

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st June, 2019

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Nicholl (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair);  
Aldermen Haire;  
Councillors Beattie, Black, Carson, Dorrian, Garrett,  
Graham, Groogan, Heading, Long, Lyons,  
McDonough-Brown, Murphy, Pankhurst and Walsh.

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

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Chairperson, Alderman Kingston, Alderman Spence and Councillors Hargey and McAllister.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 29th April.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beattie declared an interest in relation to item 2(a) – Memorandum of Understanding between the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and the Council insofar as he was a member of the Board of the Harbour Commissioners, Councillor Murphy declared interest in item 5(d) Financial Reporting Quarter 4, in so far as he was a Board Member of the City Wide Tribunal Service. Both Members left the meeting whilst these items were under consideration.

### Last Meeting

The Committee's attention was drawn to the fact that Mr. Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance, Mr. Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects, and Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager, would be retiring from the Council in the near future. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, referred to the significant contribution that the officers had made to the Council during their time in service and wished them well in their retirement.

### **Schedule of Meetings**

The Committee approved the Schedule of meetings for August – December 2019, set out below, commencing at 9.30am:

Friday, 23rd August  
Friday, 20th September  
Friday, 25th October  
Friday, 22nd November

### **Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following 5 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

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

### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Harbour Commissioners and Belfast City Council for a Strategic Partnership**

The Committee considered a report which was seeking approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Belfast City Council for a Strategic Partnership Agreement.

The purpose of the MOU was to outline how the Commissioners and the Council would work together through a strategic partnership arrangement to realise their shared ambitions for the strong growth, regeneration and prosperity of the City.

The Committee approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Belfast City Council for a Strategic Partnership Agreement.

### **Recruitment Update: Appointments to Chief Officer Posts**

The Committee noted the appointment of the following successful candidates to key Director/Head of Service posts and approved the outcome of the Legal and Civic Services Department review:

- Director (Operational) of City Regeneration and Development – Cathy Reynolds
- Director (Operational) of Physical Programmes – Sinead Grimes
- Director (Operational) of City and Neighbourhood Services – Ryan Black

- Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) – Claire O’Prey
- Head of Finance (Head of Profession) – Trevor Wallace
- Head of Human Resources (HR) – Christine Sheridan

### **Bonfire Governance**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Council’s governance approach to deal with issues at bonfires and to provide an overview of key work regarding the 2019 approach and the key decisions required.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed:

- that officers engage with the Inner East Forum group members to appoint a suitable local umbrella organisation to develop a programme of activity, funded by The Executive Office and Belfast City Council, to animate the Bloomfield Walkway following the completion of Environmental Improvement works; and
- not to install permanent fencing at Ravenscourt Car Park.

### **Financial Reporting – Quarter 4 2015/16**

The Committee considered a report which presented the financial outturn for the Council for the year ended 31st March, 2019. It included a reporting pack which contained a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary. It also provided a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and covered the outturn for the year and implications for reserves and the year-end Treasury Management position.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, in financial terms, it was a difficult year for the Council. The Primark fire and changes to the rules on holiday pay had led to an additional funding requirement of £3.7m. In order to protect general reserves as much as possible, the Members had agreed previously not to re-allocate any in-year under spends and to use any year-end balances to support the £3.7m funding requirement. The year-end position was that £2.2m of balances were available. That meant that £1.5m of general reserves would be needed to finance the remaining balance. That left the Council with £12.8m of general reserves.

Given the shortfall of funding for the year, there was no finance available to support year-end reallocations or cash flow requests. The financial position of the Council would next be considered in the context of the Quarter 1 2019/20 report which would be presented to the Committee in August 2019.

The Committee:

- noted the year end outturn and reserves position for 2018/19;
- noted that there was no finance available to support year end reallocations or cash flow requests and that the financial position of the Council would next be considered in the context of the Quarter 1 2019/20 report which would be presented to the Committee in August 2019;

- agreed that £75,000 be reallocated from the specified fuel reserve to fund the City Wide Tribunal Service for a period of 3 months;
- that any future underspend be used, in the first instance, to replenish the specified fuel reserve; and
- that a request be sent to the Department of Communities seeking a meeting with an All-Party Deputation from the Council, consisting of the Party Leaders (or their nominees), to discuss funding for the City Wide Tribunal Service and other issues.

### **Giant's Park North Foreshore**

The Committee was reminded that the completion of the part ERDF/Invest NI funded infrastructure project for Giant's Park in August 2016 saw the installation of 1.7 Km of roads, together with footways, services and landscaping. The new infrastructure provided the opportunity to market a portion of the site for Cleantech purposes in accordance with the terms of the ERDF/INI grant funding.

At its meeting on 17th August 2018, the Committee had granted authority for the Council to enter into Site Option Agreements with three developers, subject to detailed terms being agreed with the Council's Estates Manager, together with the City Solicitor. Discussions on detailed terms of these Site Option Agreements and associated legal documents were continuing with Evermore Limited (for a proposed Data Centre), Viridian Group (now Energia Group) (for a proposed Anaerobic Digestion Facility) and Giant's Park Belfast Limited (for proposed Leisure Led Scheme) at Giant's Park. Discussions were also ongoing with Invest NI regarding the compatibility of the Data Centre and Leisure Led developments in relation to Invest NI's overall economic and employment goals.

The Committee was advised that the existing Harbour Commissioners (BHC) film studios at Giant's Park was located on a site of approximately 7.6 acres and comprised some 66,000 sq. ft. of studio space, 37,000 sq. ft. of offices/production facility and some 23,000 sq. ft. of workshop space. The existing legal agreement with BHC provided them with an option to enlarge their existing site northwards into an area totalling approximately 2.1 acres. In addition, BHC was seeking to develop film studio facilities on a further 16.4 acres to the south of the existing studios.

The Committee granted approval for the Council to enter into a Site Option Agreement with Belfast Harbour Commissioners for the development of new film studio facilities on approximately 19 acres at the Giant's Park, North Foreshore, subject to detailed terms to be agreed with the Director of Property and Projects, together with the Director of Legal and Civic Services.

### **Matters referred back from council/Motions**

#### **Motion: Working Group on Climate Change**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 To consider a motion on climate resilience, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 21st May, and to consider draft Terms of Reference for an all-party Working Group on Climate Resilience.**

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.

3.0 **Main report**

3.1 The Council, at its meeting on 21st May, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor Flynn:

*'This Council agrees to establish an all-party Working Group on climate change resilience, to explore how Belfast can react to the climate crisis; protect our citizens from the existing and likely future effects of climate breakdown and investigate measures the Council can take to limit its impact on the climate crisis.'*

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

3.3 If the committee is minded to approve this motion, the following draft Terms of Reference are proposed:

The Working Group on Climate Change will be responsible for researching, monitoring and considering the potential implications of climate change for the city of Belfast and for making recommendations to Council on a strategy or series of interventions to build Belfast's climate resilience.

Its specific functions include:

- Identifying the specific challenges and risks to the city which may emerge as a result of projected climate change;
- Monitoring the particular implications of climate change for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities across the city;
- Understanding the economic risks to the city associated with climate change – including how it might impact the ability of Belfast to continue to attract and retain investment and grow the rate base;
- Understanding how risks associated with climate change may impact on Belfast Agenda priorities and strategies and programmes in place across the city;
- Influencing and contributing to regional considerations of the implications of climate change on both the work of the Council and on the city;

- Collating and considering good practice from other cities and local authorities from the UK, Ireland and internationally;
  - Considering actions, interventions or programmes on climate adaptation which the Council may wish to take to build the city’s climate resilience;
  - Considering actions, interventions or programmes on climate mitigation which the Council may wish to take to build the city’s climate resilience;
  - Considering public campaigns/public education programmes which the Council may wish to deliver to change behaviour among residents and businesses;
  - Taking account of the Council’s statutory responsibilities on sustainable development and relevant Programme for Government commitments; and
  - Hearing evidence from other parties
- 3.3 Membership of the Working Group will be the same, if agreed earlier in the meeting, as other working groups, that is, one Member from each of the eight Political Parties represented on the Council.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Working Group will meet every two months – with the aim of a first meeting in the coming weeks.
- 3.5 Members may recall a previous proposal to set up a member and officer Sustainable Development group, with the intention that officers and members could work collaboratively to ‘problem solve’ on substantive issues on sustainable development. As this proposed Working Group is not a decision-making meeting, members may consider it an opportunity to take a similar approach to the operation of the working group.
- 3.6 The Working Group will have an important working relationship to relevant boards and external working groups, including the recently established Climate Commission. It is proposed to undertake a mapping exercise over the summer to set out the range of existing groups across the city and consider the best possible working relationships with them.
- 3.7 Financial & Resource Implications
- There will be increased costs on an ongoing basis in relation to the support for an additional working group but it is considered that such costs can be met from within established budgets.
- 3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
- None.”

The Committee adopted the motion and agreed to the establishment of a Working Group on Climate Change to consist of 1 representative from each of the 8 Political Parties on the Council.

**Motion: Single Use Plastics –  
Responses from Major Supermarkets**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th February, had passed the following motion on Single use plastics by supermarkets, which had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds and Seconded by Councillor McAllister:

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

The Committee was advised that letters had subsequently been forwarded to Asda, Marks and Spencer, Lidl, Tesco and Sainsbury’s in relation to the motion. Responses had been received from each of the retailers which provided details of the steps each was taking in order to reduce plastic waste.

The Committee noted the responses which had been received.

**Update on Motion: Support for Roads  
Infrastructure in Scotland**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th March, had passed the following motion on Support for Roads Infrastructure in Scotland, which had been proposed by Alderman Kingston and seconded by former Councillor Reynolds:

*“This Council:*

- Recognises the long-standing cultural and economic ties between Northern Ireland and Scotland, and that fundamental to increasing the benefit to Belfast from this connection is the need to improve transport connections between Scotland and Northern Ireland;*
- Welcomes that the ferry services between Cairnryan and Belfast, by Stena Line, 6 times per day, and between Cairnryan and Larne, by P&O, 7 times per day, are among the busiest services in the UK and represent a strong opportunity for economic and tourism growth; however, the inadequate transport infrastructure beyond the ferry terminals at Cairnryan is inhibiting that growth and require investment to bring them up to standard;*

- *Supports the campaign in Ayrshire and Dumfries 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.”*

A Letter was forwarded subsequently to the Scottish First Minister in relation to the motion and a response had been received from Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity.

In his response, Mr. Matheson had indicated that Transport Scotland had been taking forward the South West Scotland Transport Study, which had a particular focus on access to the ports at Cairnryan. The draft findings of that were due to be published soon and the public and interested parties could provide comments before the final report was published.

In addition, he had pointed out that Scotland’s National Transport Strategy was currently being reviewed. The Review would work on a draft strategy, which would provide a further opportunity to engage on connectivity between Scotland, Northern Ireland and England.

In conclusion, Mr. Matheson had thanked the Council for its interest and had asked officials at Transport Scotland to consider the points it had made in the South West of Scotland Transport Strategy.

The Committee noted the response which had been received.

**Notice of Motion to Fly the Rainbow Flag**  
**On Pride Day – 3rd August, 2019**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues**

- 1.1 The screening is provided in response to a request from Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 22 March 2019, when the Committee agreed to a notice of motion ‘to fly the rainbow flag over the City Hall on 3rd August, 2019, subject to an equality screening being undertaken’. In light of the screening you are asked to consider if you wish to affirm the decision previously made.**



## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The screening identified a minor positive impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity and a minor negative impact on the promotion of good relations. The screening should be considered in:

- Making a final decision on the notice of motion.
- The content and appropriateness of a communications campaign to highlight the work undertaken in City Hall, including the exhibition and stain glass windows which represents diverse backgrounds in Belfast, and the recently opened changing places facility, to be promoted as symbols of the city of Belfast, which aims to be welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all. Raising awareness of the of the Council's approach to an inclusive and diverse society may counter any perceived negative impact.

## 3.0 Main report

3.1 A Notice of Motion was agreed at Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on Friday 22 March to fly the Rainbow Flag on Saturday 3 August 2019 (Pride Day), the decision is outlined below. The decision was subsequently amended at the Council's meeting 1 April 2019, with the removal of the statement in brackets.

*The Committee agreed to the motion and to fly the rainbow flag over the City Hall on 3rd August, 2019, subject to an equality screening being undertaken and to a report being 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.*

3.2 The scope of the screening and this report is the agreement to fly the rainbow flag over the City Hall on 3 August, 2019. The report requested on dual recognition of a flag and illumination of the building will be submitted at a later date.

