk**

The Committee considered a report which detailed a request that had been received from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council seeking permission to enter

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into negotiations in respect of a portion of land at the City of Belfast Playing Fields, Mallusk for the installation of a play park.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that the section of land that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council had identified was located just off the front car park and it had detailed a number of reasons as to why it felt that this potential site would be suitable.

Following a query regarding the location of the proposed site, the Director confirmed that officers from Belfast City Council were of the view that a play park at this location would provide an enhanced level of service at the site. In addition, it was noted that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council would be responsible for all costs associated with the construction of the play park and all ongoing management and maintenance expenses.

The Committee granted officers permission to formally commence negotiations with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in respect of the installation of a play park, subject to a further report being submitted to the People and Communities Committee.

King George V Playing Fields Preferential Use

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 recent engagement with Glentoran Football Club and seek approval to enter into a preferential use agreement with respect to King George V (KGV) Playing Fields.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Note the request for a preferential use agreement from Glentoran FC and the work required to provide suitable pitch facilities at King George V Playing Fields for the club’s Youth Academy.**
- **Agree to Belfast City Council entering into a preferential use agreement based on the terms and conditions as outlined in this report.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that, at its meeting in March 2018, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee endorsed the recommendation of the East AWG to replace the KGV 3G pitch proposal on the capital programme with a new 3G pitch at Blanchflower Playing Fields.

- 3.2** In addition, Members requested that officers undertake research into the provision of suitable and convenient pitch facilities for Glentoran Football Club, including its youth academy with an update to be reported back to Committee in due course.
- 3.3** Following the Strategic Policy and Resources decision in March 2018, officers have investigated the potential for carrying out minor works to KGV, which would bring the existing grass pitches up to a standard suitable for Glentoran or any other groups who may wish to book them.
- 3.4** Several meetings have taken place with Glentoran in respect of this issue, most recently in November 2018 and February 2019. This has resulted in a request for a preferential use agreement based on the following terms:
- 1.** Glentoran will have block bookings on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and also on Saturday mornings for 45 weeks per year throughout a 5 year preferential use agreement – other groups will be able to book the pitches at all other times;
 - 2.** The agreement will cover 2 pitches for a period of 5 years and 1 pitch for a period of 3 years;
 - 3.** Belfast City Council will reserve the right, as with all Council owned playing fields in the city, to determine when pitches are playable;
 - 4.** Bookings will be paid in line with the Council’s agreed city-wide pricing policy for grass pitch bookings. Please note that the prices quoted below are for the 2018/19 financial year and will be subject to inflationary price increases that will be reflected in the citywide pricing structure, which is agreed by Council;

Charges per hour	1 hr inc VAT	2 hr inc VAT	1 hr No VAT	2 hr No VAT
Full pitch – with changing – Adult	£27	£54	£22.50	£45
Full pitch – with changing concession	£13.50	£27	£11.25	£22.50
Full pitch – without changing Adult	£21	£42	£17.50	£35
Full pitch – without changing concession	£10.50	£21	£8.75	£17.50
Junior Pitch with changing	£6.75	£13.50	£5.63	£11.25
Junior Pitch without changing	£5.25	£10.50	£4.38	£8.75

- 5.** Belfast City Council will carry out initial works to make the pitches ready, which is estimated to cost £18,000;

6. **Belfast City Council will erect temporary fencing to protect the pitches during the works and the grass will need to be given time to establish before the pitches are deemed to be playable;**
7. **Belfast City Council will continue to be responsible for the management and daily maintenance of the playing fields i.e. grass cutting, litter picking, opening/closing etc;**
8. **Glentoran will assume responsibility for the end of year maintenance, which will be undertaken in liaison with the Park Manager;**
9. **Glentoran will be responsible for carrying out works to their floodlights, which will be on Glentoran's land, and will facilitate play in the evenings;**
10. **Belfast City Council will enter into a separate key holding agreement with Glentoran for bookings that fall outside the normal park opening times and for use of the changing rooms at KGV;**
11. **Based on the discussions and correspondence that have taken place to date the following value is associated with Glentoran's contribution towards their preferential use request;**

No	Item	Cost
1	Floodlighting	£17,000
2	Floodlighting Maintenance	£5,000
3	End of year maintenance (2 pitches x 5 years)	£75,000
4	End of year maintenance (1 pitch x 3 years)	£22,500
Sub-Total		£119,500
5	Contingency Sum (10%)	£11,950
Estimated Total		£131,450

- 3.5 **If Members are minded to agree in principle to the terms of this preferential use request it is envisaged that a formal agreement will be developed by legal services covering a period of five years.**

Financial Implications

- 3.6 **The cost of bringing the pitches to an appropriate standard are included in the grounds maintenance budget for the area. The value of the contribution from Glentoran FC has been**

estimated at £131,450 over a five year period. A due diligence process has been completed to confirm the estimated value.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.7 Members will be aware that the KGV Playing Fields are extensively used by the local community. Engagement with the local community will be required in advance of and during works to manage access to the site.”**

The Committee noted the request for a preferential use agreement from Glentoran FC and the work required to provide suitable pitch facilities at the King George V Playing Fields for the Club's Youth Academy and agreed that Belfast City Council would enter into a preferential use agreement based on the terms and conditions as outlined in the report.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Quarter 3 Finance Update

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services summarised the contents of a report which presented a Quarter 3 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 3 position for the Committee which showed an overspend of £171,000 or (0.3%) of the budget, with the forecast year-end position being an underspend of £335,000 (0.4%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Director advised that the forecast year-end position for the Council was an underspend of £1.689m (1.2%) of the budgeted net expenditure. He reminded the Members that, as part of the Revenue Estimate setting process for 2019/20, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 22nd February 2019, had agreed that, given the shortfall in available balances to meet the Primark commitments, the rates clawback of 1.2m and holiday back pay, it had agreed to maintain its position that no further reallocations or cash flow payments would be considered until the year end positions had been presented to the Committee in June 2019.

The Committee noted the report, the associated financial reporting pack and the update in respect of the Council's corporate position.

Social Clauses and Event Licences

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held on 6th November 2018, it had reserved the right to introduce a 'social clause' into legal agreements for use of Council parks and open spaces and agreed that the Council would investigate the introduction of such a clause.

Subsequently, Legal Services had investigated the request and it had proposed that the best way to integrate 'social clauses' into agreements was by adding a percentage levy onto the fee charged to the Promoter, with the money then to be used for social/community purposes in the local areas.

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Promoters and others wishing to run commercial events in the Council's parks would only be permitted to hold an event on the basis that they agreed to pay a levy on their Licence fee from the Council. It would be a requirement that the payment of the levy would be made by the promoter in advance of setting up an event. The levy would be used by the Council for the purposes of funding socially focused projects in the area local to the concert venue.

The Committee noted that further work was required to establish a mechanism to allocate the accumulated funds.

The Committee endorsed that at events:

- where the venue capacity was between 5,000 and 20,000 persons, a 5% levy would be charged on the Licence fee; and
- where the venue capacity exceeded 20,000 persons, that a 10% levy would be charged on the Licence fee.

Operational Issues

Street Naming

The Committee approved the naming in respect of Gardenmore Way, off Gardenmore Road, BT17 and Windsor Way, off Boucher Road, BT12.

**Connswater Community Greenway Trust
Animation Plan 2019/20**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to the proposed Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) Animation Plan for 2019/20.

She advised that the programme had important regeneration outcomes in relation to health, volunteering and reducing anti-social behaviour. The Committee noted that the plan had been developed to support the strategic direction of the EastSide Partnership 'to make Belfast a Better Place', the Belfast Agenda and the Programme for Government.

The Committee was advised that the Connswater Community Greenway Trust planned to explore income generation methods which would help with the long term sustainability of the project. This would include charging for some event activities to cover costs and charging traders who attended 'fayre' type events. She reported that the details of such events would be confirmed and approved in conjunction with the Council's Events Unit.

The Committee noted:

- that under the scheme of delegation the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services had authority to approve event and activity requests for the use of the parks and open spaces along the Connswater Community Greenway in 2019/20, delivered by the Connswater Community Greenway Trust in partnership with Belfast City Council;

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- noted that under the scheme of delegation, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services had authority to approve event and activity requests which might include licensing arrangements such as trading or the selling of alcohol at the main event spaces along the Connswater Community Greenway, including the C.S. Lewis Square, Orangefield Park and Victoria Park; and
- noted that, whilst an entertainment license was already in place for the C.S. Lewis Square, this agreement would be subject to Connswater Community Greenway Trust meeting all statutory Health and Safety regulations and Licensing requirements.

**Council support for “Live Here, Love Here”
Campaign and Eco Schools Programme**

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 inform Members on the ongoing work between Belfast City Council and the ‘Live Here Love Here’ Campaign (LHLH) and Eco Schools Programme and to seek Committee support for continuation of this work.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Consider proposed option 2, continue with the planned annual funding of £41,000 for LHLH in 2019/20
- To approve the continuation of the Eco Schools programme at a cost of £14,000 for 2019/20
- To approve the commencement of an outcomes and value for money review of both LHLH and Eco Schools Programme during the 2019/2020 financial year.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

‘Live Here, Love Here’ Campaign

3.2 Members will recall People and Communities Committee (and previously Health and Environmental Services Committee) approved ongoing partnership working and associated financial support for the ‘Live Here, Love Here’ (LHLH) Campaign and the Eco School Programme.

3.3 LHLH (managed by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful) and has been developed by a partnership of organisations including Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs and local

Councils. Additional supporters; Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Choice Housing, McDonalds, Coca Cola and Tourism NI have contributed to the project. In year 5 of the campaign (2018/2019) ten councils in Northern Ireland supported the programme, an increase of one on the previous year. The level of council support for the programme has been calculated by population.

- 3.4 The programme consists of three elements: a media campaign; a volunteering support programme and; a small grants scheme. The aims of the LHLH programme are:
- To create a movement in the Northern Ireland community focused around the concept of civic pride;
 - To effect behavioural change in the public and business community through the promotion of civic pride;
 - To improve the quality of the built and natural environments in Northern Ireland;
 - To continuously improve street and beach cleanliness in Northern Ireland;
 - To promote and support local volunteers and volunteer networks to lead environmental improvement initiatives in their local areas;
 - To encouraging a sense of “active communities” / local activism;
 - To create a sense of ownership among local communities and individuals in waste reduction, waste management and recycling, use of green space;
 - To promote public health through increased community engagement and community involvement in local and regional communities; and
 - To encourage tourism through increasing the aesthetic appeal of the landscape.
- 3.5 In addition to its anti-littering message, the campaign also aims to improve the local environment by encouraging people to take action in their local communities through volunteering activities. The campaign consisted of local outdoor, bus and press advertising as well as Northern Ireland wide TV advertising and digital activity.
- 3.6 Community and other groups within Belfast have benefited directly through the LHLH small grants scheme, with £28,350 allocated for projects in local communities in Belfast in 2018/2019 to encourage civic pride in their environments. Additionally a number of groups and individuals in Belfast have been nominated for the LHLH Community Awards, with St Mary’s Grammar School Eco School receiving an award in 2018.
- 3.7 An external evaluation conducted in 2015 by Millward Brown Associates along with ongoing annual performance reporting

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indicates the campaign continues to achieve good progress towards its aims.

- 3.8 By engaging new partners (including local councils) the partnership have been able to increase the available funding from £325,000 in 2016/2017 to £476,500 in 2018/2020.**

LHLH Partners	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020 Indicative
Local Councils	170,000	273,000	293,000	293,000
Tourism NI	20,000	0	0	0
DAERA	70,000	91,500	87,500	87,500 (Not Confirmed)
Choice Housing	22,000	25,000	21,000	20,000 (Confirmed)
NI Housing Executive	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000 (Not Confirmed)
McDonald's	0	25,000	25,000	25,000 (Confirmed)
Coca-Cola		20,000	30,000	30,000 (Not Confirmed)
TOTAL	325,000	454,500	476,500	475,500

- 3.9 The LHLH campaign supports the delivery of the Living Here strand of the Belfast Agenda, making life better for all our residents through the delivery of improved neighbourhoods and enabling active and empowered citizens. In addition, it links with the Council's Waste Strategy and the UK Government's 25 year Environment Plan which recognises the impact of litter originating on land on marine systems.**

- 3.10 The options below are presented on the proviso that all other contributors continue to fund the project to a level which makes the project viable and where Belfast can demonstrate value for money for its specific contribution.**

3.11 Options for Consideration:

- 3.12 1. No further financial commitment to the LHLH campaign.**

As a major contributor to the LHLH campaign, withdrawal of Council support would have significant impact on delivery of the campaign in terms of purchasing media space. Additionally, groups/individuals in Belfast would not be eligible for the Small Grants Scheme or Community Awards.

- 3.13 2. Continue with one year financial commitment to the existing level for 2019/2020**

This would enable the Council to review the progress of the LHLH campaign and ensure that it still meets the Council's commitment to delivering the Belfast Agenda in time for the budget planning process in Autumn of 2019.

- 3.14 3. Make an in principle commitment to the LHLH for three years, as requested by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

This commitment would be re-affirmed annually as part of the revenue estimates process. This option would facilitate better planning of the campaign, however, may not provide the flexibility needed for Council during this period of change.

- 3.15 Eco Schools Programme

The Resources and Fleet Service also partner with KNIB to maintain the Eco Schools programme for schools across the city. This programme has been in place for over 15 years with all 183 Belfast schools currently registered as Eco School participants.

- 3.16 The continuation of the programme will further ensure all pupils in Belfast get the Reduce Reuse Recycle message through advancing each school through the Bronze and Silver awards to ultimately gaining a Green Flag. The programme also compliments the education offering the Service has through the Resource Education and Promotions officers. Currently 35 of Belfast Schools have achieved the Green Flag with a further 66 having achieved either Silver or Bronze status.

- 3.17 KNIB are the sole provider of the Eco Schools programme and the Service develops a Service Level Agreement (SLA) at the onset of each academic year to ensure continuous improvement is maintained via the number of schools moving forward in obtaining the Green Flag status.

- 3.18 Financial and Resource Implications

The cost of the council's contribution of £41,000 to the LHLH and £14,000 to the Eco Schools programme will be met from existing departmental revenue budgets for 2019/2020.

- 3.19 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications at present, however, this will be monitored on an ongoing basis."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Pride of Place

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held on 4th December 2018, it had approved the development of a new nomination and selection process for

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participation in the 2019 Pride of Place Competition and agreed that a further report would be submitted to the Committee in due course which would detail the proposed approach.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services then drew the Members' attention to the proposed new nomination process, criteria and the estimated costs. She explained that this year Pride of Place was seeking nominations for the following six award categories under two overarching areas, to which the Council could nominate a maximum of five groups:

Population

1. Urban Neighbourhood – population under 1,000;
2. Urban Neighbourhoods – population 1,000 – 2,000; and
3. Urban Neighbourhoods – population over 2,000.

Thematic

1. Creative Places;
2. Community Well-Being; and
3. Communities Reaching Out.

She then outlined the proposed nomination process, as follows:

- list of potential nominees to be compiled by officers;
- potential nominee to receive, complete and return a short application based on the selection criteria;
- an assessment panel to consider and score applications and compile a shortlist;
- recommendations to be presented to the Committee for approval;
- Pride of Place Application to be completed and returned to Co-operation Ireland; and
- nominees to be assessed by Pride of Place Judges.

The Director provided the Committee with a detailed overview of the estimated cost for participation in the competition. She detailed that the total approximate cost was £3,975 and advised that this could be met from the existing budget.

The Committee authorised the Council's participation in this year's Pride of Place competition, which would conclude with a Gala Awards Ceremony in Kilkenny on 30th November, and granted authority to officers to implement the selection/nomination process as outlined.

**The Use of Seabins to Capture Plastics
In the Marine Environment**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To respond to the motion raised at the Council meeting of 4 December 2018, namely;**

1.2 *The Council recognises that more than a third of marine litter comes directly from the public and half the plastic we use is single use. In an attempt to address this problem, the Council agrees to work collaboratively with the Harbour Commissioner's Port of Belfast and the Rivers Agency in establishing and procuring Sea bins, to be placed strategically at points along the River Lagan and Belfast Lough.*

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the contents of the report and that the current pilot is underway in the Harbour area and also to note the fact that Seabins are less suitable on rivers.