### Key Issues

3.3 The stated aims of the Notice of Motion were:

*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.*

- 3.4 Any action by the Council to demonstrate support for Pride Day through the flying of the rainbow flag would contribute to these objectives.
- 3.5 A broad scope of information was considered in the equality screening including seeking advice on the legal implications of the Notice of Motion in an equality and good relations context.
- 3.6 Information is extracted from the legal opinion in the attached screening, a full copy of the legal opinion is available on request.

**Screening questions**

- 3.7 A summary of the analysis undertaken in each of the four screening questions for the purpose of Section 75

3.8

- i. Q: What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

A: The information gathered, both qualitative and quantitative, demonstrates the complexity of some of the issues relating to protected characteristics listed under Section 75.

Whilst the flying of the rainbow flag on Pride Day would most obviously have a positive impact on those from an LGBT+ background, it is recognised that many people do not identify with one protected characteristic at the exclusion of another. The information presented demonstrates the correlations between sexual orientation, gender and religion, both positive and negative.

Minor positive impact identified.

3.9

- ii. Q: Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?

**A:** The information gathered, both qualitative and quantitative, demonstrates the inter-relationships between the protected characteristics listed under Section 75. No specific opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for one particular group has been identified.

However, it is important for the work undertaken in City Hall, including the exhibition and stain glass windows which represents diverse backgrounds in Belfast, and the recently opened changing places facility, to be promoted as symbols of the city of Belfast, which aims to be welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all.

**3.10**

- iii. **Q:** To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

**A:** Good relations issues are conventionally understood to be between the two main communities in Belfast - Protestant / Unionist / Loyalist and Catholic / Nationalist / Republican, including those from different racial backgrounds. Equality Commission for Northern Ireland did not consider the policy to be relevant to good relations. Community Relations Council did not provide an opinion as they considered the matter to lie outside their remit.

Receipt of the complaint on 22 March, the same day as the notice of motion was agreed, from a constituent of Titanic DEA, may provide an indication of a perceived adverse impact on those who do not support the LGBT+ community. The complainant states that as a result of flying the Pride flag, City Hall will not be 'a welcoming place for everyone, especially people like myself who are Christians and believe that Homosexuality is not right.' The complainant states that 'Belfast City Council are clearly taking sides on a political argument and therefore City Hall will not be a 'neutral' building.'

In contrast the group Christians at Pride exists to provide a joyful, loving, inclusive Christian presence at Pride festivals in London and elsewhere in the UK, including Belfast, as noted through our internal staff network. Their website notes: 'Whether you're young or old, catholic or evangelical, lesbian, gay, bi, trans, asexual, or straight, you'd be so welcome to come and join us. Supportive friends, allies, family members and church leaders all very welcome too'.

It is recognised that attitudes towards Pride differ and a minor negative impact is identified.

3.11

iv. Q: Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

A: The Council ensures, as far as reasonably possible, that there is a balance between events which are of relevance to the two main communities.

Raising awareness of the of the Council's approach to an inclusive and diverse society may counter any perceived negative impact.

3.12 In addition to the screening undertaken, the Committee may be minded to consider the matter of precedent. The legal opinion comments 'the decision of 9th August 2013 in relation to the Armed Forces flag is notable because it represents the only occasion, following the Council's decision on the Union Flag in December 2012, where the Council has agreed to fly a flag other than the Union Flag. It is also notable in that it provides for a flag to be flown for a purpose other than to mark the constitutional status of the city.'

3.13 Thus the flying of the Armed Forces flag demonstrates an occasion where a flag has been flown at City Hall to 'show support' for a community and coincide with an organised festival/celebration'.

3.14 In concluding the legal opinion notes 'it is my view that the flying of the Pride flag on one day in 2019, to coincide with the Pride festival, which is stated to be one of the biggest in the city, is unlikely to be subject to successful challenge by judicial review or indeed by a complaint to the Fair Employment Tribunal. That is of course provided that the Council properly assess the potential impact on Section.75 categories through screening, and EQIA if screening concludes that is necessary.'

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

Costs for the flag will be met from existing budgets.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The screening undertaken demonstrates due regard to the promotion of equality of opportunity and regard to the promotion of good relations.

A minor positive impact on the promotion of equality of opportunity was identified. A minor negative impact on the promotion of good relations was identified.

There are no rural needs impacts.”

The Committee agreed to the flying of the Rainbow Flag over the City Hall on 3rd August, 2019.

### Governance

#### Overview of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee – Roles and Responsibilities

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and its roles and responsibilities.

#### Review of the Council’s Scheme of Allowances

The Committee considered the following report:

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

1.1 To consider an amendment to the Council’s Scheme of Allowances to provide for the withholding of allowances to a Member who is 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.

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Approve the amendment to the Scheme of Allowances as set out in the report;

##### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Key Issues**

3.1.1 The Council is 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.

3.1.2 The Council’s current Scheme does not cover what should happen if a Councillor is 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.

3.1.3 The Committee has previously considered reports on this matter and deferred consideration until the Local Government Commissioner for Standards had provided information on her role in the issue. However, the Council has received an addendum to circular LG 23/2016 from the Department for Communities requiring the Council to update its Scheme of Allowances in relation to the payment of basic allowance to provide that:

3.1.4 *'In circumstances where a councillor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor, in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the part of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended should be withheld.'*

3.1.5 The addendum also requires the Council to update its Scheme of Allowances, as it applies to Special Responsibility Allowances, to provide that:

3.1.6 *'In circumstances where a councillor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor, in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, any SRA payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended should be withheld.'*

3.17 As the Council receives its lawful authority to make any payments from the Department under the Payments to Councillors Regulations, then it must abide by any instructions from the Department in relation to those Regulations.

3.1.8 The advice of the Department for Communities was sought on the practical application of these changes and Mr Jeff Glass from DfC has commented as follows:

*'The basic allowance is not hypothecated to a certain number or level of duties, and it is not related to a certain time commitment by councillors in carrying out their approved duties, it is however payable to councillors for carrying out the role of a councillor. If a councillor is suspended from a particular duty/role but is still carrying out duties as a councillor the basic allowance may still be payable. If a councillor is suspended from carrying out a role that attracts a SRA within the council's scheme, the council should consider withholding the element of SRA payable for that duty. If a councillor is suspended from carrying out the role of a councillor by the Commissioner for Standards under section 59(5) and as basic allowance is payable for carrying out the role of a councillor then that allowance should be withheld for the relevant period. Similarly, if a councillor is suspended from carrying out the role of the councillor under*

*section 60(1) of the 2014 Act then payment of all allowances should be withheld. If the suspension under section 60(1) is not withheld the council can subsequently consider paying allowances for the period that was originally withheld. It is for each council to seek its own legal opinion on any issues it may have.'*

- 3.1.9 Accordingly, in line with the guidance issued in the circular and in line with the advice provided by Mr Glass, the Committee is requested to agree to the amendment to the Scheme of Allowances as follows:

3.1.10 **'Basic Allowance**

*In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld.*

*In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.*

*In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall continue.*

3.1.11 **Special Responsibility Allowance**

*In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of any special responsibility allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld.*

*In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance*

*with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of any special responsibility allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.*

*In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that part of any special responsibility allowance (to which the partial suspension relates) payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall be withheld.*

*In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that part of any special responsibility allowance (to which the partial suspension relates) payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.'*

### **3.2 Financial & Resource Implications**

3.2.1 There would not be any adverse impact on the Council's budgets. Any individual Councillor who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended may be affected adversely.

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

There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report."

The Committee approved the amendment to the Scheme of Allowances as set out in the report.

### **Budget and Transformation Panel and Party Leaders' Forum Refreshed Names and Terms of Reference**

The Director of Legal and Civic Services submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

#### **"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

1.1 To consider whether to establish, as a successor to the Budget and Transformation Panel, a Party Leaders' Consultative Panel and to re-establish the Party Leaders'



Forum subject to the suggested remit, arrangements and conventions as set out in the report.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- Agree to establish the fora as set out in the report to enable better communication and dialogue on strategic and/or political/controversial issues.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

The Budget and Transformation Panel was established by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and terms of reference agreed in March 2009 to provide political leadership and oversight of the Council's efficiency and transformation agenda and the Council's finances in general. It comprised one representative from each political party grouping plus the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee however currently, it is attended by the Party Leaders and the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. It meets every month on the week before the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting. Secretariat is provided by the Strategic Performance Manager.

**3.2** As a Working Group, it is not decision-making and its minutes are brought to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. It provides a forum for officers to discuss issues with Members to get their initial views and ensure that the appropriate level of information is provided to Members to support the formal decision-making process at Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. No formal recommendations are made to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee as issues are subsequently taken to Committee for decision.

**3.3** The Party Leaders' Forum was established in 2011 as part of strategic planning process which led to the development of the Council's Investment Programme. It evolved to become a safe space in which politically sensitive issues could be discussed. It was established to be led by Members with officers present only at the request of Members. It was originally externally facilitated however secretariat is now provided by the Chief Executive's Support Manager. It meets every month the week after the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting.

- 3.4 Again, as a Working Group, it is not decision-making and its minutes are circulated among the Party Leaders. No formal terms of reference were agreed and it currently operates under the same [terms of reference](#) of the Budget and Transformation Panel.
- 3.5 Both of these fora have operated successfully to act as a clearing house for potential complex reports going to Committee and/or to provide a safe space in which discussions may take place on political, confidential or contentious issues. Other Councils have followed Belfast City Council's decision to establish such fora and they are now the accepted norm within governance frameworks.
- 3.6 As part of the planning for the new governance arrangements for the new council, it was agreed at Strategic Policy & Resources in April 2019 to retain these working groups and refresh their names and terms of references.
- 3.7 Key Issues

Budget and Transformation Panel

Following consultation with Members at Budget and Transformation Panel last week, the following name is proposed as an option: Party Leaders' Consultative Panel.

The suggested remit of the Party Leaders' Consultative Panel would be as follows:

- To receive briefings and updates on the Council's programmes of work relating to the Belfast Agenda priorities.
- To support the development and implementation of the Council's Corporate Plan and associated programmes of work.
- To introduce complex or sensitive reports/issues or proposed reports prior to committee or to discuss issues arising from committees/Council
- To receive information on oversight of the Council's finances and discuss future rates setting.
- To receive and consider complex or sensitive information prior to decision making through committee and Council.
- To raise sensitive resource (particularly human resource) issues
- To receive and discuss proposals relating to governance arrangements

**3.8 Party Leaders' Forum**

Retain the name and agree the remit as suggested below:

- To provide a forum for party groups to discuss emerging political/contentious issues
- To facilitate discussions in respect of cultural, equality or good relations issues
- To act as a forum for discussions with other city and/or government stakeholders or neighbouring councils

**3.9** Both fora would continue to be non-decision making. The cycle of meetings for the Party Leaders' Consultative Panel would follow the current convention of being held in the week prior to a meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. The meeting of the Party Leaders' Forum would be monthly or as required. The current secretariat arrangements would be retained. Parties would have the ability to request items to be placed on the agenda for Party Leaders' Forum. The meeting of the Party Leaders' Forum may take place in the absence of officers depending on the nature of the issue or issues under discussion. For those meetings at which an officer is present a minute of the proceedings will be recorded for those items which result in a recommendation going to a standing committee for a decision. This is in line with the position as agreed by the Council in [December 2017](#). In respect of the Party Leaders' Consultative Panel a minute will be circulated within two working days but subject to an understanding that confidential information may be redacted and that the minute will be managed to reflect the sensitivity of matters that were discussed.

**3.10** It is noted that the Council, post local government elections, has currently no independents and that all parties will or may be represented at the fora. In respect of both fora Party Leaders may select a nominee from their membership to attend in their absence or if they have a particular interest in a matter under discussion. The Party Leaders' Consultative Panel will be chaired by the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee or by the Chief Executive in his or her absence. The Party Leaders' Forum may elect its own Chair on a meeting by meeting basis or may be chaired, by consent, by the Chief Executive.

**3.11** All participating parties must agree to the principle of confidentiality of discussions within these fora and of mutual trust and respect. This does not preclude the parties in respect of making public statements or adopting public positions in respect of matters after they appear on

**committee agendas but the parties must agree that discussions at these fora will remain confidential.**

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

**None additional**

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

**None.”**

The Committee agreed to the establishment of a Party Leaders’ Consultative Forum, as a successor to the Budget and Transformation Panel, and to reconstitute the Party Leaders’ Forum and approved the suggested remits, arrangements and conventions as set out in the report.