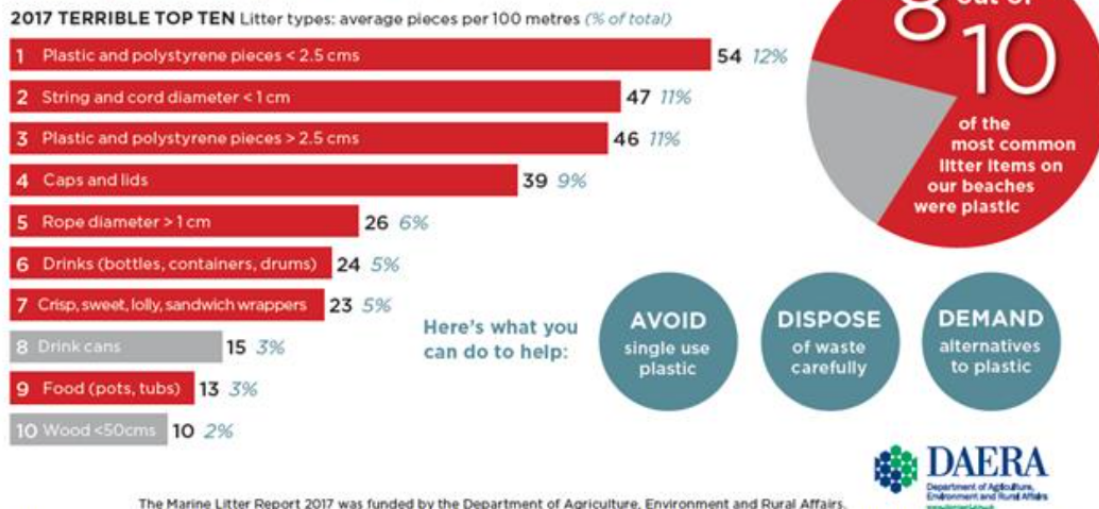
3.0 **Main Report**

Background

3.1 Marine and waterways litter is a major global issue. The BBC's Blue Planet opened the public's eyes to the impact of litter and, specifically, plastics within the marine environment. Aquatic wildlife are at risk from the floating and submerged debris, often mistaking the plastic as food, leading to digestive difficulties and often resulting in a slow, painful death.

3.2 The sheer scale of this issue can sometimes be daunting and difficult for the public to translate into steps they can take to tackle the matter. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB), through its "*Marine Litter Report 2017*", aims to educate and inform the public in this regard through infographics and research. Their survey found that on local beaches, 82% of all marine litter was plastic and 30% of all litter was single use plastics (plastic bags, coffee cups, soft drinks cups, plastic bottles, and cutlery). The most regular offenders are highlighted in a Terrible Top Ten graphic.

The plastic problem



3.3 The primary actions to mitigate plastics within waterways are based on avoiding single use plastics, seeking alternatives to plastic packaging where practicable and correctly disposing of waste. This requires a combination of public behaviour change combined with legislative instruments to drive change within the manufacturing and retail sectors.

3.4 Notable progress has been made in recent years on several preventative measures;

- discount schemes for refillable coffee cups at a number of high street coffee outlets,
- refillable water stations – aimed at reducing single use plastic water bottles
- UK government ban on the use of plastic micro-beads in cosmetic and personal care products (Jan 2018)
- EU proposed ban on single use plastic products such as, plastic cotton buds, cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers and sticks for balloons and plans to make producers cover more of the costs of waste management and clean-up. Further awareness raising measures are proposed for food containers, packets and wrappers (such as for crisps and sweets), drinks containers and cups, tobacco products with filters (such as cigarette butts), wet wipes, balloons, and lightweight plastic bags (this is called extended producer responsibility – EPR).

3.5 The Council has also been taking strides to minimise single use plastic products in its own waste arisings and introduced a “latte levy” on single use cups at the Atrium restaurant to encourage use of ceramic crockery rather than single use items.

- 3.6 In order to deal with marine and waterways plastic issue effectively, it is important to have an operational perspective to deal with the issue when the preventative measures break down. Given the challenges of working in waterways, innovative approaches to dealing with this particular litter stream are welcome and, in this context, the Seabin was developed.
- 3.7 The Seabin is a floating debris interception device designed to be installed in marinas, yacht clubs, ports and any water body with a calm environment and associated services available. Typically it is installed in a specific debris problem area in a marina on a floating dock. The correct positioning means the prevailing wind and sea currents push the debris towards the Seabin.
- 3.8 It can capture 1.5kg of floating debris per day (1.5T/unit/year approx) including micro-plastics greater than 2 mm. Water is sucked from the surface and passes through a catch bag inside the Seabin, with a submersible water pump, plugged directly into 110/220 V outlet. The water is then pumped back into the marina leaving litter and debris trapped in the catch bag. The catch bag can hold up to 20kg of debris and requires daily checks and emptying as needed. The cost of a device is around £3,000 and operating costs are estimated at £1/day. Further details are available on site <https://www.seabinproject.com>
- 3.9 In December 2018, following the notice of motion, discussions were held with the Belfast Harbour Commissioner (BHC). Ards and North Down Borough Council revealed that they had installed a Seabin at Bangor Marina in November 2018. BHC also installed a unit in the Abercorn Basin behind the SSE Arena as a pilot, which has been operational since the start of February 2019.
- 3.10 Subject the outcome of these pilots, Seabins may show that they are a suitable clean-up device in a marina environment. During research for this motion however it became evident that they are less suitable on riverbanks, where significant amounts of debris accumulate. A selection of photographs taken on a stretch of the Lagan close to the Gasworks site highlighting local issue are available.
- 3.11 The Council will liaises with its partners on the Rivers Forum and, primarily, Department for Communities to raise the issue of inland waterway litter on the river Lagan and to enquire what their programme of work is to improve this environment for wildlife, improve amenities for the local community and to attract visitors.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.12 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

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

- 3.13 There are no issues associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and that a pilot was currently being undertaken in the Harbour area.

FSA Consultation on Provision of Allergen Information

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 It is estimated that around two million people living in the UK have a food allergy. Recent cases of severe allergic reactions, including the death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse after eating a Pret a Manger sandwich, have highlighted issues with food that is prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) i.e. food that has been packed on the same premises from which it is being sold. Currently PPDS foods are not required to carry labels on the packaging. The allergen information must be readily available, including through indications to ask a member of staff and information on allergens can be given in person by the food business operator when asked.

- 1.2 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) wants to make the rules clearer so consumers are more aware of any allergenic ingredients in the PPDS food they purchase and are consulting on 4 possible options:

1.3 **Option 1 – Promote best practice**

This would not require a legislative change. Instead, it would require additional activity to promote best practice around communicating allergen information.

1.4 **Option 2 – Mandate ‘Ask the Staff’ labels on packaging of PPDS foods, with supporting information for consumers in writing**

This would require ‘Ask the Staff’ about allergens labels on all PPDS products. When asked about allergenic ingredients, staff would have to provide supporting information in writing upon request, before the food is purchased.

1.5 Option 3 – Mandate name of the food and allergen labelling on packaging of PPDS foods

This would require PPDS foods to have a label on the packaging to tell the consumer the name of the food and which of the 14 allergenic ingredients specified in law the product intentionally contains.

1.6 Option 4 – Mandate name of the food and full ingredient list labelling, with allergens emphasised, on packaging of PPDS foods

This mandates PPDS foods to have a label naming the food and listing the full ingredients with allergens emphasised on the packaging.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- consider and agree the consultation response and recommend option 3 as the preferred option as stated in paragraph 3, point 3.4.
- note the request that if option 3 is considered to be the appropriate regional option, that the Food Standards Agency is asked to consider identifying additional resources to support business to implement this and in particular for those that are small, medium enterprises.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The Food Standards Agency is consulting on amending allergen information provisions contained within domestic food information legislation for food prepacked for direct sale. The full consultation package is available at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/agri-food-chain-directorate/consultation-on-amending-allergen-information/>

3.2 The Food Information Regulations (NI) 2014 introduced legal requirements to ensure consumers are made aware of the 14 most significant allergenic ingredients in foods. The council is the enforcement authority for these regulations and the Food Safety Unit provides guidance and support to all our local food businesses, including those within Council amenities, to build compliance with these requirements. To date that support has included:

- Providing businesses with an Allergen Compliance Toolkit including guidance materials on how to manage allergens as well as information on what to do in the event of a consumer having an allergic reaction. An allergen checklist and ingredient matrix have been provided to help businesses keep track of potential food allergen risks;
- The delivery of training and seminars for businesses on allergen management and the provision of allergen information to consumers;
- Since the introduction of our Allergen Strategy in June 2017, we have monitored compliance with the allergen requirements during 1283 routine inspections and 1027 targeted interventions. We also investigate consumer complaints relating to allergic reactions to food and routinely sample and analyse foods to detect undeclared allergens. Where necessary officers may use enforcement powers to secure compliance. To date one food business has accepted a formal caution after a customer suffered an allergic reaction whilst eating a meal and we have one pending prosecution for a business that supplied multiple products with incorrect allergen labelling.
- Where Food Safety officers detect food that is unsafe, including food labelled with incorrect allergen information, they work collaboratively with the business and the Food Standards Agency to ensure the food is removed from the supply chain and to alert consumers.
- The Food Safety section of Council’s website provides individuals and businesses with information on food labelling. It includes links to the FSA’s website where individuals can register to receive allergen alerts and obtain information on current and previous allergen alerts; and where businesses can access allergen related resources including ‘Think Allergy’ posters / allergen signage and tips on planning an allergen free meal.

3.3 Officers have reviewed the 4 policy options contained within the consultation document and considered the pros and cons of each.

	PROS	CONS
Option 1 Best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimal cost to business - Can be implemented in shortest timescale - Retains maximum flexibility for businesses in making allergen information available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires consumers to ask for allergen information - No increased protection for consumers

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<p>Option 2 Ask the staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No risk of mislabelling - Minimal cost to business - Prompts customers to ask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Label does not provide product-specific information - Risk if food is purchased for someone else - Consumer unlikely to ask every time they purchase the same item (could miss ingredient changes)
<p>Option 3 Name of food and allergens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear product specific information (at point of sale and for 3rd party) - Less risk of mislabelling than option 4 - Highlights risk of cross contamination - Less costly than option 4 - Allows for ingredient substitution that does not involve allergens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only provides information on the 14 allergens identified in the legislation - Risk of mislabelling - More costly than options 1 and 2
<p>Option 4 Full labelling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full information for consumers beyond the 14 allergens identified in the legislation - Does not rely on staff knowing the allergens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most costly and time consuming, especially for small businesses - Risk of mislabelling - Business may decide not to sell PPDS so less choice for the consumer - Costs could stifle innovation

3.4 This is not a straightforward issue and it is our opinion that both Options 2 and 3 would offer additional protection whilst balancing the cost to business. However, taking everything into account officers believe option 3 is the best way forward.

3.5 The committee is also asked to note the request that if option 3 is considered to be the appropriate regional option to afford the best level of protection to customers, that the Food Standards Agency is asked to consider identifying additional resources to support business to implement this option and in particular for those that are small, medium enterprises.

3.6 This may also have an impact on the resources needed within BCC to support business and therefore Council ask that the FSA also consider how they will support Councils to achieve this.

3.7 The full response to this consultation is available on mod.gov.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.8 Any additional legal requirements would require officer time to support, monitor and ensure compliance. It is anticipated

that these additional demands could be delivered within our existing budget but this would require re-prioritisation.

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

- 3.9 There are no equality or good relations implications. There is no requirement for a rural needs assessment.”**

The Committee:

- endorsed the draft response to the Food Standards Agency available [here](#), relating to amendments to the allergen information provision contained within domestic food information legislation for food prepacked for direct sale and recommended option 3 as the preferred option as stated in paragraph 3, point 3.4.
- noted that, if option 3 was agreed as the appropriate regional option, the Food Standards Agency had been asked to consider identifying additional resources to support business during its implementation.

HMO Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

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

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

1.3 Two papers were presented to the Licensing Committee on 20th February 2019, which provided further detail regarding the fees, Fixed Penalty Notices, the management of Antisocial Behaviour and the Standard Conditions for the new scheme.

1.4 This paper provides a summary of the detail taken to the Licensing Committee in 20th February 2019, regarding the fees, Fixed Penalty Notices, the management of Antisocial Behaviour and the Standard Conditions for the new scheme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the report and that the Licensing Committee, at their meeting of 20th February 2019, agreed the recommendations regarding the fees, Fixed Penalty Notices, the management of Antisocial Behaviour and the Standard Conditions for the new scheme which takes effect from 1st April 2019.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Fees

- 3.1** 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.
- 3.2** 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.
- 3.3** Whilst the Regulations set a maximum fee level of £45, following the preparation of a draft budget, and a subsequent detailed review by external consultants, 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.
- 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.
- 3.6** Members should 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).

Other fees

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

3.8 Table 1: 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)

3.9 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.

3.10 Officers have considered the cost for similar copies across the council, and proposed the following:

3.11 Table 2: 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

3.12 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).

- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 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.
- 3.15 Section 64 of the 2016 Act lists the offences and maximum amount of the FPN’s. The 2016 Act states that the amount for each fixed penalty notice ‘is to be determined by the council’.
- 3.16 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. On this basis, officers recommended that the fixed penalty levels for the offences under the new HMO (NI) Act 2016 are set on the same basis.

Standard conditions

- 3.17 The conditions imposed 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.
- 3.18 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.

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour

- 3.19 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.

- 3.20 The proposed 'Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour in HMO Properties, A Guide for Owners and Managing Agents' is available on mod.gov. This will apply to all houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) in Northern Ireland, and will be attached to all licences as they are issued.
- 3.21 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.

Further engagement

- 3.22 Representatives of LANI, the Landlords Association for Northern Ireland, requested to attend the Licensing Committee's meeting on 20th February 2019. While LANI representatives were ultimately unable to attend, it was agreed that Officers would continue to engage with LANI and that any items raised in relation to HMO Regulations, can be brought back to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.23 The cost of administering the new licensing regime has been included in the draft estimates for 2019/20.
- 3.24 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.
- 3.25 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 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**

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

The Committee noted the report and that the Licensing Committee, at its meeting on 20th February 2019, had agreed the recommendations regarding the fees, Fixed Penalty Notices, the management of Antisocial Behaviour and the Standard Conditions for the new scheme which would take effect from 1st April 2019.

Support for Mary Peter's Trust

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Mary Peters Trust seeking the Council's financial assistance to help support the work of the Trust for the 2019/20 financial year.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services detailed that an agreement was in place to co-ordinate funding allocations between the Mary Peters Trust, GLL Sports Foundation and Support for Sport individual grants in order to avoid duplication. She stated that it was suggested that a contribution of £5,000 be made to the Trust, which was in line with contributions from previous years.

The Committee agreed funding of £5,000 to the Mary Peters Trust which provided significant financial support for developing talented athletes from Belfast.

Update on Loneliness Motion

The Director of City Services referred to the following Motion which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Alderman Spence at the January meeting of the Council:

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

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

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

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

She then proceeded to provide a detailed overview of the ongoing work which the Council was currently involved with.

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The Committee noted that through the following two work streams much was being done to increase the availability of support to older people in an attempt to reduce loneliness:

- Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021; and
- Citywide Group on Reducing Isolation and Loneliness.

The Director advised that, through the Belfast Agenda, the Council was committed to ensuring an Age-friendly Belfast. She reminded the Committee that the second Citywide Partnership Plan Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2019-2021 had been launched last year with the thematic areas Partnership, Infrastructure, Social Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing and Financial Security.

She then referred to the Citywide group on reducing isolation and loneliness. As part of the previous Age-friendly Plan, a sub-group of the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership had been established in March 2017 to look at isolation and loneliness and she detailed its membership. The current actions for that group were as follows:

- to increase the availability of befriending and other services to reduce loneliness in older people;
- to carry out a needs analysis and pilot training for key staff and volunteers on reducing isolations and loneliness in older people;
- to develop and test systematic referral pathways to connect older people to services that they needed; and
- to map isolation and loneliness amongst older people in Belfast.

The Committee noted that, whilst the work under the Age-friendly Belfast Plan mainly focused on older people, loneliness was an issue for all ages. The Director reported that Linking Generations NI was a member of the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership and was working to establish a Belfast Intergenerational Network to support Integration Work across the City.

The Director advised that the Citywide Group was hosting a 'Morning of Action on Loneliness' in the City Hall on Monday, 17th June, to highlight both the problems and indeed the many programmes and facilities that were available to help and encourage people to connect. The event would strive to ensure negative stereotypes were not used and would actively assist in de-stigmatising loneliness. She advised the Members that they would receive an invitation to attend and she encouraged them to actively promote the event.

The Committee noted the ongoing work to address loneliness within the Council and Belfast Strategic Partnership and agreed to support the 'Morning of Action on Loneliness' event in the City Hall.

Service Level Agreement – The Conservation Volunteers

The Committee was reminded that it had previously endorsed the approach by Waste Management to provide a disposal outlet for waste collected by The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) on Department for Communities (DfC) lands in the Poleglass area of Belfast.

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The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services advised that the DfC had retendered the service and TCV had been awarded the contract. He explained that the contract was aimed at carrying out a range of environmental improvement initiatives and to ensure fly-tipped waste was collected and disposed of appropriately.

The existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Council and TCV was due to expire on 1st May, 2019. The SLA permitted TCV to use Blackstaff Household Recycling Centre to deposit waste and recyclable materials collected from the Poleglass area. In line with the Council's current arrangements for charities, the collection/disposal of waste was charged at a discounted rate.

The Director advised that, to date, the SLA had worked well as it had contributed to a cleaner, greener City and, in addition, it supported a full-time team of five Community Project Officers within TCV. He stated that, given the new contract between the DfC and TCV, it was proposed that the Council would enter into a new SLA to reflect the extended timescale and ensure continuity of service.

The Committee approved the continuation of the Service Level Agreement approach used to accept waste collected by The Conservation Volunteers during daily clean-up operations in Poleglass, inherited as part of the Local Government Reform process in 2015.

Request for Events at City of Belfast Playing Fields, Drumglass Park and Ormeau Park

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members for requests to host events in a number of parks, namely:

- I. Request from the Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association (NIBFA) to have free use of the facilities at the City of Belfast Playing Fields, Mallusk on Saturday 31st August 2019 and Saturday 7th September 2019, for its annual football festival.**
- II. Request from Pieta House to have free use of Ormeau Park for its 'Darkness Into Light' charity fundraiser walk at on Saturday 11th May 2019.**
- III. Request from the Belfast City Marathon Ltd., for the free use of Ormeau Park for the Belfast City Marathon on Sunday 5th May 2019.**
- IV. Request from the A Bit Of A Do, an Events and Corporate Entertainment organisation to host a 'Big Picnic' in Drumglass Park from 14.00 – 20.00 on Saturday 15th June 2019.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the:

- Request from the Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association (NIBFA) to have free use of the facilities at the City of Belfast Playing Fields, Mallusk on Saturday 31 August 2019 and Saturday 7 September 2019, for its annual football festival and all subsequent years, subject to conditions set out in 2.2.
- Request from Pieta House to have free use of Ormeau Park for its 'Darkness Into Light' charity fundraiser walk on Saturday 11 May 2019 subject to conditions set out in 2.2.
- Request from the Belfast City Marathon Ltd., for the free use of Ormeau Park for the Belfast City Marathon on Sunday 5 May 2019 subject to conditions set out in 2.2.
- Request from the A Bit Of A Do, an Events and Corporate Entertainment organisation to host a 'Big Picnic' in Drumglass Park from 14.00 – 20.00 on Saturday 15 June 2019, with set up and take down before and afterwards, subject to conditions set out in 2.2 and 2.3.

2.2 The Committee is asked to grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, to approve future requests under delegated authority and subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that the Event Organiser:

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

2.3 The Committee is asked that, in relation to the request from 'A Bit of A Do' to host a Big Picnic in Drumglass Park on 15 June 2019, that they grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:

- The event organiser completes an appropriate legal agreement, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
- The use of the site on this date will be subject to licence and a report will be taken to the Licensing Committee for them to consider;
- The event organiser meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence;
- Negotiates an appropriate fee for use of Drumglass Park taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy; and

- The Council writes to the event organiser to advise them that it reserves the right to introduce a 'social clause' into any future legal agreements at any time (subject to Council approval of such a policy).

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 I. Request from the Northern Ireland Boys' Football Association (NIBFA) to have free use of the facilities at the City of Belfast Playing Fields, Mallusk on Saturday 31 August 2019 and Saturday 7 September 2019, for its annual football festival.

- The NIBFA annual football festival has been taking place at the City of Belfast Playing Fields since 1976 and they use this facility as this is the only venue in Belfast capable of staging their event.
- The NIBFA has a total membership of over 1,300 teams (approximately 24,000 members) and many of these teams participate in this annual football festival.
- The NIBFA has been granted permission for free use for this event for over 40 years by Belfast City Council.

3.2 II. Request from Pieta House to have free use of Ormeau Park for its 'Darkness Into Light' charity fundraiser walk on Saturday 11 May 2019.

- This is an international event highlighting the issue of suicide awareness and the associated process of bereavement, grief and reflection. It involves a 5K walk or run starting at the same time in all venues before dawn.
- A local Northern Ireland woman, Colette Snoddy, undertook to stage this event in 2016, following her own experiences after the suicide of her son Matthew in 2015. The 2016 event in Newtownabbey was an overwhelming success and prompted Colette to move the event to Ormeau Park in 2017.
- Hundreds of thousands of people around the world will get together to walk from the darkness of night into the light of morning to help a global fight against suicide and self-harm. On the 11 May 2019, the light will spread across the world in over 200 venues, in 19 countries across 5 continents.
- Symbolically the walk represents the therapeutic counselling journey. It sparks conversation about the importance of mental health and wellbeing in all our lives. The entry fees raised around the world allow Pieta House and their international charity partners to continue to deliver their vital services.

- Last year, 872 people participated in the Ormeau Park event raising £42,167 together for a brighter future. This year, Pieta House is collaborating with PIPS charity to support vital programmes in the local area.
 - This event will require access to Ormeau Park outside the normal park opening hours and will require additional human resources to facilitate it.
- 3.3 III. Request from the Belfast City Marathon Ltd., for the free use of Ormeau Park for the Belfast City Marathon on Sunday 5 May 2019.
- The Council has previously approved the date of the Belfast City Marathon being moved from the traditional Bank Holiday Monday to Sunday 5 May 2019.
 - The Belfast City Marathon celebrates its 38th year in 2019 and is the biggest mass participation event in the city with over 17,000 runners expected to participate and around 30,000 spectators predicted to turn out.
 - Belfast City Marathon will have 5 main charities linked to the event and expect participants to raise over £1.2 Million raised for these and other charities.
 - The organisers will require access to Ormeau Park for set-up from Friday 3 May 2019 from 9am and will exit the site by 4pm on Monday 6 May 2019.
 - This will result in the closure of a substantial area of the park.
 - The organisers will be bringing food vendors, funfair rides, inflatables, marquees, stewards and toilets to the site.
- 3.4 IV. Request from the A Bit Of A Do, an Events and Corporate Entertainment organisation to host a 'Big Picnic' in Drumglass Park from 14.00 – 20.00 on Saturday 15 June 2019.
- The event will be based in Drumglass Park for one day to provide a family orientated event which will also encourage good relations between residents in this area.
 - There will be a range of children's activities, vendors on site offering Prosecco, Gin and other alcoholic beverages, food and entertainment. There will be a charge for entrance to this event.
 - The event organiser is proposing to protect parts of the open space grass area with industry standard terraplas covering.
 - There will be fencing erected to separate the play park from the event area to ensure that they play park can remain open and to avoid disruption to users.
 - The event organiser will be required to carry out reinstatement of the grounds. Therefore a bond of

reinstatement will be paid by the event organiser prior to the event.

- The promoter will be required to liaise with the Community Parks Manager, the Building Control Service, PSNI, Transport NI and other emergency services to produce an appropriate Event Management Plan and Traffic Management Plan for council's approval.
- An appropriate fee will be discussed and agreed with the event organiser over the coming weeks and will be paid in advance. Officers will assess the offer and ensure it will provide value for money based on market rates and the indirect income this will generate for the city and night time economy in terms of hotels bookings, taxi hire and restaurant use.

Financial and Resource Implications

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

I. Request for the NIBFA to hold its annual, football festival at the City of Belfast Playing Fields, Mallusk.

NIBFA has requested free use of the facilities as has been granted in previous years.

II. Request for the Darkness into Light Charity Walk in Ormeau Park.

There are additional human resource requirements but these will be managed within the current resources.

III. Request the use of Ormeau Park for the Belfast City Marathon

Requirements can be met within existing resources.

IV Request use of Drumglass Park to host a 'Big Picnic'

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

Asset and Other Implications

3.6 Council Officers will liaise with the event organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of these events, and

ensure that the legal agreements appropriately reflect the level of risk to the Council.

**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.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Fly Tipping – Councillor Murphy to raise

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Murphy raised the following matter:

"This Council notes the frustration caused by fly tipping across the city and the visual impact it has on local areas.

Councils are responsible for the enforcement and policing of fly tipping and currently we can only enforce this by checking through what has been dumped and getting names and addresses from that. This can carry a fine of up to £2,500.

We are asking for Council to review its current processes for dealing with fly tipping particularly around enforcement. In order to do this, we should look at models of best practice from elsewhere.

This review should come back to committee for us to explore the findings and plan a new way forward that will see us tackle the issue of fly-tipping in a more efficient manner.”

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would review the Council’s current processes for dealing with flying tipping and suggest ways in which the Council might look at other areas of best practice.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion – Million Trees

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

“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.

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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."

The Committee agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would investigate ways in which the Council could help facilitate the planting of at least a million trees in Belfast over the next fifteen years.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 6th March, 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,
Hussey, Kyle, Magee, McAllister, Mullan,
Murphy, O'Donnell, O'Hara and Walsh.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Graham and Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th February 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 March.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Hussey and O'Donnell declared an interest in relation to item 2a, Visit Belfast Business Plan 2019/20, in that they had been appointed by the Council to the Board of Visit Belfast, and remained in the room whilst the matter was under consideration.

Presentations

Visit Belfast Business Plan 2019/20

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 present the request for funding from Visit Belfast for the 2019/20 financial year and to set out the organisation's strategic plan, focused on increasing visitor numbers and tourism spend in the city. Visit Belfast will be in**

attendance at the Committee meeting to present the detail of its 2019/20 plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the draft Visit Belfast business plan 2019/20 and the areas where Council funds will be invested. The overall funding requirement for Visit Belfast in the coming financial year has been taken account of in the revenue estimates that have already been approved by the Council; and
- ii. approve the funding allocation of up to £1,997,500 for 2019/20 expenditure, subject to the development of a funding agreement establishing priority areas of activity and agreed targets.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that Visit Belfast is the principal Destination Management and Marketing Organisation for the city of Belfast. Visit Belfast leads on the tourism marketing activities in Belfast. It is a membership organisation with more than 500 member businesses across the wider hospitality industry. Visit Belfast works, on behalf of its members, with a range of public and private partners such as the Belfast Chamber and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to promote Belfast as a tourism destination.

3.2 Visit Belfast targets both the leisure and business tourism markets. It has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICC Belfast to drive new business to the city. There have been significant successes in this field and business events and conferences taking place in the city in this financial year are projected to deliver a return of around £60 million.

3.3 Visit Belfast is a public/private partnership. Its current Chairman is Howard Hastings OBE from the Hastings Hotel Group. Belfast City Council has four Councillor representatives on the Board: Councillor Arder Carson, Councillor John Hussey, Councillor Kate Nicholl and Councillor Mairead O' Donnell.

3.4 The tourism and hospitality industry in Belfast continues to go from strength to strength. Belfast continues to drive the regional tourism economy; in 2017 (last published Local Government District tourism statistics by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency), Belfast hosted 30% of all tourism trips to Northern Ireland (1.4m trips) and tourism spend amounted to £328m, 35% of Northern Ireland tourism spend.

- 3.5** Forecasts suggest that the sector will account for around 15% of new jobs in the coming decade. While it currently accounts for only 5% of the regional GDP, in many other locations, this is more than 10% of the GDP. This illustrates the potential for additional growth within the sector. One of the key growth areas is in hotel accommodation: over the past twenty years, annual hotel room sales increased by 314%, from 324,000 hotel rooms sold in 1999 to 1.34m in 2018. Visitor enquires have also increased by 343% reflecting the growing interest in visiting Belfast. One of the biggest tourism successes has been the growth in cruise visitors – in 2018, this had increased to 115 ships carrying an estimated 189,000 passengers and crew.
- 3.6** Visit Belfast is focusing on growing overnight stays, servicing the day trippers, increasing the length of overnight trips and increasing visitor expenditure in the city. Visit Belfast continues to drive visitor numbers and spend focussing its activities in the areas that offer the biggest market opportunity; namely short-breaks, business tourism, day-trips and cruise arrivals. It also manages three gateway visitor information centres, one in Belfast city centre at one at each of the two Belfast airports.
- 3.7** The mid-term review of the Integrated Tourism Strategy for Belfast, references the “demand-side” and the “supply-side” interventions in the tourism industry. Visit Belfast – along with Tourism Ireland, Tourism Northern Ireland and other marketing partners – are largely responsible for the “demand-side” activities, principally marketing the city to those interested in visiting. In parallel, “supply-side” activities such as local tourism initiatives, product and experience development, skills development and infrastructure investment are required in order to build the sector and ensure that there is a credible, quality product that can be marketed to target audiences. The review notes that the Council has a significant role to play in supporting and shaping the product development, which will be driven through the new Cultural Transformation Strategy. Additionally, the report recommends skills development activity and investment in tourism marketing – driven by Visit Belfast – is at least maintained in the context of an increasingly competitive tourism market.
- 3.8** The 2019/20 operational plan is the second year of the Visit Belfast Strategy 2018-2022 and although Year 1 results are yet to be reported, Visit Belfast expects to achieve targets set out for 2018-19 and remain on course to achieve its four-year cumulative targets.

With a proposed 2019-20 budget of £4.2m, Visit Belfast’s marketing, sales and visitor servicing activity aims to support:

- 390,000 bed nights, both leisure and conference;

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- **286,000 cruise visitors;**
- **946,000 visitor enquiries;**

Details of specific activities will be set out in the presentation to the Committee.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.9 In the current financial year, Belfast City Council's funding arrangement with Visit Belfast is £1,997,500. An allocation of £1,997,500 has been set aside within the Departmental estimates for the financial year 2019/20. This will include income from Tourism NI towards the delivery and marketing of the annual Maritime Festival - £35,000 allocation from Tourism NI to be allocated to Visit Belfast for the marketing of the event.**

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

- 3.10 No specific equality or good relations implications. Visit Belfast also works with Councils outside of Belfast, as part of the Regional Tourism Partnership."**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. G. Lennon, Chief Executive of Visit Belfast, together with Dr. H. Hastings, Chair, and Mr. M. Williamson, Vice-Chair.

Dr. Hastings thanked the Council for the support which it had provided to Visit Belfast over the past twenty years and pointed to the fact that Belfast was now regarded as a prime destination to visit and hold a conference. He referred to the steady increase over the past seven years in the number of out-of-state visitors to the City and highlighted the economic benefits resulting from the increase in 2018 of the City's accommodation portfolio by an additional 1,000 hotel rooms. He provided a brief overview of Visit Belfast's four-year strategy, which was seeking to deliver over £1/2 billion for the City's economy, generate 1.6 million bed nights and welcome a further one million cruise visitors and stressed that the current uncertainty meant that economic growth could not be guaranteed. It was, therefore, important to ensure that investment in marketing and promotion of the City continued. He referred to the fact that the Council's year-on-year commitment to Visit Belfast had been vital in securing funding from commercial and other partners and stated that Visit Belfast remained the most effective mechanism for achieving the objectives set out within the Belfast Agenda.

Mr. Lennon reported that, over the past twenty years, visitor numbers and spend had grown by 340% and that, in the period from 2011 till 2017, overnight visitors had accounted for £1.5 billion. Importantly, out-of-state visitor numbers had increased steadily, and had, in 2017, accounted for 90% of the £328 million of overnight spend. He outlined the four main factors which were necessary to drive economic growth in the City, namely, political stability, improved access, infrastructure investment/tourism development and destination marketing and provided an overview of tourism performance for 2018 for conferences, room occupancy/sales, cruise ships/visitors and tourist enquiries. He reviewed the governance arrangements for Visit Belfast and confirmed that its key themes for 2019/20 would be based around Food, Game of Thrones, Golf, Music, Soft Adventure and Titanic Culture/History. Mr. Lennon then drew the Committee's attention to productivity indicators for the period from 2015/16 to 2019/20 for bed nights, overnight

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spend, cruise visitors, enquiries, economic impact and commercial/partnership income and highlighted forthcoming marketing/communications, business development and visitor servicing campaigns which would seek to deliver £140 million of economic impact. He confirmed that Visit Belfast was targeting expenditure of approximately £4.2 million over each of the next three years and concluded by endorsing Dr. Hastings' view that the Visit Belfast model represented the most effective, efficient and value-for-money option for the Council.

After discussion, the Committee paid tribute to Visit Belfast for its longstanding contribution to the promotion of Belfast and adopted the recommendations contained within the report.

Request to Present

Now Project

The Committee approved a request from the Chief Executive of the Now Project to attend a future meeting in order to review the work of that organisation.

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 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.

Restriction of Reports

A Member highlighted the fact that the recent series of Committee reports on the Belfast Zoo had been restricted and sought clarification on the rationale surrounding that decision and on the restriction of reports generally.

In response, the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services explained that the Corporate Management Team had sought advice around the restriction of reports, with a view to providing clarity around the process. In terms of the Zoo, reports had been restricted primarily on the basis that they had contained commercially sensitive information, in the context of discussions around its future development, or in response to concerns which had been raised around the potential impact on staff, following recent high profile incidents.

Independent Security Review – Belfast Zoo

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

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The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th February, it had agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting on the outcome of an independent review of security at the Belfast Zoo, following a number of recent incidents.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that the review, which had been undertaken from 17th till 19th February, had focused primarily on Category 1 animal enclosures, on all enclosures utilising electric fencing and on assessing keeper procedures and general animal operations. The resulting report had confirmed that the necessary policies and procedures were in place and that the standard of maintenance was adequate to allow the Zoo to remain open. However, it had made a number of recommendations aimed at making the recording, inspection and routine maintenance programme more robust and had identified routine maintenance works to be undertaken across a number of enclosures, together with some immediate improvement and replacement works. It had highlighted also the capacity of Zoo keeping staff and the time available to them to complete safety checks and assess the condition and security of enclosures.