**Appointment of Members to Outside Bodies**

The Democratic Services Manager advised the Committee that there were a number of Outside Bodies which requested that a Member or several Members sit on the Board of their Body. Accordingly, as it was the start of the new Council term, these appointments needed to be made.

He explained that several appointments to Outside Bodies were determined by the Department of the Environment to fall within the process established in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 for Positions of Responsibility. Those were arc 21, the Partnership Panel, the Northern Ireland Housing Council, the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership and its 4 District Partnerships. Those appointments were determined using the d’Hondt system of proportionality alongside the appointments for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons of the 5 Standing Committees of the Council and these had been appointed at the Annual meeting of the Council in May.

In considering the requests for appointments to Outside Bodies which were not considered to be Positions of Responsibility, the Council was free to choose any methodology it so wished. However, in keeping with the process of proportionality which was enshrined in the 2014 Act and which had been employed in the Council for a number of years, the Committee had approved of the use of the Sainte Lague system.

The process was for all of the appointments to Outside Bodies to be grouped together in one pool and the Party Leaders at a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June had selected the positions set out in the appendix below.

In order for a process to be established which dealt with any additional requests from Outside Bodies for Council representation during the Council Term, it was recommended that the party or parties who would have had the next available choice(s) under the Sainte Lague table would be asked to nominate a representative(s).

With regard to NILGA, its Constitution required that the Council’s 10 nominations reflect the overall balance of the political parties on the Council. That would not be able to be achieved if the 10 positions were to be included in a larger pool of positions. Therefore, for that reason, the Party Leaders had agreed that the 10 nominations be allocated using a separate Sainte Lague exercise.

The outcome of a Sainte Lague exercise provided for 3 Sinn Fein, 2 DUP, 2 Alliance, 1 SDLP, 1 Green and 1 PBPA nominations:

### Appointments to Outside Bodies

14th June, 2019

#### National Association of Councillors

SF	Councillor Magennis
SF	Councillor Magee
DUP	Alderman Sandford
DUP	Councillor T Kelly
DUP	Councillor Pankhurst
PBPA	Councillor Ferguson
UUP	Alderman Rodgers
ALL	Councillor Hanvey

#### Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)

SF	Councillor Corr
SF	Councillor Garrett
SF	Councillor Murphy
DUP	Alderman Haire
DUP	Alderman Sandford
ALL	Councillor Howard

ALL	Councillor Mulholland
SDLP	Councillor de Faoite
GREEN	Councillor Groogan
PBPA	Councillor Ferguson

**Belfast City Centre Management Board**

Green	Councillor Flynn
SF	Councillor Corr

**George Best Belfast City Airport Forum**

DUP	Alderman Haire
PUP	Councillor Kyle

**Visit Belfast**

SF	Councillor Walsh
DUP	Councillor Cobain
ALL	Councillor Hanvey
SDLP	Councillor McCusker

**Active Belfast Ltd Board**

SF	Councillor Carson
SF	Councillor Corr
SF	Councillor McLaughlin
DUP	Councillor Newton

Association of Port Health Authorities – Executive Board

SDLP	Councillor Heading
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Belfast Hills Partnership

SF	Councillor Corr
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Board of the Ulster Orchestra Society Limited

SDLP	Councillor Whyte
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Cathedral Quarter Trust

ALL	Councillor McAllister
DUP	Councillor Pankhurst

Grand Opera House Trust

UUP	Alderman Copeland
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Groundwork Northern Ireland

DUP	Councillor Dorrian
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Lagan Canal Restoration Trust

SF	Councillor McAteer
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Lagan Rural Partnership Local Action Group

All	Councillor Nicholl
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Lagan Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee

ALL	Councillor Nicholl
SF	Councillor McAteer
DUP	Councillor Bunting

Linenhall Library Board

PBPA	Councillor Matt Collins
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Local Strategic Partnership on Travellers Issues

SF	Councillor Groves
PBPA	Councillor Michael Collins

Lyric Theatre Education Advisory Panel

ALL	Councillor McDonough-Brown
GREEN	Councillor Groogan

Northern Ireland Amenity Council

ALL	Councillor McReynolds
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Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme

DUP	Councillor Graham
DUP	Councillor Bunting

Somme Advisory Council

DUP	Councillor Graham
ALL	Councillor Long
SDLP	Councillor McKeown

Tall Ships

DUP	Alderman Kingston
SDLP	Councillor de Faoite

Sustainable Community & Demographics Working Group

GREEN	Councillor O'Hara
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NILGA Policy & Learning Network - Reform, Devolution and Improvement

SF	Councillor McAteer
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NILGA Policy & Learning Network - Local Economic Development, Investment and International Affairs

ALL	Councillor Hanvey
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NILGA Policy & Learning Network - Place Shaping and Infrastructure

SF	Councillor S Baker
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NILGA Policy & Learning Network - Elected Member Development

SF	Councillor Canavan
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NILGA Policy & Learning Network - Health, Social and Environmental Wellbeing

SF	Councillor Donnelly
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The Committee:

1. Noted that the Council had agreed that all of the appointments to Outside Bodies would be grouped into one overall pool for the purposes of allocating positions.
2. Agreed to nominate the representatives to NILGA as a separate one off exercise as set out in the report.
3. Noted that the Council had agreed to use the Sainte Lague methodology to provide an order of party political choices of these positions.
4. Agreed to appoint the positions on Outside Bodies as set out above.
5. Agreed , should any other requests be received for Council representation on Outside Bodies during the Council Term, the party or parties who would have had the next available choice(s) under the Sainte Lague table would be asked to nominate a representative(s).

**Appointment of Members to Partnership Boards**

The Democratic Services Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

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

**To consider the appointment of Members to the four Partnership Boards.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Approve of the use of the Quota Greatest Remainder method to identify those parties entitled to nominate representatives to the Forward South Belfast and Eastside Partnership Boards, based upon the number of Members returned at the Local Elections for the District Electoral Areas coterminous with the Partnerships' areas.**
- 2. Approve of the Party allocations for the Forward South and Eastside Partnerships as set out in Sections 3.1.5 and 3.1.6 of the main report.**
- 3. Approve of the compromise arrangement for the appointment of Members to the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Partnership Boards and to the Party allocations under this arrangement as set out in Sections 3.1.7 to 3.1.9 of the main report.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Key Issues**

**3.1.1 The Council, in 2011 and again in 2015, made nominations of Members to serve on the 5 Partnership Boards (North, South, East and West Belfast and Greater Shankill). These nominations were made from the Members returned for the related District Electoral Areas (DEAs) at the Local Elections, depending upon the political party strengths in those DEAs.**

**3.1.2 The representation in 2015, taking account of the new DEAs established as a result of the redrawing of the boundaries as part of the Review of Public Administration, was:**

**North Belfast Partnership – 6 Members from Castle and Oldpark DEAs**

**South Belfast Partnership – 8 Members from Botanic and Balmoral DEAs**

**East Belfast Partnership – 8 Members from Lisnasharragh, Ormiston and Titanic DEAs**

**West Belfast Partnership – 8 Members from Black Mountain and Collin DEAs**

**Greater Shankill Partnership - 6 Members - 4 from Court DEA (excluding the 2 SF Members) and 2 Unionist Members from Oldpark DEA**

**3.1.3 The North Belfast Partnership no longer exists and therefore no nominations are to be made from the Council. The South Belfast Partnership has been renamed as Forward South Partnership and only now require 5 Members from the Council rather than 8. The East Belfast Partnership has been**

renamed as the Eastside Partnership and still requires 8 Members.

3.1.4 The Committee is recommended to again adopt the Quota Greatest Remainder system of proportionality to determine the party representation to the Partnership Boards in South and East Belfast as set out below.

3.1.5 Forward South Partnership Board (5 Members)

The appointees are drawn proportionately from the Parties represented in the Balmoral and Botanic DEAs.

The strengths of the Parties in these DEAs is set out below, together with the number of places which the Parties would be entitled to on the Board based upon the strict application of proportionality.

Party	Number of Members	Representation
DUP	3	(1.50) 2
ALL	2	(1.00) 1
SF	2	(1.00) 1
SDLP	2	(1.00) 1
Green	1	(0.50) 0
	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>

Four of the five seats are allocated automatically and, in accordance with established practice, the party with the greatest remainder figure should be given the additional seat. Accordingly, it is recommended that the extra place is allocated to the DUP.

3.1.6 Eastside Partnership Board (8 Members)

The appointees are drawn proportionately from the Parties represented in the Lisnasharragh, Ormiston and Titanic DEAs.

Party	Number of Members	Representation
ALL	7	(2.95) 3
DUP	6	(2.53) 3
UUP	2	(0.84) 1
Green	2	(0.84) 1
PUP	1	(0.42) 0
SDLP	1	(0.42) 0
	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>

Four of the eight seats are allocated automatically (2 ALL and 2 DUP). The ALL, UUP, Green and DUP have remainder scores of .95, .84, .84 and .53 respectively and are allocated the next 4 seats.

**3.1.7 West Belfast Partnership Board (8 Members) and Greater Shankill Partnership Board (6 Members)**

The redrawing of the DEAs for the new Council had a particularly significant effect in the West and Greater Shankill areas of the city and, similarly, with the consideration of the appointment of Members to the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Partnership Boards.

The area covered by the Greater Shankill Partnership Board encompasses most of the Court DEA, excluding the Lower Falls area, as well as parts of the Oldpark area. The West Belfast Partnership by contrast includes Black Mountain and Collin DEAs as well as the Lower Falls part of the Court DEA. It is therefore very difficult to identify DEAs which are coterminous with the area covered by the two Boards.

Given this disparity, it is considered that the best way to proceed is to take the 8 places on the West Belfast Partnership Board and the 6 on the Greater Shankill Partnership Board together and allocate places based upon the Party strengths across the Black Mountain, Collin, Court and Oldpark DEAs. Accordingly, the representation to the West Belfast and Greater Shankill Partnership Boards would be:

Party	Number of Members	Representation
SF	15	(8.40) 8
DUP	4	(2.24) 2
PBPA	3	(1.68) 2
SDLP	2	(1.12) 1
PUP	1	(0.56) 1
	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>

Twelve of the fourteen seats are allocated automatically. The PBPA and PUP, with the greatest remainder figures of .68 and .56 respectively, are allocated the remaining two seats.

Following a meeting of the Party Leaders concerned, the following compromise agreement has been reached:

**3.1.8 West Belfast Partnership Board (8 Members)**

Party	Representation
SF	7
PBPA	1

**3.1.9 Greater Shankill Partnership Board (6 Members)**

Party	Representation
DUP	2
SF	1
PBPA	1
SDLP	1
PUP	1

**3.2 Financial & Resource Implications**

3.2.1 None associated with this report.

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

None associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Appointment of Members to Building Successful Communities Forums**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

1.1 To consider the appointment of Members to the five Building Successful Communities Forums operating in the city.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree to the use of the Quota Greatest Remainder system of proportionality to allocate the available places on the five Forums amongst the political parties represented in the relevant DEAs.
2. Agree to the allocation of the seats on the five Forums as follows:

- Lower Oldpark and Hillview – 1 SF and 1 SDLP
- Tiger's Bay and Mountcollyer – 1 DUP and 1 SF
- Lenadoon and Glencolin – 2 SF
- Lower Shankill & Browns Square and Falls – 2 DUP, 1 SF and 1 PUP

### 3.0 Main report

#### 3.1 Key Issues

3.1.1 In October, 2013 the Department for Social development launched five pilot schemes in Belfast under the Building Successful Communities Programme. These were:

- Lower Oldpark and Hillview
- Tiger's Bay and Mountcollyer
- Lower Shankill and Brown Square
- Lenadoon and Glencolin
- Lower Falls

3.1.2 These Forums, up until 2015, had membership from elected representatives, local communities and statutory and voluntary agencies. The Forums were tasked with identifying the particular housing and regeneration needs of their area and developing and implementing plans to reverse the decline in those areas and create more sustainable communities.

3.1.3 Elected member representation on the Forums had been identified by way of nomination from MLAs. However, the Department in 2015 sought the formal nomination of up to two Council representatives on each of the five Forums.

3.1.4 In 2015, the Council agreed, in order to ensure that the nominated Members were from the District Electoral Areas (DEAs) in which the Forums operated and that the nominations were proportional to the political party strengths in those DEAs, that a Quota Greatest remainder exercise should be undertaken. It is recommended that the same approach is taken for the nomination of Members in 2019.