He explained that officers had since categorised the recommendations contained within the consultant's report and, accordingly, he sought the Committee's approval to implement the following short (immediate) and medium term actions:

Short Term (Immediate)

- conclude the arrangements and Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the Dangerous Animals Response Team;
- arrange for the inspection of vegetation across all enclosures and for it to be cut back by Parks staff, where required;
- expand the management team arrangement at the Zoo to include regular input from those sections of the Council which were involved in the management of the site;
- seek approval to employ a dedicated temporary (6-12 month resource) to focus upon immediate Zoo maintenance, electric fence monitoring and enclosure inspections; and
- establish and secure the capital costs associated with the recommendations for improvement/replacement works.

Medium Term

- review and further develop the internal Service Level Agreements and ongoing maintenance arrangements for the Zoo, moving forward; and
- agree and implement the programme for the roll-out of the improvement/replacements works identified within the consultant's report.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i. noted the independent consultant's report on security at the Zoo and the recommendations contained therein;

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- ii. approved the implementation of the short and medium term recommendations, including the employment of a temporary dedicated maintenance resource;
- iii. noted that a review of future maintenance staffing requirements would be undertaken whilst the temporary resource was in place; and
- iv. noted that it would, at a future meeting, receive a report on the outcome of that review, together with details of the overall costs associated with the implementation of the consultant's recommendations.

(Alderman McGimpsey in the Chair.)

City Recovery Programme

The City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer reminded the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, had considered a report in relation to the City Centre Recovery Programme. The report had reviewed the impact of Phase 1 of the programme and had outlined the key strands of work which would underpin Phase 2, namely, physical and environmental enhancements, an animation programme, incentivisation and trader support, marketing and communications, creative input and programme delivery support and research/retail. The Committee had approved a budget of £2.505m for Phase 2, up until March, 2020.

She reported that, in response to requests from Members of this Committee, a footfall monitor was being installed in Castle Street and that other routes leading into the City centre were being considered. She added that the junction between Castle Street and Fountain Street had re-opened on 27th February and that Castle Street would, from 26th March, open fully for pedestrians. That would, she pointed out, allow those businesses which had been closed following the Primark fire to re-open.

After discussion, the Committee noted:

- i. the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd February to approve funding of £2.505m for the key strands of activity to be taken forward as part of Phase 2 of the City Recovery Programme;
- ii. that it would receive further updates as the overall programme and specific proposals were developed; and
- iii. that the Council would continue to undertake expenditure on behalf of the Treasury and Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments.

Growing Business and the Economy

Growing the Economy – Programme of Work 2019/20

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 this report is to seek approval for the proposed programme of work to be delivered in the 2019/20 financial year as part of the Committee’s ambitions to support delivery of the targets under the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. note the Council’s performance and contribution to delivering against Belfast Agenda ambitions to grow the Belfast economy, focusing on Starting a Business; Growing a Business and Investing in Belfast;**
- ii. note that the associated activity will support the creation of up to 957 jobs in the course of the year;**
- iii. approve the 2019/20 Work Plan to support the delivery of these ambitions, as set out in sections 3.4 to 3.9, including the associated budget commitment of £1,342,075 (excluding Innovation Factory costs); and**
- iv. approve the proposed approach to requests for financial contributions to support conferences and events aligned with the Economic Development Unit’s profile of activity. To be administered in-line with the the delegated authority granted to the Director of Economic Development and Strategic Director of Place and Economy Department.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that, at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 11th April, 2018, approval was given for the delivery of the Growing the Economy work plan for the current financial year. The work plan was developed as part of the Council’s contribution towards the commitments identified under this theme within the Belfast Agenda.

3.2 Since April 2018, the Council has developed and delivered a range of activities to address the challenges around low levels of start-up, innovation, competitiveness and productivity. Whilst work is ongoing to deliver the 2018/19 work plan, key achievements to date include:

- 770 individuals engaged through Enterprise Awareness activates this year, providing them support and guidance to start a business or social enterprise**

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- **By the end of January 2019, we had supported 311 individuals through the Go For It programme supporting the creation of 196 jobs**
- **Through our Go Social programme, we have supported 32 Social Enterprises and Co-operatives, creating 31 jobs**
- **We provided support for 60 university/FE college student entrepreneurs to develop their new businesses while still in education. We also launched a new initiative providing grant assistance to programme participants in partnership with Invest NI which aims to provide a salary and wrap around support for one year to enable them to start their business**
- **We successfully launched high growth start-up support which has to date engaged 64 new high growth businesses based in Belfast**
- **We continue to support the Innovation Factory (IF): occupancy levels are forecast at 55% by end of March 2019 representing representing approximately 249 jobs across 40 offices and 22 dedicated desks (excluding 22 business members and virtual office users). Through its social regeneration programme, IF has facilitated 60 work placements, engaged with 461 businesses and has achieved a procurement spend of 96% of its budget within the Belfast area**
- **We have provided business mentoring support for 130 small businesses, creating an additional 65 new jobs. We have also supported 150 businesses through SME skills development workshops on strategy and leadership, finance and talent management**
- **This year we supported 20 local high growth businesses to access intensive acceleration support through scaling programmes in partnership with Invest Northern Ireland and Catalyst Inc. Companies received support around pitching, targeting investment and partnership development and accessed opportunities to network with other Boston-based companies to develop new partnership arrangements and collaborations**
- **We reached agreement on a new Enterprise Framework for Belfast, in partnership with our enterprise and business growth stakeholders across the city. This Framework sets the vision for Belfast to become “a city recognised for its diverse community of entrepreneurs, who benefit from a comprehensive, planned and coherent system of enterprise support, which fulfils their needs at all stages of the business growth life-cycle”**

- The City for Investment Service pilot has just completed its first year. To date the service has supported 57 businesses attracting a potential £72 million investment to the city.

3.3 Building on these achievements, the proposed work programme for the next financial year (2019/20) continues to align to the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda. Across this work programme, it is expected that 1,752 Individuals will access support to start a business, 1,619 businesses will be supported through business growth initiatives and 110 targeted through the City Investment Service. This work will also be shaped by the emerging City Deal proposals, including the investment in digital connectivity, infrastructure and innovation. Likewise, there will continue to be a significant focus on activities as part of the City Revitalisation programme with a view to ensuring the future stability of the city centre in the aftermath of the Primark fire in August 2018. A detailed overview of the proposed projects and financial implications is attached and a number of key areas of work are detailed below. This work is informed by economic research identifying business challenges and barriers to growth; key growth sectors (digital; technology; tourism and hospitality); opportunities for investment and impact of technology on the world of work. The programme is focused on three main areas, namely:

- Starting a Business
- Growing a Business
- Investing in Belfast.

Starting a Business

- 3.4
- Enterprise Framework in Action: With the Enterprise Framework now in place, we are tasked with working in partnership with stakeholders across the city to put in place an Action Plan to 2021 and also looking at the longer-term ambitions to increase the number of new business starts and to make existing businesses more productive and competitive. A number of priority projects will be delivered in the coming year, including the development of a shared brand, communication strategy and potential Management Information System (MIS) to create a more joined-up provision for participating businesses, new interventions to support businesses that have the potential to scale and financial incentives for those moving from unemployment to start a new business (in partnership with Department for Communities)
 - Improving the business start-up offer: The Northern Ireland Business Start-up Programme (NIBSUP) has a limited budget and therefore the ability of the delivery partner to

offer any dedicated follow-on support is restricted. The Council has been able to attract additional ERDF support to supplement the existing offer, including some limited financial incentives for qualifying businesses. Officers are also looking at how the Council can use its assets and resources to support new businesses, for example setting aside a limited number of stalls at St George's Market for test trading of new products and services.

Growing a Business

- 3.5
- **Support to Grow and Scale:** One of the key challenges identified through the enterprise framework is the need to encourage more businesses to grow and scale to turnover of more than £3million. We are currently developing support for those businesses in partnership with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI to build on the work that has been undertaken through Mass Challenge Belfast and the Way to Scale Initiative – both of which were previously supported by this Committee. Other resources such as the Innovation Factory will provide critical “feeders” to these initiatives. Investment in activities of this type are critical to improving city competitiveness and productivity
 - **Digital Transformation support:** many small businesses are unable to understand how new digital technologies can help them transform their business and generate new business opportunities. We have secured ERDF resources to support a series of targeted interventions which will help businesses generate more online business, enhance their business processes and improve their customer engagement and experience by introducing new digital technologies
 - **Procurement support:** we have been working closely with Corporate Procurement Services and with other public sector commissioners to look at how we can help local businesses to enter the supply chain for works and services. Achieving the balance of competitiveness, efficiency and access for small businesses is an ongoing challenge for all public sector organisations. We are also exploring how we can help major development schemes to fulfil their social clause criteria around supply chain engagement (as well as employability and skills support). There are also significant opportunities through private developments: one of the most significant infrastructure schemes in the coming decade will be the Heathrow expansion: we are currently bidding to host a logistics hub on North Foreshore and one of the drivers for this has been the potential to encourage the local supply chain to access opportunities arising from this £15billion investment scheme.

Investing in Belfast

- 3.6 The two-year pilot City for Investment service proactively works with investors, both indigenous and FDI, providing professional and personal connections to help businesses be successful in Belfast. In addition to the continuation of the City for Investment Service, further development will be undertaken to position Belfast in key markets (including London and Dublin) as an investment location of choice for businesses in key growth sectors. Working in partnership with the City Regeneration and the International unit this will provide support for indigenous businesses in key sectors to develop their international partnerships to expand the business as well as profiling Belfast as a dynamic investment location. There will also be close collaboration with the work of the International Relations team, linking the Sister Cities activity and maximising the trade and FDI linkages from our collaboration with partners in those cities. Additional detail on this activity is set out in the International Relations report.

City Centre Development

- 3.7 The city centre support activity will focus on contribution to the City Revitalisation programme, following the Bank Buildings fire. Priority activities will include trader engagement and support, physical improvements and city animation.

Approach to supporting Conferences and Events

- 3.8 The Economic Development Unit has seen an increase in requests for contributions of financial support towards events and conferences to support activity that is – to a greater or lesser extent - associated with the unit's priorities, as set out above. While these events can often act as a useful promotional vehicle for Council interventions and can help secure referrals to programme activity, many of these requests tend to be last-minute requests for relatively small amounts of money and provide little measurable return.
- 3.9 In order to assess the impact of the requests, officers have developed a process to measure and score these requests based on their alignment to the Growing the Economy pillar of the Belfast Agenda, the contribution to the work of the economic development unit as set out in this report and the potential to profile the Council activities and generate interest and demand for the services. The total budget to support contributions to events and conferences in this financial year is £70,000 and it is proposed that each application for support will be capped at a maximum of £10,000. Objectives and

outputs will be agreed through a funding agreement with the event organisers.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.10 The recommended budget allocations based on contractual commitments and pending funding applications are summarised below:

Starting a Business	£688,785
Growing a Business	£395,290
Investing in Belfast	£60,000
City Centre Development	£98,000
Contribution to events and conferences	£70,000
Evaluation of Impact	£30,000

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.11 Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure consideration is given to equality and good relation impacts throughout the delivery of each project.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Working and Learning – Programme of Work 2019/20

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a programme of work to be delivered in the 2019/20 financial year under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda.
- 1.2 The proposed work programme supports the inclusive growth ambitions of the Council by addressing barriers to progression, focusing on educational underachievement and supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. approve the 2019/20 Work Plan and associated budget of £1,280,491 to support the delivery of the Working and

Learning strands of the Belfast Agenda, as summarised in section 3.5; and

- ii. note the ongoing development work being undertaken with key partners through governance structures including; the Belfast Agenda Working and Learning Board, BRCD Employability and Skills Steering Group and Employability NI Programme Board.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will be aware that, at the Committee meeting on 11th April 2018, approval was given for a series of activities under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda. At that meeting, members agreed a number of guiding principles of the Council's investment in this area of work including:

- **Employment-led:** focusing upon identified employment opportunities and gaps in provision;
- **Needs-led:** in order to deliver against the principles of Inclusive Growth, targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or underrepresented groups while being accessible and open to all;
- **Ambitious:** to increase visibility and awareness of Council's role within the environment and strategically build our position in this area;
- **Intelligence-led and evidence based:** ensuring that our investment in based on a sound rationale;
- **Adding value:** ensuring we do not duplicate existing provision;
- **Flexible:** allowing for interventions to be developed around emerging market needs/opportunities; and
- **Scalable:** delivered seamlessly across the City, in line with need and opportunity – trying out new solutions on a pilot basis and increasing their coverage if they have a positive impact.

3.2 Whilst work is ongoing to deliver the 2018/19 work plan, key achievements on track to be achieved include:

- **Over 2,750 participant engaged in employability programmes, with more than 800 expected to progress into employment this year**
- **Over 3,500 young people supported through youth initiatives**
- **Almost 7,500 participants engaged through career events and job fairs.**

3.3 Some of the key activities undertaken include:

- **Employment Academies:** we have extended this employer-led initiative to include new sectors providing a broader spectrum of employment opportunities to local

residents. Across the 18/19 financial year around 500 residents have or will participate in academies, and it is expected at least 350 will progress into employment. Sectors currently engaged through these academies include hospitality and tourism, transportation, childcare, health and social care and construction. Although these academies are principally focused on helping the unemployed into employment, officers have also been exploring how we can support upskilling into higher-level employment opportunities. As an example of this work, we have developed and delivered upskilling academies in the childcare sector. Through these interventions, over 30 Belfast residents will have secured employment in career progression roles whilst simultaneously completing a level 3-5 accredited qualification this year. This type of intervention is essential in order to address the challenge of low skills levels, particularly in some part of the city.

- **Youth Initiatives**: a key focus of the Belfast Agenda is to tackle educational inequalities and to provide coherent pathways of support to enable young people to positively progress. To support these ambitions, a range of activity has been undertaken to support young people to make informed career choices, support digital skills development, access work experience opportunities and support those at most risk of not achieving and/or being NEET (Not in Education, Employment and/or Training). Across these interventions over 3500 young people have been supported across the current financial year.
- **European Social Fund (ESF)**: as part of the Council's efforts to support the long-term unemployed and economically inactive to enter the labour market, match funding was awarded to five European Social Fund (ESF) projects. Since 1 April 2018, 2442 participants have been engaged with 985 accredited qualifications achieved and 656 entering employment.

3.4 In addition to the delivery of these priority interventions, officers have also been working on a wider programme of engagement with public and private partners to develop new collaborative approaches to city skills and employability challenges. This includes engagement through relevant governance and partnerships (Belfast Agenda Working and Learning Board; Belfast City Region Deal Employability and Skills Group) as well as focusing on potential project ideas such as bringing forward proposals for a City Youth Pledge and exploring opportunities to deliver on the Belfast Agenda commitments to support inclusive growth.

3.5 The proposed work programme for the next financial year (19/20) continues to align to Working and Learning pillar of the

Belfast Agenda and to support the inclusive growth ambitions by targeting barriers to progression, addressing educational underachievement and supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities. It will also inform and shape the development work on the Belfast Region City Deal approach on employability and skills, which will be a focal point for activity in the coming year. Across this work programme, over 3000 Belfast residents will be supported through a range of targeted employability and skills interventions with nearly 1,000 progressing into employment. Over 1700 young people will be engaged through targeted youth activities, with 495 receiving intensive support to address educational underachievement and/or support them into positive outcomes (employment, education and/or training). A summary of the proposed projects and financial implications is contained within the attached appendix. Key areas of work are outlined below:

- **Access to employment:** We will continue to support Belfast residents to enter the labour market and to progress and advance in employment. The principal instrument for delivery of this commitment is through the successful Employment Academies approach. In the coming year, these will focus on both entry-level positions and upskilling employment opportunities. Pilots will also be undertaken specifically aimed at supporting young people (aged 16+) to access part-time employment opportunities in key sectors. Taking an employer-led approach, we will continue to support key sectors including; tourism, hospitality and leisure, health and social care, construction and transport industries. In this year, we will also expand the programme into other key growth sectors including the financial services and creative and digital industries. New delivery models, incorporating employer incentives will be trialled. We will work in partnership with the Department for the Economy and Department for Communities to deliver joint academy models when appropriate, in order to maximise the scale and impact of Council investment.

To support those furthest from the labour market, we will continue our support for the five ESF projects ((LEMIS+ consortium, Workforce Learning, USEL, Specialisterne and Springboard) year two delivery. Funding levels allocated to each of the five supported projects will be maintained into year two delivery with a total funding of £315,518 (£240,000 Belfast City Council and £75,518 Urban Villages funding).

- **Focus on Young People:** One of the commitments as part of the Belfast Agenda included the development of a City Youth Pledge. The ambition was to create a coherent

progression pathway for young people to enable them to progress into employment, further education and training. To inform the development of the Youth Pledge and wider youth provision, officers have undertaken a range of research pieces and the headline outcomes were presented at the September 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. Engagement with key stakeholders including government departments, City Youth Forum etc. has identified the need for long-term investment with a partnership approach, incorporating private sector employers. Key initiatives for the coming financial year will include a dedicated programme of support targeting young people (14-24 year olds) at risk of becoming NEET and further development work on the City Youth Pledge through the Working & Learning Board to secure partner and employer commitment to its establishment and delivery.

One of the key issues identified in the Belfast Skills Barometer was the low levels of educational attainment, particularly in some parts of the city. In order to address this problem, officers have engaged with partners across the city and are proposing the extension of an initiative that currently operates in east and west Belfast and that has been shown to have some considerable success. The “Easter School” and intensive revision support programmes will provide additional support for young people to help them achieve Grades A-C in key subjects – particularly English and Maths.

- **Strategic Engagement:** Working in partnership with government departments we will continue to develop joint areas of working to facilitate better alignment between regional employment and skills programme and the needs of the Belfast labour market. This will include the development of new “test and learn” pilots with the Department for Communities. At present, details of potential pilots are being finalised but they are likely to include targeted initiatives to help the unemployed/economically inactive to start a business, as well as developing new ways of working to enhance employer engagement. These projects will involve Belfast-specific activities as well as initiatives that cover the Belfast City Region area, as part of the City Deal work.

- **Inclusive Growth:** we will continue to focus on maximising the economic and social impact of the Council’s spending and investment in the local area by re-focusing our work on social clauses. We will also look at other mechanisms such as developer contributions and development briefs to secure employability and skills benefits for the city and, in

particular, those neighbourhoods where the skills challenges are most significant.

- **Citizen Basic Income Scheme:** Officers will continue to investigate the feasibility of a citizen basic income scheme, in response to the notice of motion brought to the Council in October 2017. This will include reviewing the outcomes of an existing feasibility studies and development of pilot models being undertaken by the Scottish Government and a similar pilot recently concluded in Finland.

3.6 Finance and Resource Implications

The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2019/20 budget for the Employability and Skills section of Economic Development Department budget. Detailed budget breakdowns are included in the appendix to this report.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. New projects or service areas are equality screened and a rural needs assessment completed. Considerations given to equality and good relation impacts at the initial stages of project development. Officers will work closely with the Equality and Good Relations Team on this activity.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Update on International Relations and Forward Work Plan

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 this report is to:

- update the Committee on the delivery of the International Relations Framework focusing on activity over the 6 months since October; 2018 and
- seek approval for the delivery of the 2019/2020 Action Plan and associated budgets.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. **note the range of activity and associated outputs of International Relations actions over the course of the second half of this financial year; and**
- ii. **agree the International Relations Action Plan outlining activity commitments for 2019/2020, as set out in sections 3.8 – 3.24.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016 - 2021.

3.2 The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage as a place to invest, work, visit and study. The Framework is delivering primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through our Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with the City of London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.

3.3 Members will be aware that, at the Committee meeting on 10th October, an update report on International Relations activity for the previous six months was presented and the outline plans for the coming period were set out for endorsement. This report provides an update on the activities and associated outcomes over the six-month period from October 2018 to March 2019, and outlines an Action Plan for international activity and associated costs for 2019/2020. A number of the activities are still under development and further updates or requests for approval may be brought back to the Committee for information and endorsement in the course of the year.

3.4 The International Relations activity set out in this report focuses principally on our established relationships with our Sister Cities and partner cities. The Council is also involved in a range of additional engagement activity in international markets. These include:

- Support for Visit Belfast to promote the city as a vibrant tourism destination for both leisure and business tourists. The Council investment in additional conference and exhibition space at Belfast ICC has meant that the venue is now able to attract additional national and international conferences and events – thereby increasing visitor numbers from new markets**
- Promoting the city for international real estate investment: a Council-led delegation will take part in the annual European property investment showcase in Cannes in March 2019 – MIPIM. The public-private**

partnership will promote the city as an investment location, focusing on attracting both investors and end-users in the key FDI sectors as well as hospitality and international education and training opportunities

- Supporting local companies to export and develop an international presence: Members will be aware of the city's presence at the annual music, digital and convergence event in Austin, Texas – SXSW. We have also supported local businesses to develop international partnerships and benefit from international expertise. This includes our partnership with Invest NI and Catalyst Inc. on the Way to Scale programme which targets local businesses with the potential to scale and attract investment.

3.5 This range of activity is delivered in collaboration with the council's private and public stakeholders represented on the various stakeholder groups set up to support international framework delivery. This includes key agencies such as Invest NI, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Consulates and the NI Executive Office. The attached appendix outlines some of the key activities and outputs for the last six months. By their nature, these activities often take some time to deliver on outcomes so it can be difficult to track the impact of the Council's investment over a short period. However, through our partnerships and stakeholder arrangements, we have taken a collective approach to developing linkages and activities in our priority areas of focus and have a shared investment in activities. In the coming year we will improve how we demonstrate outcomes on business tourism and education.

3.6 With regard to the key activities for 2019/2020, it is proposed that these will be driven by a number of the priority outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda. Activities will be assessed in order to consider how they can deliver on these outcomes before making investment decisions. The key outcomes will contribute to the 'Growing the Economy' theme of the Belfast Agenda. The Council's national and international relationships are also an important foundation for the developing City Deal. Outcomes will focus on:

- Building the City's position as a magnet for FDI
- Maximising the City's connections worldwide to drive growth
- Positioning the City internationally as a key tourism, education and business destination. Helping local companies to internationalise their business and increase business connections and exports.

3.7 While many of the activities are still under development, it is proposed that the 2019/2020 Action Plan will focus on the

following priority areas in order to maximise the return on investment, given the limited resources available:

Shenyang

3.8 Civic/Political

- Support for an inaugural “China in Belfast” Programme”: this programme is still under development but is likely to involve re-packaging many existing and planned partner activities to highlight the depth of the linkages with China across many partner organisations in the city. Details of potential civic and business inward visits are currently being finalised and will be presented to Members as more information becomes available. The Belfast City Council associated budget for supporting activity associated with the “China in Belfast” programme will not exceed £20,000
- Ongoing support to the Chinese Consulate team and the new Consul General to support relevant civic visits
- Support for the 2020 Chinese New Year in Belfast at a cost not to exceed £10,000
- Participation in the 5th China-UK Regional Leaders Summit to be held in Scotland in 2019. Further detail and costings to follow.

3.9 Business

- Development work underway with The Executive Office, Invest NI and NI Councils engaged in China, to explore the feasibility of a business mission to China in Autumn 2019. This activity will build on official linkages made by the five other NI Councils during the third China UK Regional Leaders Summit held in Dalian in October 2018. It allows Belfast City Council to focus in on the economic, business and investment pillar of the International Relations Framework and work with the City of Shenyang, its economic Stakeholders and Free Trade Zone. It is anticipated that each Council would identify a number of companies at the appropriate state of readiness to do business in China. The costs associated with this event will not exceed £25,000.

3.10 Tourism

- Ongoing support to Visit Belfast in their follow up to the 2018 joint Tourism Showcase in Shenyang. Visit Belfast is preparing for two inward familiarisation visits from the Shenyang and greater China tourism industry. Work is already underway to develop bespoke tourism products with industry partners to encourage them to become China Ready and exploit the opportunity of the two new direct flights from Dublin

- Ongoing support to the new NI China Tourism Cluster to significantly develop a Northern Ireland Strategy and Action Plan for engaging in China, increasing both leisure and business visitors.

3.11 Education/Culture

- Hosting an education mission from Shenyang in May 2019, in partnership with the Department of Education, The Executive Office and other relevant stakeholders
- Ongoing support to both Universities, Belfast Metropolitan College and the educational sector overall in developing their teaching, research and foreign student market with partner Institutions in China.

Boston

3.12 Business

- Belfast will host two Business Missions from the Boston area in 2019. From 29-30 April 2019, 25 companies will travel with the British American Business Council of New England. This mission is being promoted by Mayor Walsh's Economic Development team and the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and will involve a targeted business to business programme in partnership with Invest NI. From 4-8 December 2019, the Boston Irish Business Association will travel to Belfast with up to 20 companies to attend the annual International Homecoming Conference and undertake a programme of business to business meetings
- Exploratory work is currently under way to scope out a potential Belfast visit to Boston in the course of 2019. There are a number of areas of interest for this visit including engagement with Mayor Walsh and his relevant officials, exploring potential cooperation on Resilient Cities and City Recovery work, support for some of the sports-based events and partnerships (including Friendship Four) and a tourism showcase event in conjunction with Tourism Ireland. Details of this planned activity will be brought back to the committee at a future date for endorsement. Costs of any visit will not exceed £10,000
- Belfast City Council has been asked to support the 7th Annual International Homecoming Business and Investment Conference at a cost of £10,000. It is proposed by the organising Committee (attended by BCC Senior Officers and Councillors) that the theme of the 2019 Conference is focused on the Belfast Agenda, promoting achievements to date but setting challenges to the International visiting experts on proposing solutions to some of the cities work areas e.g. regeneration, corporate

social responsibility, resilience, business growth post Brexit etc.

3.13 Education/Culture

- Plans are at an advanced stage of development to connect Belfast's two teacher training colleges to schools in Boston focusing on the methodology of teaching of STEM subjects
- Plans are now in place to hold the first Belfast/Boston Hackathon on 6 April 2019 which will enable young people in both cities to address the challenge of city regeneration and neighbourhood revitalisation.

Nashville

3.14 Business

- Plans are at an early stage of development to identify opportunities along with Invest NI and Catalyst Inc to lead a small business mission to Nashville in 2019. Members will recall the May 2018 inward mission from Nashville and the very positive feedback from the companies and Venture Capitalist delegates. A further report will be presented to Members with regard to this in the near future. Members are asked to agree in principle to a working budget of £15,000 for this mission, subject to detail being brought back for approval.

3.15 Education/Culture

- Planning work is at an advanced stage to coordinate a second Nashville in Belfast Programme from 12-16 June 2019 in partnership with key stakeholders. This year's programme will build on the previous year's event. Council support of £20,000 is requested to support the communications and marketing campaign and the hosting of the Nashville delegation who will be in the city at the same time
- Cinemagic undertook an exploratory visit to Nashville in December 2019, making key contacts, and will return in March 2019 to work with disadvantaged Nashville youth, to write and produce a music video (keeping in theme of Music City). This will ultimately be linked to a three-way project with Nashville, Boston and Belfast around film making skills, development and employability of young people in all three Sister Cities.

3.16 Support for Eurocities Network

Members will be aware that Belfast has been a member of the Eurocities network for some time. Eurocities is a network of

more than 140 major European cities, made up of the elected local and municipal governments of major European cities. Eurocities is structured through a range of working groups on issues such as Culture, Social Affairs, Knowledge Society and Environment. Belfast has participated in a number of the working groups and has developed collaborative projects with other cities facing similar urban challenges. The city has also shared learning on a range of topics and has availed of the network to engage with the key EU institutions in order to influence policy. In order to maintain access to these networks and to ensure that Belfast retains the insight and high-level contacts in Brussels and other cities, particularly in a post-Brexit context, it is proposed that Belfast City Council renews its annual subscription to Eurocities at a cost of €16,700.

3.17 Other International Engagement Activities

- Belfast City Council has received a sponsorship request for a contribution of £5,000 towards the annual New York New Belfast Conference in June 2019. Members will recall that this event showcases the new Belfast to the US-based audience and is a useful channel for promoting our key business, investment and cultural messaging. If endorsed by members, officers will work with the organising team to influence the agenda in line with city and council priorities. If the Committee agrees to financial support, it is also requested that the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the Director of Economic Development, or nominees, attend and participate in the conference
- Belfast City Council will be requested to provide input into a number of potential inward missions on 2019. The level of engagement will be assessed by officers, and will be commensurate with the potential return for the city. Early indications include interest from both Seattle and Philadelphia. Any costs arising from these visits will be met within existing unit budgets.

3.18 Financial and Resource Implications

It is proposed that Members approve and agree financial support for the range of activities and events set out in sections above. These allocations have been included in the budget estimates for 2019/2020.

3.19 Shenyang/China

- Support for an inaugural China in Belfast programme 2019/20 at a maximum cost of £20,000
- Support for 2020 Chinese New Year event in Belfast at a maximum of £10,000

- Support the development work and delivery of a pilot China Business Mission in partnership with other relevant players. The cost of this will not exceed £25,000.

3.20 Boston

- Support the development and delivery of a civic and business mission to Boston in 2019 (date tbc). Details are currently being developed and will be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for endorsement. The cost of this will not exceed £10,000.

3.21 Nashville

- Support the promotion and marketing of the second Nashville in Belfast week and host a Nashville delegation at a maximum cost of £20,000
- Support an outward business focused mission to Nashville in 2019 at a maximum cost of £15,000 (subject to agreement with partners)

3.22 New York/New Belfast

- Agree to sponsor the June 2019 NYNB Annual Conference to a value of £5,000 and agree attendance of the Chair of City Growth and Regeneration Committee and Director of Economic Development or nominees at a maximum cost of £2,500.

3.23 International Homecoming Conference

- Agree to sponsor the 2019 Homecoming Conference at a maximum cost of £10,000.

3.24 Eurocities

- Agree to renew the council's annual newsletter of the Eurocities Network at a cost of €16,700.

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

No specific equality or good relations implications. The International Relations Framework has been equality screened. No rural need impacts.”

After discussion, during which the staff of the European and International Relations Unit were commended for their ongoing work in promoting the City internationally, the Committee adopted the recommendations. It was noted that officers would examine ways of enhancing the process for informing Members of delegations and events taking place as part of the Council's International Relations activity.

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 6th March, 2019**

Application for a Markets Licence – HMS Caroline

The Committee was informed that the HMS Caroline Preservation Company had submitted an application for a Markets Licence to enable it to hold a Maritime Festival Makers Market in the HMS Caroline car park, Alexandra Wharf, Queen’s Road.

The Director of Development explained that the market, which would be held from 24th till 26th May, as part of the Belfast Maritime Festival, would increase footfall around the Titanic Quarter and would complement the wider festival and programme of animation being delivered currently in the City. It was anticipated that there would be between thirty and forty stalls at the event and the organisers would, in advance, be required to submit the relevant documentation and details of its operational plan. Those would be assessed by Council officers, who would also undertake inspections over the duration of the market.

The Committee agreed to grant the Markets Licence.

**Update on Department for Communities’
Access and Inclusion Capital Programme**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 9th January, it had been informed that the Department for Communities had invited councils across Northern Ireland to administer its Access and Inclusion Capital Programme, which sought to improve access to arts and cultural activities by people with disabilities. £750,000 had been allocated in total to the programme and applicants could, on the basis of demonstrable need and potential impact, secure funding of up to £30,000.

The Director of Development reported that the Committee had approved the Council’s participation in the programme and confirmed that twenty-two applications had been received by the deadline date of 18th January. Eligible projects had been ranked by a panel of Council officers against an agreed set of criteria, with the following applicants being awarded funding from the programme to complete their projects by 31st March, 2019:

	Organisation	Amount Awarded	Project Details
1.	Accidental Theatre	£29,999	Disabled lift repair and upgrade
2.	Belfast City Council	£2,300	Visitor exhibition hearing portable loop system
3.	Belfast City Council	£17,100	Chair lift at City Hall rear access door
4.	Belfast Photo Festival	£27,081	Disability Exhibition facility
5.	Black Box	£26,785	Access and Inclusion project
6.	Crescent Arts Centre	£24,977	Disability Access and Inclusion project
7.	Exchange Place Resources	£29,500	Making Accessible Exchange Place
8.	McCracken Cultural Society	£24,800	Disability door access and toilet upgrade
9.	Ormeau Table Tennis Club	£8,117	Accessible table tennis facilities

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 6th March, 2019**

10.	Quotidian Word on the Street	£6,000	Disability accessible poetry jukebox
11.	Spectrum Centre	£24,864	Spectrum Inclusion lift upgrade
12.	Strand Arts Centre	£21,385	Mobile Screening project
13.	Strand Arts Centre	£16,012	Audio Visual Accessibility Programme
14.	Theatre NI	£20,022	Captioning Support Programme
15.	University of Atypical	£11,220	Access to Art project
16.	Ulster Orchestra	£10,912	Access and inclusion programme
		£301,074	

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2018/19

The Committee considered a report which set out the financial position of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for the third quarter of 2018/2019. The report confirmed that there had, during that period, been an underspend of £172,000, with a year-end underspend of £55,000 being forecast. The underspend could be attributed primarily to staffing costs resulting from vacant posts across a number of services and to reduced expenditure on programme costs and premises costs.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Strategic and Operational

Request for Special Meeting

The Committee agreed that a special meeting be held at 5.15 p.m. on Monday, 8th April, to receive an update on the strategic study for the Cave Hill Country Park and on the development proposals for the North Foreshore.

Chairperson

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 27th March, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair);
Aldermen Kingston and McGimpsey; and
Councillors Beattie, Black, Dorrian, Dudgeon,
Hussey, Kyle, Magee, Murphy, 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. E. Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Haire and Councillors McAllister, Mullan and O'Donnell.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a draft of the Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 and seek approval to begin a formal twelve-week public consultation.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the draft strategy and agree to commence a twelve-week public consultation.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

Members will be aware that, in December 2018, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that officers proceed with the development of a new ten-year cultural strategy for the city.