3.1.5 The five Forums and the relevant DEAs have been identified as:

- Lower Oldpark and Hillview – Oldpark DEA
- Tiger's Bay and Mountcollyer – Castle DEA
- Lenadoon and Glencolin – Collin and Black Mountain DEAs
- Lower Shankill and Brown Square – Court DEA
- Lower Falls – Court DEA

3.1.6 Accordingly, it is suggested that the two Forums for Lower Shankill and Brown Square and Lower Falls should be grouped together for the purpose of the proportionality exercise as the membership for both is being drawn from the Court DEA, as was the case in 2015.

3.1.7 The outcome of the Quota Greatest Remainder exercise is set out below:

3.1.8 Lower Oldpark and Hillview – Oldpark DEA

Party	Number of Members	Representation
SF	3	(1.00) 1
SDLP	1	(0.33) 1
DUP	1	(0.33) 0
PBPA	1	(0.33) 0
	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

The Quota Greatest Remainder system dictates that where two or more parties have the same remainder figure the available place should be allocated to that party which attracted the most first preference votes in the most recent local elections. In this instance, SDLP, DUP and PBPA each have a remainder figure of 0.33 therefore the second seat is allocated to SDLP.

The two seats are allocated to SF and SDLP.

3.1.9 Tiger's Bay and Mountcollyer – Castle DEA

Party	Number of Members	Representation
DUP	2	(1.00) 1
SF	1	(0.33) 1
ALL	1	(0.33) 0
SDLP	1	(0.33) 0
Green	1	(0.33) 0
	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

The Quota Greatest Remainder system dictates that where two or more parties have the same remainder figure the available place should be allocated to that party which attracted the most first preference votes in the most recent local elections. In this instance, SF, ALL, SDLP and Green each have a remainder figure of 0.33 therefore the second seat is allocated to SF.

The two available seats are therefore allocated to DUP and SF.

**3.1.10 Lenadoon and Glencolin – Collin and Black Mountain DEAs**

Party	Number of Members	Representation
SF	10	(1.54) 2
PBPA	2	(0.31) 0
SDLP	1	(0.15) 0
	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>

The two available seats are therefore allocated to SF.

**3.1.11 Lower Shankill & Brown Square and Lower Falls – Court DEA**

Party	Number of Members	Representation
DUP	3	(2.00) 2
SF	2	(1.33) 1
PUP	1	(0.67) 1
	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

The four available seats across the two Forum areas are allocated to DUP, SF and PUP. It will be a matter for agreement between the three parties concerned as to which of the two Forums they wish to nominate to. In the absence of such agreement, the order of choice should be in relation to the overall Party representation in the Court DEA.

**3.2 Financial & Resource Implications**

**3.2.1 None associated with this report.**

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

**3.3.1 None associated with this report.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Working Groups 2019**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 12th April, it had considered a report on the new Council term commencing in May, 2019 and had agreed to continue with the existing governance arrangements, that is, a traditional committee system, with 7 standing Committees.

Since 2007, the Council had agreed also to appoint Working Groups to focus on issues of particular concern. In addition, the Council had agreed previously the following principles associated with appointment of Working Groups:



- Working Groups should be established only if they are considered to be essential for the achievement of effective and efficient decision-making;
- such Working Groups should be appointed for a fixed-term and for a specific purpose;
- the Groups would not have decision-making powers but rather would produce a report with recommendations (usually in the form of minutes of the meeting) for consideration by the parent Committee;
- after the Working Group has concluded the business for which it was established, it would cease to exist; and
- Working Groups should be formed on the basis of All-Party representation with nominees sought from the Party Group Leaders.

At the meeting on 12th April, the Committee had agreed to reconstitute the following Working Groups:

<b>Audit and Risk Panel</b>
<b>Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders' Forum</b>
<b>North Foreshore Members' Steering Group</b>
<b>Reference Group on Older People</b>
<b>Shared City Partnership</b>
<b>Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group</b>

A copy of the current Terms of Reference for each of the Working Groups is attached at Appendix 1.

The normal practice/convention for the Council in establishing Working Groups was to appoint one representative from each Political Party which had two or more representatives on the Council. If the Committee was minded to retain this convention, none of the current political parties would be adversely affected since all eight Parties had two or more Elected Members on the Council.

The change and reconstitution of both the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Party Leaders' Forum had been considered and agreed earlier in the meeting

It was pointed out that the North Foreshore Members' Steering Group previously had two representatives from each Party and the Committee might wish to give consideration to this as that would result in a membership of 16 (which would actually be larger than two of the Standing Committees).

The Committee had also agreed to retain the Area working Groups but that these move to a more area-based framework approach based on local needs encompassing:

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

The Area Working Groups were to be reviewed within that context and, following a series of workshops with each Group, a revised Terms of Reference would be drawn up which would be submitted to the Committee for approval in late summer/autumn.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Terms of Reference - Working Groups**

#### **Reference Group on Older people**

- To provide political direction and input to the development of the city planning process for improving the health, wellbeing and independence of older people within Belfast
- Maximise the impact the Council can have in working with key stakeholders through the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership to meet the needs of older people in Belfast
- Provide political legitimacy to advocate, lobby and challenge on policy issues which directly impact on older people's quality of life.
- Direct the work of the officer group in improving and joining up council services for older people.

#### **Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group**

To support cemetery and crematorium development and improvement of bereavement services for Belfast through:

- consideration of evidence/reports in order to advise on issues and inform options around future provision;
- providing strategic direction and input into the city's framework for cemetery and crematorium development;
- making recommendations to the relevant Committee regarding cemetery and crematorium development; and
- acting as a communication channel to Party Groups and to other Councillors in general and ensure that the facts of issues around cemetery and crematorium development are fully understood.

### **North Foreshore Member' Steering Group**

The remit of the Group is to oversee the management of the North Foreshore, especially in regard to policy, resource allocation and financial risk of future development at the site.

### **Shared City Partnership**

The role of the SCP is:

- To assist the elected political leadership of the Council, staff, diverse civil society interests and partnering agencies to engage pro-actively on all Good Relations issues on behalf of citizens and be a collective voice, promoting a common vision for Good Relations in the City.

The purpose of the SCP is:

- To oversee the delivery of the Belfast PEACE IV Peace and Reconciliation
- Action Plan while also continuing with the core Good Relations agenda for
- the City including the good relations outcomes linked to the Belfast Agenda
- and the new Local Development Plan.
- To oversee the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan and associated
- District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP).
- To provide a challenge function to the council and other represented
- organisations to ensure good relations is at the forefront of policy and programming development which impacts on the City.
- To promote good relations between people of different religious and political beliefs and different racial groups in every aspect of Council activities.
- To use the Council's influence as a democratically elected body, providing civic leadership to the City, to promote good relations throughout society.
- To promote equality of opportunity in the discharge of the Council's responsibilities, taking into account the needs of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation, of men and women generally, of persons with a disability and persons without and of persons with dependants and persons without;
- To promote respect and understanding throughout the City by providing support, including the equitable use of available budgets, for appropriate initiatives which celebrate the cultural diversity of Belfast.

- To act as an mechanism to ensure that major Belfast City Council initiatives both revenue and capital are cognisant of their duty in relation to Section 75, Part B

### **Audit and Risk Panel**

#### **Statement of purpose**

1. The Audit and Risk Panel is a key component of Belfast City Council's corporate governance arrangements. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
2. The purpose of the Audit and Risk Panel is to provide independent assurance to those charged with governance (Members and senior management) on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of the council's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It will provide an independent scrutiny of the council's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it exposes the council to risk and weakens the control environment. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

#### **Governance, risk and control**

3. To review the council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework and consider annual governance reports and assurances.
4. To review the Annual Governance Statement prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account internal audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control.
5. To consider the council's arrangements to secure value for money and review assurances and assessments on the effectiveness of these arrangements.
6. To consider the council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the council.
7. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the council, to include overseeing the council's risk, control and governance arrangements for health and safety.
8. To approve the council's risk management strategy and monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the Panel, including the corporate risk register and information on the management of key corporate risks.
9. To consider reports on the effectiveness of internal controls and monitor the implementation of agreed actions.
10. To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.
11. To approve the council's fraud and whistleblowing policies and monitor the implementation of these policies, including the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources.
12. To review and oversee the Council's framework and related arrangements for performance management.

### Internal audit

13. To approve the internal audit charter.
14. To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendations.
15. To approve the risk-based internal audit plan, including internal audit's resource requirements, the approach to using other sources of assurance and any work required to place reliance upon those other sources.
16. To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan and resource requirements.
17. To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
18. To consider reports from the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services on internal audit's performance during the year, including the performance of external providers of internal audit services. These will include:
  - a) Updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and action in hand as a result of internal audit work.
  - b) Regular reports on the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.
  - c) Reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note, considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the Annual Governance Statement.
19. To consider the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services' annual report:
  - d) The statement of the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note and the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme that supports the statement – these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit.
  - e) The opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion – these will assist the committee in reviewing the Annual Governance Statement.
20. To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports as requested.
21. To receive reports outlining the action taken where the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services has concluded that management has accepted a level of risk that may be unacceptable to the authority or there are concerns about progress with the implementation of agreed actions.
22. To contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
23. To consider a report on the effectiveness of internal audit to support the Annual Governance Statement, where required to do so by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

24. To support the development of effective communication with the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services.

**External audit**

25. To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
26. To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
27. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
28. To commission work from internal and external audit.
29. To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.
30. To consider the external auditor's report on performance management, specifically the annual improvement assessment and to consider the adequacy of management responses / action taken to address issues arising from these reports.

**Financial reporting**

31. To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council.
32. To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.

**Accountability arrangements, referral and reporting**

33. To report to those charged with governance (Members and senior management) on the Panel's findings, conclusions and recommendations concerning the adequacy and effectiveness of their governance, risk management and internal control frameworks; financial reporting arrangements, and internal and external audit functions. The Panel will do this by reporting to the council's Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on a regular basis through reports and minutes of meetings. It may also report, with the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to other standing committees on matters that are of direct relevance to the responsibilities of these committees.
34. To report to full council (through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee) on a regular basis on the Panel's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the Panel in meeting its purpose.
35. The Audit and Risk Panel shall consider any issue referred to it in relation to these terms of reference by the council or any Standing Committee. Furthermore, the Audit and Risk Panel shall also consider any matter brought to its attention by the Chief Executive. Where any individual Member wishes to raise an issue under these terms of reference, the Member shall accordingly either raise the matter through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee or in the case of urgency with the Chief Executive.

The Committee:

- noted the Terms of Reference of the Working Groups;
- agreed the membership of each the Working Groups would be 1 representative from each of the 8 Political Parties on the Council; and
- noted that the Terms of Reference of the Area Working Groups were also being reviewed.

### **Basic and Responsibility Allowances**

The Committee was advised that the Department for Communities had issued a circular, LG 07/2019, which set out revised maximum limits for basic and special responsibility allowances with effect from 1st April, 2019.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that, at its meeting in August 2016, it had agreed to apply the increase in the basic allowance from £14,200 per annum to £14,342 with effect from 1st April, 2016 and agreed also the increase in the basic allowance to £14,485 with effect from 1st April, 2017. That had represented a 1% increase for both the 2016 and 2017 years. However, the Council, at its meeting in September 2016, rejected that decision and agreed not to apply any increase in the basic and special responsibility allowances for 2016 and 2017. Since that date, no increase in either the basic or the special responsibility allowance had been approved.

He explained that information received had indicated that all of the other ten local councils had agreed to apply the increases and, therefore, an elected Member in Belfast was currently receiving a lesser basic allowance than Councillors in the other councils. The Committee was requested to consider whether it wished to agree to the increase in the basic allowance to £15,071 per annum with effect from 7th May, 2019 (the date upon which Members of the Council officially took up office after the local elections).

The Committee was also requested to consider whether to apply the revised allocation of the special responsibility allowances, as set out in appendix 3 to the report, with effect from 21st May, 2019 (the date of the Annual Council Meeting). For a number of years, the Council had agreed a split in the special responsibility allowance budget so as to pay both the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and the Party Officers (Party Leader, Deputy Party Leader and Party Secretary – depending upon Party size). In this new Council Term, there were now eight Parties as opposed to the six we had in the previous Term and therefore there were more Party Officers sharing the overall allowance. If the increase in the overall budget was not applied, then that would mean that the Committee would need to approve a new split of the SRAs. A suggested split was set out in appendix 2 to the report.

### **Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That the Committee agrees not to increase the basic and special responsibility allowances.

**Amendment**

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

That the Committee agrees to increase the basic responsibility allowance from £14,200 to £15,057 with effect from 7th May, 2019 but that no increase be applied to the special responsibility allowance (SRA) and that the split for the SRA be as set out in appendix 2.