3.2 The timing of this work was in response to a number of important developments and milestones including:

- end of participation in the European Capital of Culture bidding process.
- initial recommendations from a draft Festival and Events strategy.
- current Cultural Framework due to end in March 2020.
- current Tourism Strategy due to end in March 2020.
- core multi-annual funding programme for arts and heritage organisations in the city due to end in March 2020.
- tourism as a key strand in the Belfast Region City Deal including proposals for a new visitor attraction, the Destination Hub.

3.3 It was agreed that the strategy would build on the extensive public engagement carried out during the bid to become European Capital of Culture. Furthermore it would present an integrated approach to long-term cultural development in the city including:

- a citizen focussed approach
- consideration of the long-term sustainability of the cultural sector
- a new approach to Events and Festivals
- strengthening the tourism proposition in the city through greater understanding of the city's cultural narrative and international appeal and
- integration of planned major developments such as the Destination Hub into citywide tourism.

Key Issues

The Context

3.4 The global context for this strategy is the increasing recognition that cities of culture can drive transformation. Culture has a critical role in shaping great places through:

- increasing cohesion and permeability
- building identity and confidence
- attracting investment
- retaining talent and attracting talent back

3.5 The Belfast Agenda sets out a vision for 2035 that imagines a culturally vibrant city. The purpose of the cultural strategy is to present a series of priorities that have the potential to contribute significantly to all five outcomes of the Belfast Agenda:

- everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
- Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all
- everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential
- everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing
- Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city

3.6 As well as supporting the Belfast Agenda, the strategy also responds to and helps to define the role of culture across other priority areas, including:

- Local Development Plan
- City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy
- Good Relations Strategy
- Open Spaces Strategy

3.7 This work has also taken into consideration Council's involvement in 100 Resilient Cities. In addition, the strategy has considered the wider context including ongoing public funding cuts and the need for a long-term approach to support the sustainability and resilience of the cultural sector whilst setting ambitious growth targets. Belfast City Council will also be making a submission to the public consultation on the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's draft 5 year Framework to reflect the ambitions set out in this draft strategy.

The Process

3.8 The approach to developing this strategy has strongly focussed on engagement with citizens and with city partners. This has included:

- Holding 62 civic conversations
- Engaging with 5361 citizens
- Supporting 625 creators
- Working with 106 artists
- Across 85 places
- Through 137 events

3.9 The approach has been shaped by two external bodies of work. The first is Agenda 21 for Culture – an international methodology that supports cultural development in cities and regions. The focus of Culture 21 is to embed culture as the fourth dimension of sustainable cities alongside existing economic, social and ecological pillars. Belfast's participation

in the Culture 21 pilot cities programme has already been approved and this programme will support the implementation of this strategy.

- 3.10 The second set of recommendations that have helped inform this strategy is the recently published Cultural Enquiry by the Core Cities network of which Belfast is a partner member. This enquiry presents a number of practical recommendations on investment and governance of culture in cities. This presents an opportunity for a collaborative model to be taken forward that complements the community planning process and sets shared priorities for culture along with a more effective approach to investment to maximise the overall return. This involves working closely to leverage new sources of finance including public-private models.

The Strategy

- 3.11 The strategy, *A City Imagining*, opens with a cultural statement for the city shaped by the thousands of conversations that have taken place since 2017 as part of the ongoing public engagement programme. This is then taken forward through an overall cross-cutting thematic approach to the strategy with each theme having a particular area of focus as follows.

- 3.12 Theme 1: A City Belonging – focuses on supporting active citizenship and participation in cultural life.

Theme 2: A City Challenging – focuses on diversity through use of public and cultural spaces.

Theme 3: A City Creating – focuses on supporting innovation and creativity across the cultural sectors.

Theme 4: A City Exploring – focuses on Belfast's relationship to the rest of the world both inward and outward including support for cultural tourism.

- 3.13 Four strategic priorities are set out for each theme. The result is a strategic framework consisting of 16 key priorities to be delivered by 2030. Each of these priorities will be further developed in the next phase of the programme through detailed implementation plans.

- 3.14 The document also sets out a number of key strategic milestones throughout the ten-year period. These include:

- launching a new approach to events and festivals in the city
- producing an international year of culture in 2023

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- bidding for UNESCO City of Music in 2021
- delivering a new visitor attraction in the city centre and local neighbourhood tourism programme to open in 2024

3.15 These specific initiatives are considered to be central to delivering on the city’s overall targets for the period and to attract new forms of investment into the city with significant cultural, social and economic impacts.

3.16 Critically, the Strategy considers the governance and investment model required to deliver this type of long-term transformation clearly positioning Belfast as a regional driver.

3.17 The purpose of the strategy document is to present the overall approach and commitments over a ten year period. The next phase of work will give detailed consideration to how this will be delivered in line with the timeframe detailed below. This will include the development of initial three year implementation plans that as well as being cross-cutting will specifically address:

- Arts and Heritage
- Events and Festivals
- Tourism product development including neighbourhood tourism
- Major strategic initiatives

3.18 These will be supported by a proposed investment model, communications strategy and evaluation framework.

3.19 Next Steps

The proposed timeline is as follows:

April – July 2019	Public Consultation on Strategy document
April – August 2019	Development of implementation plans and new funding model
September 2019	Committee approval for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final strategy - Draft funding model - Draft implementation plans
October 2019	Opening of new competitive funding programmes
Oct 2019 – Jan 2020	Public consultation on implementation plans
March 2020	Approval of funding recommendations and final implementation plans and finance strategy.
April 2020	Funding contracts

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.20** There are currently no immediate financial implications to this report. The final strategy will be supported by implementation plans and a detailed finance and resource plan will be presented to Committee in September 2019, as part of the next phase of work.

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

- 3.2** Equality and good relations have been central to the development of the Cultural Strategy to date and will continue to be considered as the investment model and implementation programmes are developed.
- 3.22** Input has been sought from the Council's Equality and Diversity Officers to inform the strategic level assessment in terms of equality, good relations and rural needs. With a vision of cultural inclusivity and diversity in the Strategy and through the significant programme of engagement, the Cultural Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of promoting equality and good relations in the city. There may be opportunities to increase levels of participation and engagement in cultural life in the city for certain groups such as older people, disabled people and those from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- 3.23** In line with the guidance from the Equality Commission and the commitment to engagement that has informed the Cultural Strategy; the strategic level equality impact assessment report will be subject to a 12 week public consultation period. This will accompany the formal consultation on the draft Cultural Strategy. The equality impact assessment will be updated as a result of this feedback. The information will be used to inform the final Cultural Strategy and the development of the investment model and implementation programmes.”

The Cultural Regeneration Manager provided a detailed overview of the draft Cultural Strategy, following which the Committee agreed to seek the views of those representatives of the cultural sector who were in attendance.

Accordingly, Ms. P. Larkin, Arts Development Officer, University of Atypical, and Mr. C. Mitchell, a local musical entrepreneur, were nominated to speak on behalf of that sector.

Ms. Larkin explained that the University of Atypical was a disabled-led arts organisation based in the City and welcomed the fact that its views had been sought during the initial engagement process. She commended the Council on the production of the draft Strategy and stated that it would add to the overall cultural vibrancy of the City.

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Mr. Mitchell informed the Members that he specialised in writing music for theatrical presentations and had returned to Belfast ten years ago, having worked in other cities. He highlighted the fact that, whilst the quality of facilities and artists in Belfast were, in his view unsurpassed, there were difficulties, particularly in terms of connectivity and acquiring funding. He referred to the significant benefits which a well-defined cultural strategy had delivered, for example, for the city of Hull, following its designation as UK Capital of Culture 2018, and welcomed the fact that the Council's draft Strategy would address the current gaps in cultural provision in Belfast.

After discussion, during which the Members raised a number of points which the Cultural Regeneration Manager confirmed would be fed into the consultation process, the Committee approved the draft strategy and agreed to commence a twelve-week public consultation process.

Pilot Public Art Project

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that, at the Committee meeting on 12th September, 2018, it was agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining options for Belfast to take forward a public art project involving utility boxes similar to the Dublin Canvas project.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out a proposal for a pilot project including details of approach and required budget.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- i. note the contents of this report and agree to progress a pilot project in the city centre and agree budget allocation; and**
- ii. agree to receive a future update and consider options for extending the project to include Belfast Rapid Transport route.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

An initial request had been made for officers to investigate the potential for Belfast to deliver a public art project involving painting the utility boxes along the current BRT route. In parallel Council had also been in discussion about a similar project in the city centre working with the Destination CQ and

Belfast One Business Improvement Districts. The BIDs had also had preliminary discussions with the utility providers.

- 3.2 Following assessment of various options and evaluation of schemes elsewhere it is proposed that the project is piloted in two phases:

Phase 1: City Centre – retail core

Phase 2: Existing Belfast Rapid Transport route

- 3.3 The rationale for this is threefold:

- the first phase of the pilot should focus on a smaller concentrated area in line with how other cities have successfully delivered similar projects
- the secured support of the BIDs as project partners
- alignment to ongoing City Centre Revitalisation programme

- 3.4 The aims of the project would be to:

- create opportunities to animate the city
- improve the look and feel of locations
- celebrate Belfast's street art culture
- decrease incidences of graffiti/tagging, fly posting, and other anti-social behaviours associated with utility boxes
- engage citizens in a creative programme, encouraging a sense of ownership over the city centre and their local area and
- provide professional development opportunities for emerging/student artists.

Key Issues

- 3.5 Initial contact has been made with utility providers, BT, Virgin Media, and the Department for Infrastructure. BT and Virgin Media are supportive of the project, and permission has been given in principle to progress. The Department for Infrastructure are yet to grant their permission. However, there are sufficient private utility boxes in the main retail core of the city centre to deliver an effective project. It is hoped that a Council led and curated approach to the project would in turn convince DfI to consider involvement in a phase 2.

- 3.6 During April, May, and June, Belfast City Council will be in the Public Consultation phase of the new Cultural Strategy for 2020 – 2030. It is hoped that this project could fit within the Public Consultation process, as a creative element of public engagement, in a similar format to the pre-consultation (*Y*)*Our Home* civic engagement projects. With this in mind, artists,

students, and community organisations involved in the restyling of utility boxes will be asked to respond creatively to the theme of *A City Imagining*. This concept provides an interesting stimulus with scope for a multitude of creative responses, while also giving the project a sense of coherency across sites.

3.7 *Considerations*

- full permission must be secured from the owners of the utility boxes.
 - At present BT and Virgin Media are on board, with the Department for Infrastructure still to confirm.
- based on research from 2008, the preferred medium is paint, rather than vinyl application. Designs installed on vinyl tend to peel, and are more difficult to maintain than a painted design.
- particular care must be taken by artists not to block ventilation systems / grates on utility boxes. These areas can be painted over, though must maintain a paint thickness of less than 5.5mm.
- all designs must be approved by BCC or commissioning partner before implementation can take place.
- an initial assessment of sites has been made however a full mapping exercise of all utility boxes in proposed areas will need to be completed.

3.8 *Learning from Belfast City Centre Management and Chamber of Commerce (2007/08)*

This proposed approach also takes into consideration the learning and outcomes of a similar project delivered in Belfast in 2008.

3.9 From October 2007 – May 2008, Belfast City Centre Management and Chamber of Commerce trialled the *Utility Box Initiative Pilot Scheme*. Nine utility boxes on Royal Avenue were decorated using either paint or vinyl application. Learnings from the close of project monitoring report include:

- success in the reduction of fly-posting while boxes were in good condition
- boxes should be continuously reviewed and maintained - damaged or peeling boxes were more likely to attract fly-posting or graffiti.
- boxes should be coated in an anti-graffiti sealant, so graffiti can be easily removed without damaging the design.
- vinyl designs were subject to deliberate tearing, and in general, vinyl was not considered a viable method for decorating utility boxes

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- designs should be free of large areas of blank space, that may attract graffiti

3.10 *Programme Plan*

The proposed approach is focussed around three main strands.

Phase 1: City Centre

- **Strand 1, May 2019: Commissioning artists**
 - Delivered by professional (street) artists
 - Number of locations TBC – between 10 and 15 within BT1 and CQ to achieve impact.
 - Professional work in place to inspire and stimulate civic engagement project
- **Strand 2, May - June 2019: Community engagement**
 - Series of four civic engagement workshops per community group with professional street artists involved in commissioning project.
 - Working collaboratively with 6 community groups
 - Delivered in partnership with Council's Cleansing Services
 - Citizens take Street-art tour of commissioned boxes and Belfast Street art.
 - Use learning and experience to work with artist to create a further series of designs for a city centre utility boxes.
 - Artist implements design based on community input
- **Strand 3, May - June 2019: Student engagement**
 - Artists host professional development sessions for UU final year students – similar to a mini graduate scheme for those completing their degrees.
 - Exploring street art culture in Belfast
 - Guidance on use of medium, working to limitations, working to a brief – artists providing mentoring and support throughout student design process.
 - By end of June, students have the opportunity to design their own box (with BCC approval of concept)

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- 3.11 After this structured approach to delivery, and depending on the level of success and public engagement, there is the potential to launch a fourth strand to the project, in which an open call for submissions is launched to the general public.**
- 3.12 Public submissions would respond to a brief, and should include a conceptual sketch, and would be subject to approval by the Council. This would also provide a good opportunity for a wider campaign.**

Phase 2: BRT route

- 3.13 Following an evaluation of phase 1, a more detailed proposal would be brought back to Committee for phase 2 to be delivered along the BRT route. Based on the effective and high quality delivery of phase 1 in the city centre support from DfI would also be sought. Given that proof of concept would have been established as part of phase 1 this next phase would commence with the community engagement and co-design approach. The timescale for this would be August 2019.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.14 The initial resource required for the delivery of phase one is £13,905 made up of:**

**Artist costs and materials: £4,000
Community engagement and workshops: £6,680
Student engagement: £1,025
Preparation and maintenance: £2,200
A contribution of £8,000 is to be allocated from existing departmental budgets with the remaining contribution to be made by the partners.**

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

- 3.15 Equality and good relations will be taken into consideration in the selection of the community participants.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Standing Order 14

In accordance with Standing Order 14, the Committee agreed, as the meeting had been held later than seven clear days before the meeting of the Council, that the minutes of the meeting be submitted to the Council on 1st April for ratification.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 20th March, 2019

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);
Alderman L. Patterson, and
Councillors Boyle, Clarke, Garrett, Groves, Heading,
Hussey, Magennis, and Nic Biorna.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Mrs. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
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 Copeland and Councillors Hutchinson and McReynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th February 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 March, 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 Variation of the Stationary Street Trading Licence at Castle Place, opposite Donegall Arcade to allow the sale of Bus Tour Tickets

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th September 2018, it agreed to vary the Designating Resolution to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets on condition that any resulting applications to sell bus tour tickets would be considered by the Committee and, if approved, be granted on a one-year trial basis.

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The Building Control Manager informed the Members that Under Section 11 of the Street Trading Act (NI) 2001, the Council may at any time vary the Conditions specified in a Street Trading Licence where an application is made under Section 5 by the Licence holder.

He informed the Committee that Mr. J. Rea had applied to vary his Street Trading Licence for the site in Castle Place opposite Donegall Arcade to include the sale of bus tour tickets.

The Building Control Manager reported that Mr. Rea was licenced to trade Monday to Saturday from 8am to 9pm and on Sunday from 10am to 6pm to sell flowers, plants, arts and crafts, floral accessories, fruit and vegetables. He pointed out that Mr. Rea was a long standing trader and had two other Street Trading Licenses both in Castle Lane.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to grant and approve the variation to the Street Trading Licence on a one-year trial basis.

Non-Delegated Matters

Road Closures – Review of Fees

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

Committee will recall that, at your meeting of 20 November 2018, you considered a report on road closures for special events and the cost to administer the scheme. You agreed that Officers would submit proposals for revised fees for special events to a future meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the fee for each of the 6 application types and decide, for each of those types, whether:

- 1. To continue to charge the current fee; or**
- 2. Set a revised fee for that application type.**

As these decisions are not a delegated function of the Licensing Committee any decision will be subject to ratification by Council.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Committee will recall that, at your meeting in April 2018, you agreed the fees, classification of events and the newspapers that the Statutory Notice is published in for road closures.

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It was agreed that city centre applications are advertised in either the Belfast Telegraph, Daily Mirror (Northern Ireland edition), Irish News or Newsletter (Ulster edition) on a rotational basis. Where a special event extends beyond the city centre to various areas of the city, such as the Belfast Marathon, then the Notice is also placed in one of the four main newspapers.

When the event is outside the city centre, the notice is advertised in a local newspaper circulating in that area. This has proven to be problematic, in that some local newspapers are only published on a fortnightly basis and often applications for local events are received at short notice meaning that the advert has had to be placed in a main newspaper, thus resulting in additional expenditure.

Where it has been possible applications for multiple road closures have been combined into one notice to help reduce advertising costs.

The Council has received 37 applications since April 2018 to close or restrict roads. Below is a summary of the events as per the agreed classification.