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

The amendment was thereupon put as the substantive motion, with ten Members voting for and six against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, a copy of appendix 2 is set out below:

**Appendix 2**

**Allocation of Special Responsibility Allowance – With Additional Party Leaders**

Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons

<b>Position</b>	<b>Allowance</b>	<b>Number of posts</b>	<b>Total</b>
Chairpersons	£5,800	6	£34,800
Deputy Chairpersons	£2,900	6	£17,400
Chair BW&UH Cttee	£2,900	1	£2,900
Dep Chair BW&UH Cttee	£1,450	1	£1,450
<b>Total</b>			<b>£56,550</b>

Political Party Officers

Party Leader Basic Allocation

£3,200

Deputy Leader/Secretary Basic Allocation

£2,900

Remainder allocated to Political Party Leaders

£140.83 per Member of the Party



Position	Number of Members	Allocation per party Member	Allocation per Party Strength	Basic Allocation	Total
SF Party Leader	18	£140.83	£2,534.94	£3,200	£5,734.94
SF Deputy Leader				£2,900	£2,900
SF Secretary				£2,900	£2,900
DUP Party Leader	15	£140.83	£2,112.45	£3,200	£5,312.45
DUP Deputy Leader				£2,900	£2,900
DUP Secretary				£2,900	£2,900
Alliance Party Leader	10	£140.83	£1,408.30	£3,200	£4,608.30
Alliance Deputy Leader				£2,900	£2,900
SDLP Party Leader	6	£140.83	£844.98	£3,200	£4,044.98
SDLP Deputy Leader				£2,900	£2,900
Green Party Leader	4	£140.83	£563.32	£3,200	£3,763.32
PBPA Leader	3	£140.83	£422.49	£3,200	£3,622.49
UUP Leader	2	£140.83	£281.66	£3,200	£3,481.66
PUP Leader	2	£140.83	£281.66	£3,200	£3,481.66
	60			£43,000	<b>£51,449.98</b>

Total  
**£107,999.80**

### Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

#### City Region Growth Deal – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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

- 1.1 To update Committee on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).**

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- To note the governance and programme arrangements that have been put in place to support the development of the next phase of the BRCD which includes the production of an implementation plan and funding agreement for the delivery of the BRCD programme and associated projects
- To note the next steps on the development of the SOC for the Dublin Rail Connectivity and Economic Corridor.
- To approve the next stages in the delivery of the Belfast Destination Hub including;
  - the establishment of a robust governance structure; the production of a Treasury compliant green book appraisal; development work on potential site identification and a communications plan and
  - the recruitment of a Project Director to lead the development and delivery of the project

## 3.0 Main report

- 3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), resulted in the submission of the BRCD proposition document to NIO and UK government on 30th September 2018. The proposition outlined approximately 22 projects across the investment pillars of Digital / Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism led Regeneration underpinned by a significant employability and skills programme, which will provide inclusive job opportunities and significantly enhance the region's economy.
- 3.2 As a result, in his budget on 29th October 2018 the Chancellor announced a commitment of £350m from UK government, leveraging at least £350m from NI regional government, £100m from the BRCD councils and £50m from the two universities to deliver the proposed BRCD programme. This provided 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.
- 3.3 At the March Committee Members approved the BRCD Heads of Term document which set out the funding commitment for the £850m investment Programme announced by the Chancellor and reflected the programme of investment presented in the BRCD proposition document.

- 3.4 This document was then signed by both governments, the six councils and the two universities, allowing work to progress on the next phase of the development of the programme.

Programme Development - Progress to Date

- 3.5 A key element in developing the BRCD Programme was the governance structures that were put in place to support partnership working and effective decision making at both individual council level and collectively across the programme. This included a Joint Council Forum, comprising Councillors from all six partner Councils and a Programme Board with senior representation from all the partners. These structures have been built upon to support the next phase of delivery with Advisory Boards created for each of the Pillars of Investment to oversee and support the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for each of the BRCD projects.
- 3.6 Significant resources have been committed by all the partner organisations to support the development of the overall programme and individual OBCs. As the accountable body BCC has put in place a programme office which will work across the partnership and with UK Govt and NICS departments to deliver the key documents required for this phase which are
- 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
- 3.7 The BRCD programme office will also support the overall management and delivery of the programme as well as developing internal frameworks in areas including;
- Governance and Decision Making
  - Financial Planning and Management
  - Programme and Project Management
  - Performance Monitoring and Assurance
  - Communication and Engagement
- 3.8 Given the scale of the five proposed Innovation projects, the two universities have established a joint programme office to oversee their development and delivery. Based at QUB this programme office not only demonstrates their commitment to

the projects but also to the partnership between the two universities and maximising the benefits across the innovation investment pillar.

3.9 The Belfast Met and FE colleges who are leading on the Employability and Skills Programme are about to recruit a Programme Manager to support the development of this pillar. The post will be funded by the colleges and will be located in the BRCD Programme Office in BCC.

3.10 In addition the Fraunhofer Institute which is leading the way in digital innovation and smart districts / testbeds, have been appointed to develop an implementation plan for the Digital element of the deal.

3.11 The final Investment pillar of Infrastructure is being led by DfI, given they will be solely responsible for the delivery of the projects. As with other strands, BRCD partners will be represented on the Board and progress will be reported in through the current governance structures. A key infrastructure project for the Belfast City Region, which will enhance and compliment the BRCD programme, is the development of the Dublin Rail Connectivity and Economic Corridor. In January 2019 the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved the commissioning of a 'Stage 2 Strategic Outline Business Case' for an improved rail network between Belfast and Dublin offering 60 minute journey times, improved level of service and significant improvements in air quality and long term environmental impact. Members are asked to note that funding will be matched from private and public contribution to progress the Strategic Outline Business Case with an expected completion of the work in October 2019. Belfast City Council contribution will be meet from within current departmental budgets in line with previous approvals.

3.12 Belfast Destination Hub

BCC is also putting in place specific resources to progress the Destination Hub, which is a key project under the tourism strand of the deal. Within the BRCD, the Destination Hub mirrors the ambition of the Belfast Agenda to a deliver a second world-class visitor attraction to generate additional tourist spend and footfall in the city centre. The Destination Hub proposal is for a single site in the city centre incorporating a range of facilities including the 'Belfast Story' visitor destination, a Northern Ireland film centre, gallery and exhibition space and a digital media/skills training facility.

3.13 Members will recall at its meeting 17th August 2018 the project moved from Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital programme and an Outline Business Case was completed. The UK Treasury has now published it's guidelines on the

required Green Book economic appraisals required for each project within the Infrastructure, Tourism, Regeneration and Employability and Skills BRCD pillars – including the Belfast Destination Hub. In line with Treasury recommendations, and in recognition of a project of this scale, scope and complexity, it is now necessary to move forward with a new phase of development that comprise of a number of work strands. Currently this includes the establishment of a robust governance structure with strategic partners such as Tourism NI, NI Screen, National Museums of NI and the Department of Finance; the production of a Treasury compliant green book appraisal; development work on potential site identification and a communications plan to include further concept development with a strategic communications framework. To deliver a project of this magnitude for the city and the region, it will be necessary to allocate the necessary resources to deliver the work strands and for the appointment of a Project Director on a three year fixed term contract to drive the project forward. Members should note that all costs associated with these work strands and the appointment of a Project Director are to come from existing resources.

**3.14 Next Steps – Member Engagement**

As with phase 1 of the Programme individual councils will be responsible for all decisions relating to investment in their individual projects and in Belfast SP&R will continue to receive regular updates on the both the council's projects and the overall programme. Members from all six councils will also continue to meet through a Joint Members' Forum and it is proposed the next meeting of this will be held in September 2019. Proposed arrangements for this meeting will be brought to the August Committee meeting.

**3.15 Financial & Resource Implications**

All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.

**3.16 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 EIAs as and when appropriate.”*

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Customer Focus Programme – Update**

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted for the Committee’s consideration the undernoted report:

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

1.1 Members are reminded that in March 2019 Committee considered proposals for the Customer Focus Programme and agreed the implementation approach, key milestones of the implementation plan, the programme workstreams and the resource requirements that will be necessary to successfully take forward the programme of work.

1.2 This report provides an update on activity during the last quarter and seeks support to progress a number of elements including the establishment of a mechanism to involve elected members in the design of the Customer Hub to ensure Members’ needs are met.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Approve the establishment of a cross party task and finish group to engage with the Customer Focus programme to represent Members’ needs throughout the design and implementation phases of the programme. A draft Terms of Reference for the task and finish group is attached at Appendix 1.
2. Approve the use of the ‘Nextdoor’ social media platform as a pilot to assess its effectiveness and potential as part of the Customer Hub design.
3. Note progress during the last quarter including the appointment of a Customer Services Manager and the award of contract for the Strategic Delivery Partner.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Elected Member Engagement in the Customer Focus Programme**

The Customer Hub will deal with customer contact for all departments and services, across all channels (online, mobile, telephone, face-to-face, email, social media) and will oversee the introduction of a single telephone number for the Council.

**3.2** A key focus in the design of the Customer Hub will be a streamlined process to proactively manage the information requirements of elected members. It is important that, during the design and implementation phases, elected members are engaged in the design process. It is therefore proposed that a cross party task and finish group is established to provide insight and guidance regarding Members' requirements to influence the design of the Customer Hub and the channels therein. A draft Terms of Reference has been circulated.

**3.3** Appointment of Customer Services Manager

Integral to the overall Customer Focus programme will be the design and implementation of the Customer Hub including staffing and operation. The post of Customer Services Manager is seen as critical to the successful operation of the hub and therefore recruitment of the post was a priority. Members are advised that the post has been recruited successfully.

**3.4** Proposed Pilot of Nextdoor

The design of the Customer Hub will include a review of how social media channels are managed from both corporate and service delivery perspectives. A new channel called 'Nextdoor' has emerged in recent years and is growing in use in Neighbourhoods in Belfast (currently 20,000+ members). Nextdoor is a website and app for neighbourhoods connecting people with their neighbours to build stronger, safer and happier communities. Residents use Nextdoor for a variety of things but some of the most popular are to discuss local issues, get recommendations and to get to know their neighbours. The tool is used effectively to tackle growing issues in communities such as fighting loneliness among older people and setting up self-help groups.

**3.5** This platform differs from other social media platforms in that it is geographically based, it has a residents' only membership and is moderated within neighbourhoods by local residents. Nextdoor has clear community guidelines that stop negative behaviour like trolling or aggressive language. As every Nextdoor member must be a verified local resident using their real name, negative behaviour is unusual.

**3.6** Nextdoor provides public service with a free tool to communicate and engage directly with residents with every account having unlimited user accounts for staff. Public service accounts cannot see residents' posts but they can see responses to their posts as well as receive private messages. Posts can be targeted to local area e.g. ward or DEA.

Photographs, videos and other documentation can be attached to posts. Types of posts can include general information, polls, an event or urgent alerts, for example:

- Public services can use the polling feature to get resident feedback about concerns and priorities. Residents can only vote once and are verified as living in the ward.
- Urgent alerts are messages that appear as app notifications, emails and if residents have signed up for the service, a SMS text message.

Members may be aware that PSNI has recently committed to using the platform regionally.

3.7 We have received a proposal from Nextdoor for Belfast City Council's use of the platform for publishing public service messages. It is proposed that Council assesses the use and effectiveness of Nextdoor on a pilot basis as part of the design of the Customer Hub.

3.8 Award of contract for Strategic Delivery Partner

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. To fast track implementation, we have procured a strategic delivery partner to assist with the design and implementation of a corporate approach to Customer Management. The contract has been awarded to PA Consulting. The role of the strategic 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.

3.9 Workstream Update

The technical workstreams of the Customer Focus programme (Website, CRM and Integration) are at the initial stages of development and focus in the last quarter has been on researching the market, defining requirements and our approach to procurement.



The Service Design and Implementation workstream continues to work on coordinating the programme of change across the organisation ensuring alignment of objectives and will, with the appointment of the strategic delivery partner, focus on development of our agile service design approach to transformation in order to make significant and accelerated progress to meet the key aims of the programme. A key part of this process, will be to involve our staff at all stages of the design and to ensure that communications on any impacts will be clear and timely.

Workstream definitions have been circulated.

**3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

SP&R agreed in November 2017 to establish a specified reserve to finance the customer focus programme.

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

Work on the EQIA and Rural Needs Assessment for the Customer Focus Programme has been initiated.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations..

**Strengthening the role of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector in Community Planning**

The Committee deferred consideration of the report to enable discussions to be undertaken with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships and to a further reported being submitted to the August meeting.

**Corporate Plan 2019-23**

The Committee was informed that the Corporate Plan was a key governance document, cited in the council's constitution, as the means by which the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee sets the strategic direction of the council. It sets out what the council wants to achieve for the city and the key priority actions to make this happen.

A four year (2017 – 21) corporate plan was approved by the Committee on 23rd June 2017, with the agreement that it would be updated annually. This four year period was to align the corporate plan to the Belfast Agenda (the city's first community plan). However, given the recent local government election, it was important that the new Council was given the opportunity to shape the new corporate plan and set clear priorities.

In order to form a starting base for Members to consider, a draft corporate plan had been prepared. This draft was based on the priorities the Council had committed to in the Belfast Agenda; the priorities set by the previous Council; and the analysis of the social, economic and environmental needs of the city.

To facilitate Member input into the corporate plan, it was recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agrees to host an all Member workshop in August that would focus on the priorities for the Council. It was also anticipated that further discussion would take place during the Party Group Leader planning session in September.

Following that workshop, a redrafted corporate plan would be brought to the Committee in September before commencing a public consultation process. Following that process, the priorities agreed would be used as a basis for the rate setting process.

The Committee noted the draft corporate plan for 2019-23, agreed to the ongoing process that would enable Members to further develop this draft to fully reflect the Council's priorities and agreed to the holding of a workshop for all Members of the Council on 8th August at 5.00p.m.

### **Council Improvement Plan**

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

#### **"1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Members on results of the public consultation on the draft council improvement objectives and to present the draft Council Improvement Plan 2019 - 2020 for Committee approval and publication.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

##### **2.1 The Committee is asked to**

- Approve the draft 2019-20 Council Improvement Plan. A draft was presented to SP&R Committee in February and draft improvement objectives agreed for public consultation. As council is legally required to publish its improvement plan by 30th June, Members are also asked to authorise its publication on the council's website subject to formal ratification by Council on 1st July.**

#### **3.0 Key Issues**

##### **3.1 Background**

**The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 introduced a duty on councils to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions. As a result, we are required to consult residents on our proposed**

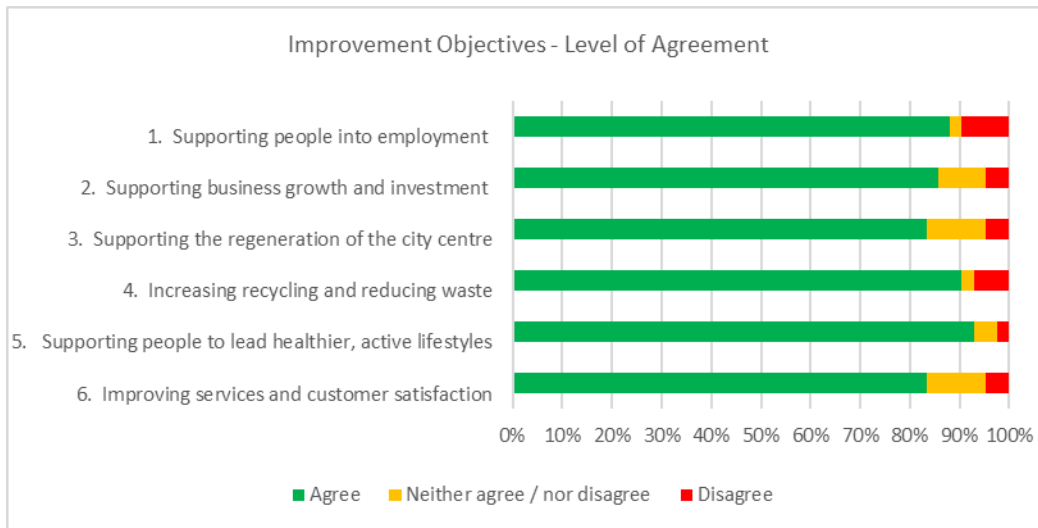
improvement objectives and to publish an annual Improvement Plan setting out the agreed improvement objectives for the year ahead and our arrangements to achieve them. In February, SP&R approved six draft improvement objectives, aligned to the Belfast Agenda, which we issued for public consultation:

<b>Working &amp; Learning</b>
1. We will support people into employment
<b>Growing the Economy</b>
2. We will support investment and business growth in the city
<b>City Development</b>
3. We will support the regeneration of the city centre
4. We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill
<b>Living Here</b>
5. We will support people to lead healthier more active lives
<b>A Fit for Purpose Organisation</b>
6. We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council

### 3.2 Consultation Responses

The consultation ran for a period of 6 weeks and received 43 responses, an increase from last year. The majority of those responding to the consultation supported the proposed improvement objectives - see table 1. Where respondents did disagree, comments suggest that this was largely because they felt council should be focusing on core services rather than doing what they seen as 'the job of other organisations'. In the case of the waste and recycling objective, although some respondents said they disagreed with this objective, their comments suggest that they disagreed with the proposed approach to reducing waste rather than the objective itself. When we broke down the level of agreement in more detail, recycling, supporting healthier lifestyles and customer care improvements showed the highest levels of 'strongly agree'.

Table 1



**3.3** When asked to submit ideas for improving the objectives or to suggest other areas for improvement, around half (22 respondents) provided comments. Although these comments varied widely, respondents mentioned the environment / sustainable development and encouraging active travel the most frequently. Other suggested issues included addressing anti-social behaviour, supporting people in poverty, better support for people with disabilities and better support for mental health. These issues, most of which require a partnership effort, will be addressed through the Belfast Agenda or are reflected in the council's new Corporate Plan.

**3.4** Improvement Plan 2019 – 20

The high levels of support, as evidenced by the consultation, indicate that the proposed improvement objectives are relevant and appropriate. However, in response to the feedback we have updated the health related improvement objective to include active travel related actions. The objectives have now been incorporated within a formal Council Improvement Plan, which is supported by an internal operational plan that details the key deliverables for the year ahead. The draft Improvement Plan is attached at appendix 1 for approval.

Council must publish its Improvement Plan by 30th June each year. Given that the local government elections meant that the draft plan could not be brought to committee before now, Members of the SP&R Committee are asked to approve the attached plan and to authorise its publication on the council website by 28th June. In order to meet our statutory

deadline, the plan will therefore be published subject to formal ratification by full Council on 1st July.

### **3.5 Financial and Resource Implications**

The Improvement Plan has already been reflected in the formal planning and budgeting processes of council; there are no resource implications contained in this report.

### **3.6 Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs assessment**

There are no direct equality or rural need implications contained in this report.”

The Committee:

- approved the draft 2019-20 Council Improvement Plan, subject to the removal of references to MIPIM as an indicator;
- noted that a draft had been presented to the Committee in February and draft improvement objectives had been agreed for public consultation; and
- agreed, as the Council was legally required to publish its improvement plan by 30th June, to authorise its publication on the council’s website subject to formal ratification by Council on 1st July.

## **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 Physical Programme covers over 200 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation Programme, Belfast Investment Fund, Local Investment Fund, Social Outcomes Fund and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. 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 –**

- note the update on the Physical Programme as at 3.1 below and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have

been completed and/or are underway.

- note that it is proposed that a series of Party Group Briefings on the Physical Programme are undertaken in August to update Members on the status of projects under the Programme along with the emerging implications for future investment decisions and in particular the potential impact on the district rate.. These will be delivered in conjunction with the Director of Finance & Resources.

#### Proposed movements

- note that satisfactory tender returns have now been achieved for two IT projects (the IT Programme – Asset Management System and the Customer Focus Programme – New Telephony System ) and that it is recommended that a maximum budget of up to £150,000 is now allocated per project. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

#### Project Updates

- agree in principle to the transfer of Paisley Park from DFC to the Council following completion of any upgrade works by DFC and subject to this being in line with the Council's agreed policy on the transfer of assets.

#### Non-recurrent projects

- note that the incremental nature of the capital programme allows the Council the opportunity to allocate an element of the 2019/2020 capital financing budget to finance a number of one-off (non-recurrent) projects within year. It is recommended that this is focused on progressing projects which the Council is required to take forward either from a health and safety perspective and/or a legislative perspective.
- agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any non-recurrent projects for 2019/2020 as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1 The Council's Capital Programme is a significant regeneration programme of investment across the city, which improves the existing Council assets or provides new council facilities.**

**An update on the key projects under the various programme is outlined below;**

**Completed Projects**

- **Pitches Programme at Ulidia Playing Fields**
- **Upgrades to parks, open spaces and playgrounds – including the refurbished playgrounds at Hammer, Glenbank, Duncairn and Fullerton**
- **Corporate Projects - including Fleet Replacement Programme for 2018/19 and a range of ICT projects**
- **In addition 18 projects were completed under LIF for FY 2018/19; 2 BIF projects completed (Davitts GAC and Raidió Fáilte) and 2 SOF projects (Assembly Buildings Conference Centre and James Connolly Interpretative Centre)**

**Projects currently underway**

- ***Leisure Programme – Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh and Brook – works are underway on these centres***
- ***Pitches Programme at Blanchflower Playing Fields***
- ***Navarra Place (MUGA programme Phase 2)***
- ***Upgrades to playgrounds - including playground refurbishment at Barnett and Orangefield Park***
- **In addition, various projects are currently underway under LIF; 4 BIF projects (Grace Family Centre, Cancer Lifeline, H&W Welders Football Club and Colin Glen Trust) and an SOF project - Rock Centre.**

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

- 3.3 Members have been advised that the Physical Programme is under increasing pressure in terms of overall affordability and Members are asked to agree that a series of Party Group Briefings on the Physical Programme are undertaken in August to update Members on the status of projects under the Programme along with the emerging implications for future investment decisions and in particular the potential impact on the district rate. These will be delivered in**

conjunction with the Director of Finance & Resources in terms of affordability.

**Proposed Movements**

3.4 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to note the following movements on the Capital Programme.

3.5 **IT Programme- Asset Management System**

Moved to Stage 3- Committed- Tier 0 Scheme at Risk	20 April 2018
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Gerry Millar
Client Department	Property & Projects
Final Budget	Up to a maximum of £150,000

Members will be aware that prior to local government organisation in 2015 the Council already owned and managed a substantial estate. This was significantly enhanced under LGR with addition of assets which transferred from Lisburn and Castlereagh. Due to the growing estate there is a requirement for the Council to have a fit-for-purpose corporate asset management system to support the strategic objectives of better financial management, information management, planning and performance and asset management.

SP&R at its meeting on 20th April 2018 agreed that the project should proceed to 'Stage 3 - Committed - Tier 0-Scheme at Risk' pending a satisfactory tender return at which stage the final budget would be brought back to Committee. Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return within affordability limits has been received and the Outline Business Case (OBC) has been reviewed internally and no major issues have been identified. It is therefore recommended that the IT Programme – Asset Management System project is now progressed with a maximum budget of £150,000 to be allocated. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

3.6 **IT Programme- Customer Focus**

Moved to Stage 3- Committed- Tier 0 Scheme at Risk	March 2019
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Ronan Cregan
Client Department	Finance & Resources
Final Budget	Up to a maximum of £150,000



Members will be aware that Council have approved an ambitious Customer Focus Programme, which will deliver Council services differently, in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of the people. In March 2019 the SP&R Committee noted that an integral part of the Customer Focus Programme is the necessary technology requirements and back up including, among other elements, a new 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 was agreed that the IT requirements for the Customer Focus Programme would be brought forward as a programme with the individual elements to be brought back to Committee for a final investment decision following the tender process and confirmation that this was within the affordability limits of the Council.

Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return has now been achieved for the first element of the Programme, a new telephony solution, and it is recommended that this is now progressed with a maximum budget of £150,000 to be allocated. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

#### Project Updates

- 3.7 Members will be aware that the Council has received £3.1m under the Peace IV Local Action Plan for capital works under the Shared Spaces & Services element. The focus of this work is on a triangle at the Springfield Dam, Springvale Park and Paisley Park. Members will be aware that both Springfield Dam and Paisley Park are DFC assets but it has previously been agreed that Springfield Dam will transfer to the Council upon completion of the upgrade works which are being match-funded by DFC. Members are asked to note that DFC have now written formally to the Council to propose that Paisley Park is also transferred to the Council in the same manner as Springfield Dam i.e. that DFC undertake the necessary upgrade works and it is transferred to the Council once these are completed. The exact nature of the upgrade works has still to be agreed but that this could cover the football and bowling facilities and a 3G pitch.
- 3.8 Members are asked to agree in principle to the transfer of Paisley Park to the Council subject to further discussions with DFC and subject to this being in line with the Council's agreed policy on the transfer of assets. In considering this Members are asked to note that this is an important component of the overall peace project and is a key asset in the local area which has been under-invested in over the

years. As a sports facility this aligns to the Council's wider objective and will add to the overall objectives of the Peace project. Members are also asked to note that the Council already maintains the Park through an SLA with DFC.