- Small event: 2
- Large event (City centre): 14
- Large event (Outside City centre): 9
- Commercial runs including triathlons: 6
- Commercial runs, reduced fee (charity): 1
- Club runs: 5

The following table shows an overview of the total income and expenditure related to processing 37 Road Closure Orders to date.

Fee Income	Notice cost	Officer cost	Expenditure	Deficit
£21,325.00	£23,912.58	£16,490.67	£ 40,403.25	-£19,078.25

Review of fees

Members are advised that not all 37 applications have been fully completed and, since April 2018, 29 Orders for 42 events have been made.

To review the fees those 29 applications where the Council has made an Order have been used in the expenditure calculations. For each of these we have recorded officer time spent on each application and the cost of the public Notice (which will vary for

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each application) to provide the cost of processing the different types of application as set out below.

Application Type (Number of)	Total Cost	Current fee	Average processing cost
Large event (City centre) (11)	£16,102.02	£1000	£1,463.82
Large event (Outside centre) (8)	£6,294.88	£650	£786.86
Large running event (4)	£6,697.04	£1000	£1,674.26
Large running event - charity (1)	£2,598.95	£125	£2,598.95
Club run (3)	£2,413.50	Free	£804.50
Small local event (2)	£2,003.68	Free	£1001.84

Committee is asked to note the costs in comparison to fee income. In particular, the high cost of processing the large running type events has been due to the complexity of the number of roads to be closed or restricted, which required large Notices being placed in the newspapers.

Members will also be mindful of the need to balance the benefit many of these road closures have had for local communities and sports clubs.

It is suggested that Members consider each of the application types in turn and decide if you wish to amend the fee for each bearing in mind the costs associated with processing that type of application.

Financial and Resource Implications

There are direct financial costs attached to the administration of the Act by the Council and, whilst fees have been set, the cost to administer the scheme is only partially recovered from applicants based on our information to date.

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

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

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The Building Control Manager gave the Committee a brief overview of the report and pointed out that there was an error in the report, within the table of the costs of processing different types of applications, in that the total cost for large running events should have been £8371.32 and the average processing cost for this should have been £2092.83.

The Members agreed that there would be no change to the Road Closure fees at present and that a report be brought back before the Committee with further information on newspaper advertising charges, options for revised fees in light of actual costs to process applications and the views of organisations that apply for the closure of roads on any proposed revised fees.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 12th March, 2019

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Campbell, Canavan,
Dorrian, Hussey, Hutchinson,
Johnston and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and
Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Carson, Lyons and Nicholl.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th February 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 March, 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.

Financial Reporting - Quarter 3, 2018/2019

The Committee noted the Quarter 3 financial position for the Planning Committee, which was a net underspend of £236,000, with the forecast year end position remaining an underspend of £236,000.

The Committee was advised that the main reasons for the underspend related to planning fees received having exceeded the anticipated level, and underspends across expenditure budgets in Building Control. The Members noted that the underspend position for the Committee had been offset by underachievement of Building Control income by £166,000.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided and the associated financial reporting pack.

Planning Appeals Notified

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission, together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

Planning Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Building Control, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 12th February and 4th March, 2019.

Extinguishment of Right of Way

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Housing Executive in the Late Items Pack, in relation to the extinguishment of a Public Right of Way at Stirling Road, Belfast, Order No1 2019.

Miscellaneous Items

Planning Portal Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Members of the Planning Committee on how the Northern Ireland Planning Portal should be replaced.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members of the Planning Committee note the following:

- i. That Belfast City Council are to remain part of the DfI-led regional project i.e. to replace the Northern Ireland Planning Portal with another shared regional IT system**

Subject to the following qualification:

- that BCC must take a lead role in the project, including representation on the Project Governance Board and providing staff resources to the core project team;**
- that the capital cost to Local Government is split evenly between the 11 councils; and operating**

- costs to be determined in the context of the contract awarded (as agreed by SOLACE);
 - that the regional project demonstrates clear and robust progress, including commitment from the other councils by April 2019; and
 - BCC is part of the first wave of councils to implement the new IT system.
- ii. That the Strategic Policy and Recourses Committee agrees the additional funding to support implementation of the project as part of the Council's capital contribution. This would include 2 x Grade PO4 posts for a temporary period of 3 years.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 The Northern Ireland Planning Portal (NIPP) provides the public website interface which citizens use to find information and comment on planning applications. It also provides back-office software that the Council's planning service uses to process planning applications as well as supporting the administration of regional property certificates.
- 3.2 The NIPP was implemented by the former Department of Environment in 2010 as a central IT solution and was inherited by the 11 councils as a shared system in 2015 on the transfer of planning powers to local government. The NIPP is provided by a third-party supplier, DXC. The contract for the Planning Portal is managed by the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) and is due to expire at the end of March 2019. Dfi is currently negotiating a contract modification to ensure continued technical support for the NIPP beyond March 2019 until the end of 2020. At the same time, it is leading a regional project that is examining the options for its eventual replacement. The need to replace the Planning Portal by 2019/20 is a critical service risk.

The need to replace the Northern Ireland Planning Portal

- 3.3 The current NIPP is far from fit for purpose and is a significant impediment to the Council delivering an excellent planning service. The NIPP was introduced in 2010 as a hybrid solution based on a COTS product that has been heavily customised for Northern Ireland purposes. This has meant that the COTS element has not followed the natural upgrade path and is several years behind the latest version.

3.4 Deficiencies of the NIPP include:

- inability to receive and process online planning application submissions (England has had this capability since 2002);
- limited opportunity for customers to find information and self-serve;
- inability for the Council to customise standard customer letter templates or report templates;
- substandard functionality including poor case management and GIS;
- drives inefficient processes with limited flexibility for process improvement;
- inadequate performance reporting and monitoring; and
- poor access to data and inadequate integration with other Council systems.

Regional project

Background

- 3.6** Since 2016, local government has been participating in the DfI-led regional project that is examining the options to replace the NIPP. The Council agreed to participate and contribute to the cost of the regional project. Unfortunately, the project has been delayed whilst the Councils agreed the minimum requirements upon which the Draft Outline Business Case was built, and to agree the funding model, and how much contribution from the Department v Local Government.

Outline Business Case

- 3.7** DfI published a revised Outline Business Case (OBC) in January 2019. The recommendation is to replace the NIPP with another shared regional system remains and it proposes to fast-track the process with implementation by 2022. The Department's proposals (as agreed with Local Councils) set out in the OBC are:

- that the NIPP is replaced with a single regional IT system shared between the 11 councils and DfI;
- that the IT system will be a "Commercial Off The Shelf" (COTS) product to meet the requirements of the regionally agreed Minimum Viable Product;
- the new system will allow some local configuration to meet individual council needs (e.g. reports, templates, searching etc.); and

- that procurement will follow the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation.

Funding Model

- 3.8 The revised OBC states that the estimated cost of the project is £26.7m over 11 years of i.e. from 2019/20. This would include £15.1m capital and £11.6m resources. These costs remain estimates at this stage and actual costs will be determined through a competitive procurement process. Final costs and timescales will be captured in the “Final Business Case” following confirmation of the preferred supplier.
- 3.9 SOLACE have agreed to a finding model where 45% of the costs would be funded by DfI, with the remainder to be funded by Local Government, which if divided equally would be £1.34m per council over 11 years (or average of £122k pa). SOLACE have agreed to an even split of capital costs between the 11 councils with operating costs to be determined in the context of the contract awarded.
- 3.10 A report to cover the capital costs of the programme will be going to SP&R for consideration on 22 March 2019.

Proposed timetable

- 3.11 The estimated timeline for delivery of the regional project is set out below. The Council would need to be in the first wave of implementation, therefore, circa January 2022.

Phase	Start no later than (beginning of)	Estimated duration	Complete no later than (end of)
Mobilisation	January 2019	6 months	June 2019
Procurement	January 2019	12 months	December 2019
Design	January 2020	18 months	June 2021
Build	July 2020	18 months	December 2021
Implement	January 2022	6 months	June 2022

Option of BCC procuring its own standalone IT system

- 3.12 An alternative to BCC agreeing to the Department’s regional solution is for it to procure its own standalone IT system. Officers have undertaken market research to establish the availability and cost of planning IT solutions in the market place. This has included research on planning IT systems used in the UK and Irish local authorities; discussions with UK councils on IT and surrounding processes; study visits; and

discussions and demonstrations from potential suppliers. This research has concluded that there is no impediment to the market place providing a suitable and fit for purpose planning IT solution for the Council.

Data migration

- 3.13 The Council's planning service has not previously recommended procurement of its own standalone IT system is due to the complexities and unknown costs of data migration. The NIPP is provided by a third party, DXC, on behalf of the Department, and obtaining access to this is likely to inflate the costs of data migration and limit the Council's ability to migrate to its preferred supplier. This is a major risk if the Council were to choose to procure its own standalone system.

Costs

- 3.14 Based on market research, the estimated cost to BCC of procuring its own standalone system is approximately £1.36m over 11 years, compared with £1.34m for the regional solution.
- 3.15 Dfl has previously confirmed that it will not provide any assistance or make any financial contribution to any council who goes it alone.

Regional solution vs BCC standalone

- 3.16 Officers consider that, on balance, the Council should support the Dfl-led regional project. Whilst the need to replace the NIPP from an operational point of view is pressing, a BCC standalone solution would likely only be implemented 12 months sooner. The costs of both options are likely to be similar, although there is a greater costs risk around data migration if BCC were to go alone. The BCC standalone option would also require significantly greater up-front capital investment and staff resourcing.
- 3.17 The regional option provides greater capacity to deliver and there would be a significantly reduced level of risk overall. BCC procuring a standalone IT system would likely result in political fallout with the Department and other 11 councils as it would be a serious setback to the regional project. It would also likely impinge on NI customers who would have to use two different public website interfaces, which is far from ideal in terms of consistency across the region.

3.18 As such the Council proposes to support the DfI-led regional solution subject to the following:

- BCC must take a lead role in the project e.g. in the areas of procurement, finalisation of the specification, design, build, implementation and Governance. This will include representation on the Project Governance Board and providing staff resources to the core project team;
- the full Minimum Viable Produce is required (not a “MVP-light option). This would deliver all of the functionality that would enable critical service improvements, particularly online submission functionality;
- the cost to local government is split evenly between the 11 councils in terms of capital for the product, and operating costs to be determined in the context of the contract awarded;
- the regional project demonstrates clear and robust progress, including commitment from the other councils, by no later than April 2019; and
- BCC is part of the first wave of councils to implement the new IT system.

3.19 Financial & Resource Implications

The Council will need to make financial provision for replacing the NIPP. The cost of the regional project is £1.34m over 11 years (average of £122k pa), starting 2019/20.

3.20 In addition, funding is required to backfill x2 FTE PO4 project posts to support the project (£106,750, 2018/19 costs), as part of the Council’s capital contribution. This resource is crucial as it will enable BCC to take a lead role in the implementation of the project and mean that the new IT system best meets the Council’s needs. The Department has confirmed that the greater staff resource it contributes to the project, the less cash contribution it will need to make.

3.21 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

No adverse impacts identified.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Planning Applications

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)

LA04/2018/0059/F - Demolition of 2 storey rear return, external steps and single storey outbuilding of former Parochial House, demolition of existing vestry entrance porch, external steps, single storey boiler house and part of internal wall to tower and relocation of internal spiral staircase of former Holy Rosary Church on lands at 348-350 Ormeau Road. Erection of 3 storey and single storey rear and 2 storey side extensions and associated works. Change of use to 18 bed hotel and licensed restaurant.

Before presentation of the application commenced, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand.

The Committee noted that there was an error within the case officer's report which wrongly referenced Councillor Armitage as having raised concerns with the scheme. The case officer pointed out that Councillors Long and McDonough-Brown had expressed concerns on behalf of local residents.

The Committee noted that, as the application had not been presented, all Members' present at the next meeting, would be able to take part in the debate and vote on this item.

LA04/2018/2157/F - new children's hospital and associated infrastructure incorporating the demolition of Bostock House on the Royal Group of Hospitals site, 274 Grosvenor Road

The case officer provided the Committee with the principal aspects of the application for a new children's hospital and associated infrastructure, which incorporated the demolition of Bostock House.

He drew the Committee's attention to the Late Items reports pack, where a consultation response had been received from Environmental Health, which offered further conditions, relating to noise mitigation, vibration management and a further risk assessment post-demolition of Bostock House. He outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised.

The Committee was further advised of the consultation response from Shared Environmental Services, as included in the Late Items pack, which expressed no objections.

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The Committee received representation from Councillor Beattie. He stated that, while he was not against the proposals for a new children's hospital, he had concerns regarding the impact that the development would have on the surrounding streets. He advised the Committee that there was already a very high number of cars parking in the surrounding residential streets instead of within the hospital complex. He explained that the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) had carried out a Traffic Survey of the area in 2018, which showed that the parking spaces on the surrounding streets of the Royal Group of Hospitals site were 100% occupied. He emphasised to the Members that the survey had been carried out on a day when St. Mary's University was closed and that the majority of its students also drove to the site. He stated that the Dfi was currently considering a residents' parking scheme for the streets adjacent to the Hospital site. He asked that the Committee considered deferring consideration of the proposals in order to undertake a visit to the site.

The Committee was advised that Mr. L. Walsh, Department for Infrastructure (Dfi), was in attendance, as one of the statutory consultees, and that Ms. U. Somerville, AECOM, and Ms. E. Greenlees, Transport Consultant, were also in attendance to answer Members' questions.

Ms. Greenlees advised the Committee that, in light of comments from Dfi Roads, the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust had outlined its commitment to developing a site specific Travel Plan for the Royal Group of Hospitals site. She explained that AECOM had worked with the Trust to create the draft Travel Plan for the site. The case officer explained that copies of the recently published draft Travel Plan would be circulated to the Members of the Committee.

A Member stated that it was essential, given that the application was for a children's hospital, that parents could park at the hospital while visiting their sick children and that parents were unlikely to cycle or travel by bus to do so.

A further Member suggested that there should be incentives to encourage more staff to park on the site, such as reduced rates, to reduce the amount of staff cars that were parked on the surrounding residential streets for entire days or nights.

In response to Members' questions, Mr. Walsh confirmed that 70% of the 2700 parking spaces on site were for staff. He explained that the Department's view was that to add more parking spaces to the site would only make the situation worse. He outlined that the draft Travel Plan for the site had been drawn up in accordance with Planning Policy and the Programme for Government. He explained that, over the 6 years in which the new hospital would be built, one of the aims would be to encourage a reduction in car use by staff, and to incentivise more staff to use sustainable methods of transport.

In response to a number of further comments from Members, Mr. Walsh advised the Committee that, while it was not possible for all staff to use public transport or other sustainable methods, it was important to try and change the mind-set of those staff members who chose to drive to their place of work when they had access to other options.

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Ms. Somerville stated that the Glider service, which operated along the Falls Road, was an example of how sustainable transport had evolved since the Pre-Application Discussion had begun.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Canavan,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell and

Resolved - That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand and further agrees that:

- during the site visit, the Committee would also visit the surrounding residential streets;
- the site visit would take place during hospital visiting hours;
- a briefing for Members would be arranged to discuss the travel Plan for the site;
- a travel consultant from Dfl would attend the briefing and site visit; and
- the Draft Framework Travel Plan would be circulated to Members of the Committee.

**LA04/2017/2780/F - 7 storey residential development
comprising 38 apartments on lands between
55-71 Ormeau Road and 163-169 Donegall Pass**

The Committee was provided with an overview of the proposal for the erection of 38 apartments over 7 storeys, to include car parking, amenity space and associated site works.

The Members were advised that the proposal had been assessed against, and was compliant with, SPPS, BUAP, Draft BMAP, PPS3, PPS6, PPS7, PPS15, Creating Places and Parking Standards.

He explained that the scale and massing of the proposals had been reduced from the original plans.

The case officer outlined to the Committee that no objections had been received from consultees, but that 2 objections had been received as a result of neighbour notification/advertisement in the press. He explained the issues which they had raised, and advised that they had been addressed within his report.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

F707

LA04/2018/0408/F - Demolition of existing building and construction of new 3/4 storey apartment block containing 23 apartments at Porters Annex, Apsley Street

The Committee was apprised of the proposal for the demolition and reconstruction of a new 3/4 storey apartment block at Porters Annex.

The case officer highlighted to the Committee that no objections or representations had been received from consultees, but that one objection had been received from the Education Authority who managed a nearby Youth Club. He explained that the issues raised were addressed within the main report.

The case officer explained that the proposal was considered to comply with the SPPS, BUAP, Draft BMAP, PPS3, PPS6, PPS7, PPS15, Creating Places and Parking Standards.

He provided the Committee with the site history, where application LA04/2017/0468/F, for the demolition and reconstruction of a 4 storey apartment block comprising 20 apartments, was refused in April 2017. The decision was subject to appeal with the Planning Appeals Commission and was dismissed in December, 2017. The reasons for refusal were outlined to the Committee.