**Capital Programme and Capital Financing – Non-recurrent projects**

3.9 Members are asked to note that the Council incurs both capital expenditure and capital financing costs in the delivery of its Capital Programme.

- Capital Expenditure is the expenditure incurred in the actual delivery of contracts e.g. the actual payments to the contractor for a construction contract
- Capital Financing is the method the council uses to fund the capital expenditure. The capital financing costs include loan repayments (principle and interest); revenue contributions (cash payments to repay or avoid taking out loans); capital receipts and external funding.

3.10 The phased impact of the capital programme on the capital financing budget provides the opportunity for the council to allocate an element of the 2019/2020 capital financing budget to finance a number of one-off (non-recurrent) projects within year. There are a number of proposals which the Council is required to take forward either from a health and safety perspective and/or a legislative perspective and it is recommended that these are taken forward using non-recurrent capital financing. These include upgrades to a number of council facilities to ensure DDA compliance, fleet investment to ensure the Council's fleet estate remains 'fit for purpose' and on the road in order to ensure continued service delivery and new mobile ventilation units for St. George's Market.

3.11 Members are asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for the any non-recurrent projects for 2019.2020 as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* -- IT programme- Asset Management System - that a maximum budget of up to £150,000 is ring-fenced for this project.

IT Programme – Customer Focus – New Telephony System - that a maximum budget of up to £150,000 is ring-fenced for this project.

The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that these allocations are within the affordability limits of the Council.

*Resources* – Officer time to deliver as required and staff resources to deliver the IT projects system and non-recurrent projects

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

**No implications.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Assets Management**

**Tullycarnet Park – Pavilion and Bowling Green**

The Committee granted a land lease to Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Boxing Club (TAGIT) for the purpose of constructing a new boxing club facility on the council lands.

**Beechvale Farm – Proposed disposal**

The Committee approved the appointment of an agent for the marketing of Beechvale Farm and noted that, following receipt of offers, a report would be brought back to the Committee.

**Cregagh Youth and Community Centre –  
Licence to Ulster Rugby for occasional use of  
overflow car park**

The Committee granted a 9-month Licence to Ulster Rugby for their occasional use of the overflow car park adjacent to Cregagh Youth and Community Centre.

**Ravenhill Rest Gardens – Environmental Improvements**

The Committee approved the demolition of the former toilet block and to enter into a licence with Communities NI to undertake the demolition redevelopment landscape works and a maintenance agreement for a period of up to three years.

**Cromac Street Car Park – Licence agreement renewal**

The Committee approved a licence agreement renewal with NIHE for the Council operated off street car park at Cromac Street.

**The Ulster Hall, 34 Bedford Street, Belfast**

The Committee agreed to enter into a Crane Oversailing Agreement with McAleer & Rushe Contracts UK Limited, for the purposes of their Contractor carrying out works on their new Bedford Square Development opposite the Ulster Hall.

**River Terrace – Lease of land to Lower Ormeau Residents Association Group**

The Committee agreed to the lease of land to LORAG by way of a 25 year lease for the purposes of a community garden facility.

**Avoniel Play Centre – Proposed temporary relocation to the Diamond Project**

The Committee agreed to a Licence Agreement with Charter NI for the provision of accommodation at 32 Constance Street BT54QF for services displaced from the BCC Avoniel Play Centre, with the licence to run until 31st March 2021.

**Finance, Resources and Procurement**

**BCC Assurance Framework and Annual Governance Statement**

The Committee considered the undernoted report;

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

**1.1 The purpose of this paper is twofold;**

- to explain to Members the key elements of the ‘year-end’ process and the ‘assurance framework’ that the Council has developed over recent years to help ensure that the Council complies with statutory requirements and Members and senior officers can have effective, ongoing oversight of the Council’s governance and assurance arrangements, including the annual report of the Audit & Risk Panel for 18/19.
- to present the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19, for consideration and inclusion in the unaudited statement of accounts which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2019 and then subject to NIAO audit. The Statement has been considered by the Audit Assurance Board, but has not been reviewed by the Audit & Risk Panel as it has not been possible for the Panel to meet in June due to the timing of the nominations process following the elections. The Statement should now be approved by the Committee Chair, the Chief Executive and the Chief Financial Officer.

**1.2 The Annual Governance Statement is an important document and it is important that the Committee is fully aware of its contents. The disclosures in the statement are based upon the Council’s corporate risk register and take into**

consideration the disclosures made by Chief Officers in their individual annual assurance statements. The Annual Governance Statement also incorporates a summary of the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Service's annual assurance statement.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

### **2.1 Members are asked to note the Council's Assurance Framework and note the annual report of the Audit & Risk Panel for 18/19.**

Members are asked to review and approve the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 and, in particular, the disclosure of the significant governance issues contained in the statement.

### **2.2 Following review, the statement will be incorporated into the Council's unaudited financial statements for 2018/19 which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2019. It will be subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.**

## **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Key Issues**

The Council's Assurance Framework is summarised at Appendix A. It shows how different sources of assurance and related key elements / control measures combine to enable the Council to monitor its governance arrangements and produce the evidence to support its Annual Governance Statement. The diagram shows how the Council's Audit & Risk Panel, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Council provide oversight of these governance arrangements. Related to this, the annual report of the Audit & Risk Panel for 18/19 is at Appendix B.

### **3.2 Preparation of Annual Governance Statement**

The Council has a statutory responsibility to annually prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement as part of the Financial Report. Many different processes inform the preparation of the Statement as can be seen from the Assurance Framework at Appendix A. Specifically, the Annual Governance Statement sets out:

- scope of the responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework that is actually in place
- the review of effectiveness of the governance framework that has taken place

- an update on the significant governance issues that were disclosed last year
- significant governance issues to be disclosed for year-end 2019 and the action proposed to address them.

**3.3 The Statement for 2018/19 is presented at Appendix C and should be approved by the Chair of Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.**

**3.4 It will be incorporated into the unaudited statement of accounts which will be certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30 June 2019. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.**

**3.5 Financial & Resource Implications**

**None.**

**3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**None.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Contracts Update**

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council’s electronic procurement system;
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to award the most economically advantageous tender;
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55(b) - exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendation of a Chief Officer - that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts setout in 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 2;
- approved the extensions as detailed in Appendix 1, Table 3;
- noted the contracts that have been awarded (January – May 2019 inclusive) Appendix 1, Table 4; and
- noted that the Committee had delegated authority in relation to the award of contracts.

**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 - New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for the provision of a bring site service	Nigel Grimshaw	Two years with optional extension of anytime up to two years and a further two years thereafter
Tender for the provision of a dry material recovering facility	Nigel Grimshaw	Three years with the option to extend for a further two years.
Delivery of parks education programme	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to five years
Supply and delivery of waste containers and food waste liners	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to three years
Supply & delivery of Fruit & Veg to Belfast Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to three years
Supply & delivery of bedding plants and supply & delivery & offloading of forcing and bedding bulbs	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to three years
Provision of de-icing and snow clearance (winter) service	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to three years
Supply, delivery and offloading of haylage, meadow hay and barley straw	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to four years
Annual Bituman including small civil engineering works	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to four years

MTC for roller shutter doors – repair, maintenance and minor alterations	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further three years
MTC for general metal and small engineering - callout repairs and minor works	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further three years
MTC for glazing – callout, repairs and minor works	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further three years
MTC for air conditioning – callout ,repairs and minor works	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further two years
MTC for electrical insurance repairs and small works	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further two years
MTC for pitch lighting – callout, repairs and minor works	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further two years
MTC for roofing services – callout, repairs and minor works	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further two years
Supply and delivery of footwear and gloves	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further two years
Supply and delivery of electrical materials	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further three years
Supply and delivery of plastic sacks	Gerry Millar	One year with the option to extend for a further three years
Resurface main yard at Cregagh Civic Amenity Centre	Gerry Millar	4-8 weeks
Boiler replacement at Morton CC & Belvoir Acitivity	Gerry Millar	8-12 weeks
Upgrade fire alarm at waste transfer station	Gerry Millar	4-8 weeks



Replacement of flooring at Ballysillan LC	Gerry Millar	2-4 weeks
Installation of Christmas lights at City Hall	Gerry Millar	12 weeks
Repairs to roofing at Smithfield Market	Gerry Millar	4-6 weeks
CHP Works at Ballysillan Leisure Centre	Gerry Millar	Up to five years
Analysis of samples from the North Foreshore	Gerry Millar	Up to three years
Online Business Case 2 for Belfast Destination Hub	Alistair Reid	Up to one year
Strategic Engagement Framework for Belfast Destination Hub	Alastair Reid	Up to one year
Project concept development for Belfast Destination Hub	Alastair Reid	Up to two years
Tender for the delivery of two summer lighting pilots	Alastair Reid	Up to one year
Tender for proposal for a festival of light to animate Belfast City Centre throughout Xmas 2019	Alastair Reid	Up to one year
Employment Academy – Leisure (T1976)	Alastair Reid	Up to three years
Purchase of mobile ventilation units for St Georges Market	Alastair Reid	Up to ten years

**Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>System/Product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Annual estimate</b>
Finance & Resources: maintenance and support for Modern.Gov software (T1969)	Modern Mindset	£38,750
Place & Economy City Revitalisation Programme support for a number of key activities	Festival of Fool's/Cathedral Quarter/Other Voices	£70,000

Place & Economy City Revitalisation Programme: marketing campaign (T1970)	Visit Belfast	£300,000
City & Neighbourhoods: removal of a portacabin (T1971)	confidential	confidential
City & Neighbourhoods: seasonal waste removal 2018 (T1972)	confidential	confidential
City & Neighbourhoods: seasonal waste removal 2019 (T1982)	Confidential	confidential
Research and Evidence to inform the Local Development Plan (T1973)	Turley and Edge Analytics	£42,500

**Table 3 - Contract Extension**

<b>System/Product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Period</b>
Tender for the collection, treatment and re-cycling of mattresses	Ulster Supported Employment Ltd	Month by month until new contract is in place.

**Table 4 – Tenders Awarded (January to May 2019)**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Successful Contractor</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>
Supply and delivery of ambient food (T1918)	Henderson Foodservice Ltd	John Walsh
Supply and delivery of kerbside sort vehicles (T1932)	Romanquip Ltd	Nigel Grimshaw

Provision of a personal development project - PEACE IV (T1920)	Extern NI	Nigel Grimshaw
Supply and delivery of top dressing sand and topsoil (T1877)	Clive Richardson Ltd	Nigel Grimshaw
Tender for wet pour repairs (T1878)	Play and Leisure Services Ltd	Nigel Grimshaw
Administration and provision of first aid training courses (T1911)	Proparamedics Ltd	John Walsh
Provision of a medical referee service (T1875)	Dr Smith	Nigel Grimshaw
Removal and disposal of sharps and drug paraphernalia (T1894)	Ace Drains	Nigel Grimshaw
Good relations through sport – PEACE IV (T1925)	Active Communities Network	Nigel Grimshaw
Supply and delivery of fresh meat and poultry (T1929)	Lynas Foodservice Ltd	John Walsh
Maintenance of grounds maintenance plant and equipment (T1913)	Broderick Grass Machinery Ltd	Nigel Grimshaw
Delivery of care employment academy (T1931)	DFPF Ltd t/a People 1st	Nigel Grimshaw
Supply and erection of street nameplates (T1935)	Traffic Signs and Equipment Ltd	Alistair Reid
Maintenance and removal of flower displays (T1870)	Clive Richardson Ltd	Nigel Grimshaw
Design, delivery and management of twilight market (T1957)	The Event-ful consultancy	John Greer
Advertising service for the placement of planning notices (T1898b)	Independent News and Media Ltd	Aidan Thatcher

**End of Year Absence**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the end of year absence rates for 2018/19.

At the end of March 2019, the average number of day's sickness absence per full time employee was 13.71 days. The Council did not meet its target to reduce sickness absence to 10 days. However, the rate did not increase on last year's (13.72) rate, rather there was a marginal reduction. There was an increase in the number of staff with no absence this year, 38.75% compared to 37.04% last year. Long term absence increased this year with 67.44% of absence classified as long term absence compared to 64.20% for the same time last year.

The number of days lost per full time equivalent was slightly less in quarter four (3.47 days) when compared to quarter three (3.55 days). The quarterly comparison chart showed a significant improvement in the quarter four absence rate this year when compared to the same period last year (3.92 days).