In response to a Member's question regarding the differences between the previous application which was refused, and the current application, the case officer explained to the Committee that there were significant differences between the designs, in terms of scale and massing.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2017/2302/F and LA04/2017/2300/DCA - Extension to seventh floor to accommodate hotel gym, Scottish Amicable House, 11 Donegall Square South

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application, which sought permission for an extension to the seventh floor.

The case officer advised the Committee that an objection had been received from one of the statutory consultees, namely, the HED (Historic Environment Division's) Historic Buildings. The view of the HED was that the proposal would detrimentally impact the setting of the adjacent listed buildings by competing with the prominence of the listed building by adding an additional level of accommodation above the roof plane. On this basis, the HED expressed a view that the proposal was contrary to Policy BH11 of PPS6.

The case officer explained to the Committee that it was considered that the set back of the mansard roof would assist in effectively screening the additional height to the front of the building. The mansard roof would also slope away from the chimneys of the

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adjacent listed Scottish Mutual Building, and, in officers' opinion, would not adversely affect the setting of the listed building.

He stated that the proposals had been assessed against, and were deemed to comply with, SPPS, BUAP, Draft BMAP, PPS3, PPS6 and Linen Conservation Area design guide. The Committee was advised that, having regard to the policy context and material considerations within the report, the proposal was considered acceptable and it was recommended for approval.

The Committee was reminded that, as a statutory consultee had objected to the proposal, if it was minded to agree with the case officer's recommendation to approve the application and to grant consent, it would be subject to notification to the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi).

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions, subject to notification to the Department for Infrastructure.

LA04/2018/0620/F - residential development of 39 dwellings, comprising 9 detached and 30 semi-detached dwellings, garages, car parking, public open spaces, landscaping, and associated site works on lands to the south of Blackdam Court, east of Thornberry Hill and approx. 115m north west of Mill Valley Way

The case officer outlined the details of the proposal to the Committee.

She explained that the key issues in the assessment of the proposal included height, scale, massing, layout and design, provision of parking and access, and provision of open space, amongst others.

She advised the Members that the principle of development was considered acceptable at the location and that the proposed height, scale, massing and design of the proposed dwellings were considered acceptable and in keeping with adjacent dwellings.

The Committee was advised that one objection had been received, citing concerns regarding biodiversity and natural heritage, and were addressed within the report. The case officer advised the Members that NIEA Natural heritage had been consulted and had raised no objections.

The case officer outlined that Environmental Health, NIEA – Land, Soil and Air and Water Management Unit, Share Environmental Services, Transport NI and Rivers Agency had been consulted and had offered no objections to the proposals, subject to conditions.

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The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2018/2679/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

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the proposal.

The case officer advised the Committee that the site was within land which was controlled by the Council.

She pointed out that the principle of an office building on the site had been established under outline Planning Permission Z/2011/0358/O, and that the detail was subsequently approved under LA04/2015/0144/RM.

She highlighted to the Committee that the applicant had obtained a Certificate of Lawful Development for operations undertaken to date.

The Committee was advised that, since the approval of the original outline consent, in May 2012, a new policy context was in place, where the SPPS had adopted a "town centre first" approach for future retailing and other main town centre uses. The case officer explained the sequential test for the location of new offices and advised the Members that the sequential test had not been met in this case. She explained, however, that it must be balanced against the previous permission which had been implemented on site and presented a legitimate fall-back position.

She advised the Committee that it was therefore considered acceptable for amendments to an implemented consent to reduce the footprint and to alter the external façade.

The case officer advised the Members that DfI Roads, Environmental Health, NIEA, NI Water and Rivers Agency had no objections to the application, subject to relevant conditions.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

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**LA04/2018/0832/F - Mixed use development comprising
2 retail units, 1 café unit, 23 apartments, access, parking,
amenity space, landscaping and site works on Lands at
155 171-177 Lisburn Road and 16 Ashley Avenue**

The Committee was provided with details of the proposals for the demolition of a bank building and the erection of a mixed use development.

The Committee was advised that the site was located within the development limits for Belfast in both the Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 (BUAP) and in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Plan 2015 (BMAP). She pointed out that the site was unzoned white land in the BUAP 2001 and zoned for housing and on an Arterial Route in draft BMAP 2015.

The Members were advised that a third party representation had been received which conflicted with the case officer's recommendation to approve the application. The case officer explained that the concerns related to car parking and she outlined to the Committee that the issues had been covered within her report. She also advised the Members that, in respect of the impact of the proposed development on parking and traffic, DfI Roads was content.

The Members were advised that, in relation to the impact of the proposal on nearby listed buildings, Historic Environment Division had expressed no concerns and that Environmental Health had also expressed no concerns in relation to the potential for noise, nuisance and disturbance.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Building Control for the final wording of the conditions.

Chairperson

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Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Wednesday, 20th March, 2019

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST WATERFRONT AND ULSTER HALL LTD. SHAREHOLDERS' COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Haire (Chairperson); and
Councillors Carson, Graham and Johnston.

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Copeland and Councillors Clarke, Dorrian and O'Neill.

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.

Extending Directors' Contracts to 31st July, 2019

The Director of Economic Development advised the Members that the contracts for the four existing directors of the ICC Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. (BWUH Ltd.) were scheduled to end on 31st March, 2019.

He explained that he was requesting that the Committee would consider an extension to those contracts for the Directors, until 31st July, 2019. The Committee was advised that this was to accommodate an ongoing evaluation of Board performance.

The Committee agreed to extend the ICC BWUH Ltd. Directors' contracts to 31st July, 2019.

Chairperson

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Brexit Committee

Thursday, 21st March, 2019

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Walsh (Chairperson);
Aldermen Kingston, McGimpsey and Spence;
Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Canavan,
Carson, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Hutchinson, Lyons, McAteer,
O'Hara and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;
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 and Reynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th February 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 March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentations

Federation of Small Businesses – Making Northern Ireland an Enhanced Economic Zone

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting a deputation from the Federation of Small Businesses, Mr. D. Donnelly and Mr. N. Hutcheson.

Mr. Donnelly informed the Committee that the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) was the largest business organisation in Northern Ireland with 6000 members, and that each member was a business owner. He explained that the Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) sector was crucial to the Northern Ireland economy as it employed more people than all other larger sized businesses and the entire public sector combined, and accounted for 75 percent of private sector turnover.

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Mr. Donnelly pointed out to the Committee that the Federation of Small Businesses had surveyed its members and found that the EU single market was still the priority market in Northern Ireland. He added that one in five SMEs employed someone from elsewhere in the EU and continued access to that labour was essential for driving growth.

He informed the Members that the Northern Ireland FSB wanted to find out what business owners were thinking with regards to Brexit and had subsequently held a series of focus groups in 2018. He reported that the focus groups had highlighted the possibility of a Free Port and Northern Ireland becoming an entrepreneurial centre of excellence and trade. He added that the FSB had reviewed numerous models of Free Ports, Free Trade Zones, Industrial Zones and other systems to find elements to give shape to a proposal that could be transformative for Northern Ireland.

The Members were provided with a copy of the FSB's proposal, Making Northern Ireland an Enhanced Economic Zone, and Mr. Donnelly explained that it would allow trade that was routed through it to be conducted tariff-free, regardless of the exact nature of the UK-EU future relationship.

He further explained that FSB wanted to create a more prosperous society for everyone, that the social issues within Belfast and Northern Ireland, such as economic inactivity, poor mental health and suicide, needed to be addressed, and that economic prosperity could mitigate some of the aforementioned issues.

After discussion, the Committee noted the presentation and the Chairperson thanked Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Hutcheson from the Federation of Small Businesses for their presentation.

Day 1 Preparedness Update

(Mr. D. Connolly, Environmental Health Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

The purpose of this report is to 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 this update.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Members are reminded that that the Committee was updated at its February meeting on the work that is ongoing in relational to identifying potential Day 1 service implications in relation to Brexit. Members will be aware that there is currently uncertainty around whether there will be a deal/type of deal and timings around exit, therefore Officers are currently preparing for a 'no deal' scenario and the following actions are being undertaken:

- 1) The Council's critical services are completing Brexit Resilience Measures templates 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) Responsible officers are reviewing and updating their Business Continuity Plan ensuring that it deals with service delivery post Brexit, and are communicating it to staff before 29 March.**

Members were also advised 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. A process for internal situational reporting has now been developed, critical services will be asked to email the report to the Emergency Co-ordination Centre (ECC) email address each morning in order to allow Emergency Planning to collate the information and escalate any emerging issues. Collated information will be sent to the reporting points on a daily basis and where appropriate forwarded to Chief Officers, Heads of Services, Corporate Communications and Elected Members.

Officers are also working with relevant partners in relation to external situational reporting and will report on a daily basis into a central command hub, when this has been confirmed it will be added into the internal reporting process.

Members are advised that SOLACE have developed a risk register that consists of 16 main council level risks that need to be considered in light of Brexit. Each risk has an associated outline action plan for councils to consider in preparing for the risk. The risk register also deals with possible impacts post Day 1 and to the wider Council area and not just the organisation. Officers are currently working on completing the risk register and continue to participate in SOLACE's Brexit Task and Finish Group.

Members are also advised that relevant officers continue to meet and work with DEARA regarding export certification to ensure that all relevant processes and procedures will be in place prior to Brexit.

4.0 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

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

There are no implications relating to this report.”

In response to a number of questions from the Committee, the Environmental Health Manager explained that, with regards to speculation of food shortages, food resilience work was ongoing with other organisations with whom primary responsibilities lie and it was envisaged that there may be shortages of particular items, but at this stage it was anticipated that there would not be a food crisis.

Following further discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report.

EU Settlement Scheme Information - Update

The Members were reminded that, at its meeting on 6th December, 2018, it was agreed that Belfast City Council would facilitate an information day in the City Hall to provide advice and guidance on the EU Settlement Scheme to EU citizens who reside in Belfast, and that officers would work with the Migrant Forum to support communication with those affected by the scheme.

The Business, Research and Development Officer reported that officers had attended a meeting of the Migrant Forum to ascertain its views on how to provide a useful information session that met the needs of those who might seek to make an application through the EU Settlement Scheme.

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She informed the Committee that officers would continue to liaise with the Migrant Forum and the Executive Office to organise the information session and disseminate information with regards to the EU Settlement Scheme.

The Committee noted the report.

**New Structures Established as part of the
UK Withdrawal and Next Phase of Negotiations**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

At a workshop in February focused on medium term scenario planning, the Brexit Committee agreed to consider a short paper to enable it to take account of the potential implications of the next phase of negotiations between the UK government and the EU. This paper outlines key relevant aspects of the so-called ‘Political Declaration’, gives further information on key milestones in a future negotiation and makes some recommendations for actions by the Brexit Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

It is proposed that:

- Early engagement is made, through the Brexit Committee Chair and the Chief Executive with The Executive Office to understand how the new institutional arrangements (i.e. the Joint Committee of the UK and EU) will operate, and in particular how the ‘Joint Consultative Working Group on Northern Ireland’ will operate.**
- That the Brexit Committee sets out its priorities for engagement with future institutional structures, and importantly, the issues Belfast City Council would seek to secure in a future relationship agreement between the UK and the EU. The Brexit Committee should set aside time in April and May to consider these priorities.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

At the time of writing, parliamentary passage of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill is by no means certain. However, assuming it is passed through parliament, and the UK leaves the EU (either on the 29th March or with a technical extension),

then the UK will commence the next stage of formal negotiations to exit the EU.

The starting point for negotiations is the 'Political Declaration on the Framework for UK-EU Negotiations', which was endorsed by EU leaders on the 25th November 2018. It is important to note that the Political Declaration (PD) is not a binding legal document and it is unlikely that it will bind the parties to anything beyond a commitment to negotiate for a future relationship in good faith.

1. Part One sets out the basis of cooperation between the UK and EU

- 'based on the shared EU and UK values and principles such as respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, working together globally, and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons'.
- It includes the UK's commitment to respect "the framework" of the European Convention on Human Rights
- It includes a mutual commitment to "ensuring a high level of personal data protection" to facilitate data flows, and an EU intention to start work on adequacy decisions on the UK's data framework "as soon as possible" after Brexit, "endeavouring" to adopt decisions by the end of 2020
- It includes an intention that the UK will seek and the EU will grant, where legally possible and with a UK financial contribution, UK participation in EU programmes in areas such as science and innovation, youth, culture and education, overseas development, external action, defence capabilities, civil protection and space

2. Part Two sets out the terms of a future economic partnership

- It calls on the UK and EU to agree an ambitious, wide-ranging future economic partnership
- The future relationship will encompass a free trade area and cooperation in particular sectors where this is in the parties' mutual interest.
- The economic partnership will cover trade in goods, trade in services and investment, and a number of sectors including financial services, digital, transport, energy and fishing. There are also

sections on movement of people and on procurement.

- On trade in goods: The PD refers to a trading relationship which is “as close as possible”. The economic partnership should maintain the current situation of no tariffs or quotas on trade in goods between the UK and EU. Customs arrangements should “build and improve on” the single customs territory set out in the Withdrawal Agreement. At the same time, the PD refers to the UK having an independent trade policy.
- On Trade in Services the PD leaves the settlement of trade in services and investment open for future EU-UK negotiations.
- It builds on the premise that the UK leaves the single market for services and pursues regulatory autonomy.
- On services and investment, the UK and the EU have an ambition to go well beyond the current commitments under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and existing free trade agreements (FTAs)
- The PD recognises the interdependence of financial services across boundaries and the common interest in honest and sound markets and fair competition within them. To that end it highlights the need for continuing close cooperation between different regulators and regimes.
- The future basis of cooperation will be ‘equivalence’ which is different, and less extensive, than the current system of passported services.

3. Part Three deals with Security Partnership

- The future relationship will cover arrangements across three areas: (1) data exchange; (2) operational cooperation between law enforcement authorities and (3) judicial cooperation in criminal matters; and anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing.
- There will be arrangements for exchanges of Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, DNA, fingerprints and vehicle registration data (Prüm) and extradition arrangements; data-sharing arrangements for wanted and missing persons, exchange of criminal records and cooperation between the UK and Europol and Eurojust.

4. Part Four deals with institutional Arrangements

- **An overarching institutional framework will be underpinned by mechanisms for dialogue and arrangements for setting the direction and implementing the future relationship. Dispute resolution will be based on the dispute resolution mechanism in the Withdrawal Agreement.**
- 5. Part Five deals with the process to be taken forward following the Withdrawal Agreement**
- **Once the WA is concluded and before the UK leaves the EU, preparatory work will begin for the formal negotiations on the future relationship.**
 - **The priority will be to find alternative, permanent arrangements for ensuring there is no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.**
 - **Negotiations to conclude (ratify) the legal agreement(s) will begin as soon as the UK is a third country (30 March 2019) and both parties have committed to “best endeavours” to ensure the future relationship enters into force by the end of the transition period.**
 - **Before withdrawal between the approval of the PD and the UK’s exit from the EU, both parties will engage in preparatory organisational work in order to enable formal negotiations on the future partnership to commence rapidly.**
 - **After withdrawal a procedure for EU negotiation of agreements with third countries is set out. After formal negotiations are launched the UK and EU will negotiate in parallel agreements on the future relationship.**
 - **Review: The UK and EU will convene a high-level conference every six months after the UK’s departure “to take stock of progress and agree, as far as is possible between them, actions to move forward”.**

4.0 Proposals for engagement in next phase of negotiations

As set out above, the next phase of negotiations will determine the UK’s future relationship with the EU. It is advisable therefore that Belfast City Council thinks strategically about its future relationship with the EU, and how it might seek to ensure that the city’s priorities, as set out in Belfast Agenda, are protected as part of future negotiations.

It is proposed therefore that:

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- **Early engagement is made, through the Brexit Committee Chair and the Chief Executive with The Executive Office to understand how the new institutional arrangements (i.e. the Joint Committee of the UK and EU) will operate, and in particular how the ‘Joint Consultative Working Group on Northern Ireland’ will operate.**
- **That the Brexit Committee sets out its priorities for engagement with future institutional structures, and importantly, the issues Belfast City Council would seek to secure in a future relationship agreement between the UK and the EU. The Brexit Committee should set aside time in April and May to consider these priorities.**

These might include:

- **Making sure there is alignment between Belfast’s economic priorities and future agreements with the European Union, e.g. regional differentiation**
- **Considering ways in which ‘flexible and imaginative solutions’ might be applied to Northern Ireland to meet the priorities which Belfast is seeking to achieve (this language was first used by the European Council in relation to Northern Ireland).**
- **Whether formal structures might be required to ensure effective working relationships with the new institutions and with Councils in Northern Ireland.**

5.0 Financial and Resource Implications

None.

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

None.”

The Committee agreed that early engagement be made with the Executive Office, through the Brexit Committee Chairperson and the Chief Executive, to understand how the new institutional arrangements would operate, and in particular, how the ‘Joint Consultative Working Group on Northern Ireland’ would operate.

The Committee also agreed that a report be brought to the June meeting of the Brexit Committee to set out its priorities for engagement with future institutional structures.

**Brexit Committee,
Thursday, 21st March, 2019**

Chairperson

H69

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