The report provided details on the disability related absence; stress related absence; and for Musculo-skeletal related absence for 2018/19. In addition, the report highlighted the initiatives introduced and various programmes for employees in order to assist to reduce sickness absence.

The Committee was advised that, in recent years, a corporate target of 10 days had been set and this figure remained as the target for the Council's absence rates. It had been recognised, however, that this target was difficult for larger departments to achieve in one step in the course of a single year.

In order to recognise the significant efforts being made to reduce absence levels and achievements in some areas, and taking account of the significant organisational change ongoing, it was proposed that departments continue to work towards a target of 10 days, to be achieved by the end of the current Council term, that is, by the end of March 2023. It was hoped that a more achievable target for all departments, that is, one based on an annual percentage reduction might provide more of a realistic incentive for departments to strive towards and could be applied across the board down to service or section level. A proposed reduction of 7.59%\* would mean the following targets for each year until 2023.

19/20	12.67
20/21	11.71
21/22	10.82
22/23	10

\*A review of the target each year is required as it is based on a percentage reduction of the previous year.

The committee noted the contents of the report and agreed the proposed corporate target.

## Equality and Good Relations

### Equality and Diversity: Quarter 4 Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report

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

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

The Committee noted the summary of equality screening and rural needs impact assessments which had been undertaken from January till March, 2019.

### Update on Statue Gifted by Stena Line

The Members were reminded that the Council, at its meeting in March 2019, had agreed to accept the gift of a statue representing non-violence from The Olsson family, founders and owners of Stena Line. The owner supports many causes and charities, including the Non-Violence Project Foundation. The family was interested in exploring a potential initiative with the City of Belfast.

The symbol for this was the famous statue by Carl Reutersvärd, which, among other places, was situated in front of the United Nations building in New York. That statue is a well-known symbol of peace and non-violence.

While it might initially appear that the image of the "knotted gun" does not sit comfortably within the Belfast context, the Members might wish to note the statue can be customised to meet local needs / issues and it can be colourful and vibrant. However, given the Belfast context - a city moving out of conflict and which is being regenerated, not just centrally but in local communities with the aim of promoting connection and cohesion, the Council considered Girdwood as an appropriate place to site the statue.

The representatives from Stena Line were impressed with the history and the development of the site. The building of a shared space in a previously contested area, the development of a further phase to continue the work at the site and beyond including linkages to a major arterial route were factors, which they recognised sat with the aims of the project as well as providing natural local connections with any potential programme.

As the Council had agreed to the above request, the company have stated that they would be willing to invest significant funds in a programme for children and young people through schools which would look at non-violence. They had advised that they would wish the Council to take the lead on this initiative. The Members would be aware that the Council was currently supporting a number of programmes through PEACE IV but these were confined to afterschool activities as stipulated by the funding conditions.

In the interim, officers had met with representatives from the Education Authority (EA) who were responsible for Shared Education and the suggestion would be that a partnership approach be undertaken. That would mean that, in addition to the financial contribution from Stena Line, resources could be accessed from the Shared Education Programme through the EA. The Council had already agreed that funding from the Council's Good Relations Action Plan be directed towards a schools intervention programme.

In implementing this approach, it would deliver a flexibility to work with schools/groups on a single identity basis, reduce the risk of duplication, increase the significance of the programme and meant that ongoing support and progression could continue which would result in the projects being mainstreamed – a more sustainable approach.

Such an approach would require the Council and the EA to enter into a partnership agreement and Members were asked to give approval for officers to progress this agreement, subject to input from Legal services and approval from the Education Authority.

It should be noted that progress reports on the programme would be brought to the Shared City Partnership in the first instance and then through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The unveiling of the statue would take place in Girdwood on 13th September 2019 from 11am - 12pm. It was envisaged that the Lord Mayor and Mr Olssen would undertake the unveiling. In advance of the event, a creative programme was being organised with young people who use Girdwood to ensure their participation and understanding around shared space and the reason behind the statue. Panels would also be developed to tell the story of Girdwood and the background to the statue to give the piece context. The Lord Mayor would also host a visit for Mr Olssen on the same day to acknowledge his contribution to the City of Belfast.

The Committee noted the update on progress and granted approval for officers to progress a partnership approach and agreement with the Education Authority regarding a nonviolence programme.

### **Invite to Participate in a Visit to Srebrenica**

The Committee consider the following report:

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

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of correspondence from the Chair of the Remembering Srebrenica UK formally inviting the Good Relations Manager to participate in a 4 day visit to Srebrenica along with other civil service and senior political representatives in September/October 2019. This follows on from visits by delegations from all parts of the UK and Ireland including at very senior level within other devolved regions.**

## 2.0 Recommendations

### 2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Consider the invite from the Chair of the Srebrenica Committee UK for the participation of the Good Relations Manager in a visit to Srebrenica in September/October 2019.

## 3.0 Main report

### Background

3.1 The Srebrenica massacre, also known as the Srebrenica genocide was the July 1995 massacre of more than 8,000 Bosniaks, mainly men and boys and mostly Muslim, in and around the town of Srebrenica during the Bosnian War.

3.2 In 2005, Kofi Annan, then Secretary-General of the United Nations described the massacre as the worst crime on European soil since the Second World War. Both the International Tribunal to the former state of Yugoslavia and the International Court of Justice have ruled the acts committed in July 1995 constituted genocide.

### 3.3 Remembering Srebrenica and Council involvement

Remembering Srebrenica is a charitable initiative. It recognises that we have achieved a lot in terms of building a cohesive society here in the UK, but discrimination, promotion of hatred, extremism, and exclusion persist, and we must play our part, no matter how large or small, to create a better and safer society for all.

3.4 It organises UK memorial events to honour survivors and keep alive the stories of their loved ones who died. They work with individuals and organisations to help strengthen society by learning the lessons of history to help tackle hatred, racism and intolerance wherever it occurs. They do this through commemoration, education and by taking individuals from communities across the UK to Srebrenica to speak to survivors and families whose loved ones were killed. Following the visit, participants are asked to apply the lessons learned from the experience and apply them in their own community and context to combat prejudice.

3.5 Council have previously supported the Remembering Srebrenica event through provision of the City Hall as a venue which takes place in July and previous Lord Mayors have been invited to attend and deliver a speech.

**3.6 In commemorating this genocide in Europe in 1995, Remembering Srebrenica aims to:**

- **Raise awareness of the genocide and consequences for victims and their families;**
- **Highlight the impact of ethnic and religious intolerance;**
- **Confront the consequences of prejudice; and**
- **Encourage our community champions who have participated in similar visits to use their learning in their own communities and regions.**

**3.7 Request**

**Since 2013, Remembering Srebrenica has taken over 1,200 people to Srebrenica to learn about the consequences of hatred. Upon their return, delegates pledge to take action to raise awareness of the genocide and stand up to hatred and intolerance in their communities. In just six years, Remembering Srebrenica has brought people from different backgrounds together through organising 6,200 memorial activities across the UK and Ireland and educating 90,000 young people about Srebrenica and the dangers of hatred if left unchecked.**

**3.8 On this visit by a Northern Ireland delegation, there will be senior representatives from The Executive Office, the Department of Finance, two senior politicians and two special advisors. The chair of Remembering Srebrenica in Northern Ireland, will also participate.**

**3.9 During the visit, the conflict in the Balkans 1992-1995 will be explored including the siege of Sarajevo, the Dayton Agreement in 1995 and the delivery of power-sharing after that time; and of course, visit Srebrenica, to explore the build-up to the genocide in July 1995, what happened at Srebrenica and its aftermath; and indeed explore the diversity of Bosnia-Herzegovina prior to and since the conflict in the 1990s.**

**3.10 Relevance to Council**

**The outline of the visit has resonance for the work of Council given the challenging issues we are grappling with including confronting prejudice, division, how we embrace diversity and how we remember in a way that is ethical.**

**3.11 The Good Relations Unit is responsible for devising and implementing the Decade of Centenaries Programme remembering events from 100 years ago and also responsible for creating a narrative along with Party Group Leaders around how the Council could look at forthcoming 50th anniversaries in our own conflict. In addition, the Council has devised a set of shared principles which has**



helped the Council to navigate its way through difficult and contentious issues during this time. Themes of commemoration and ethical remembering are also contained within the draft Good Relations Strategy as well as within the PEACE IV Programme and Good Relations Action Plan.

3.12 Therefore, it would seem fitting that we look to another recent conflict to study how they deal with the issue of remembrance and memorialisation and bring learning back as well as share our experience.

3.13 As Council has and probably will be the organisation which will take the lead in commemoration at a Belfast level, it would also be useful to liaise with the civil service around how they envisage dealing with this issue and look at potential areas of cooperation.

3.14 In addition, the TEO have asked us to partner with them again to deliver and host International Holocaust Remembrance Day again in January 2020 as next year is the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. It is worth noting that the IHR Day also remembers genocides in Darfur, Rwanda and Srebrenica.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

All costs for the trip will be covered by the organisation with no cost to Council. Resource would be Officer time and subsistence.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The learning from the above visit would be incorporated into the Council's approach as to how we remember and would serve to have a positive impact on good relations and equality. There are no implications regarding rural need."

The Committee agreed to accept the invitation from the Chair of the Srebrenica Committee UK for the participation of the Good Relations Manager in a visit to Srebrenica in September/October 2019.

Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20

The Committee noted the progress which had been made in the delivery of the Language Strategy Action Plan 2018-20 and the overview of planned activities.

Invitation to Join the International Shared Societies Project

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 To advise members of a further request to participate in the international Shared Societies Project involving 5 other countries in Kosovo from 10-16th September 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and agree the following:**

- **That Belfast City Council agrees to participate in the project in September 2019 to contribute to the discussion and explore how the project is developing.**
- **That a report on the project after the event would be brought back to the Council through the Shared City Partnership for further consideration**
- **Given the nature of the project, The Chair and Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership or their nominees would be the most appropriate participants to attend.**
- **Given the challenging time commitment from 10-16th September 2019, if required Officers will investigate the options for timing, which will yield the most benefit to Council.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The Council has received a request for up to 2 participants to be part of an international shared societies project.**

**3.2 This new five year project began last autumn, and an invitation was extended to Belfast City Council (BCC) to join as a partner organisation in August 2018. The decision was not to join at that time, but the organisers are hoping that fresh consideration can now to given to the idea.**

**3.3 The organisers would like to have Northern Ireland involved in the project: academics and people who have the practical task of implementing policies in a divided society. The academics who were first contacted were asked to suggest a practitioner organisation. They suggested the Council as an organisation with much to share from its experience in trying to create a shared city ethos, and the Council would still be the first choice.**

**3.4 The project which is a 5 year programme aims to bring together six countries to work collectively to create a deeper understanding of the idea of a shared society. It will bring together theorists from universities and practitioners who have to contend with real life cultural conflict on a day to day basis.**

3.5 The opening residential seminar took place at the Arab-Jewish peace centre, Givat Haviva, in Israel in October 2018. The next residential event is planned to take place in Kosovo between September 10th and 16th this year

3.6 It has been designed as a shared learning experience and has secured funding for the first year from the German Peace Academy. Funding is being sought for the following years from EU Horizon 2020 project and other funding bodies. The countries involved are Belgium, Germany, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel/Palestine and Kosovo.

3.7 Participants from Northern Ireland

The academics who were contacted about the project thought that BCC as a practitioner organisation would have much to share from our experience of creating a shared city ethos. The academics who will be attending are

Gráinne Kelly, a Ulster University lecturer in Peace and Conflict Studies at INCORE, (International Conflict Research Institute).

Paul Nolan, an independent researcher who produced the first three Northern Ireland Peace Monitoring Reports for the Community Relations Council.

Professor Mari Fitzduff is from Brandeis University, Boston. Mari is an international conflict resolution specialist who was previously the first director of the NI Community Relations Council, and the first director of INCORE.

3.5 Content

This is not a conference per se but rather participants will be expected to deliver presentations, talk knowledgeably about the Council's work in relation to a shared city, methodologies, current thinking and participate in discussions. Each country will describe its experiences, exploring both the achievements and the frustrations, and engage in discussions with the other partners. An annual report will be compiled distilling the learning from the sessions.

3.6 Context

The experience of the other 5 countries involved will assist with our own discussions around shared societies and contribute to the implementation of our good relations strategy. Members will note that the concept of shared space and services features heavily in the Good Relations Strategy through 2 of our outcomes and this is an issue which

remains highly challenging to the City. The impact on relationships, labour markets, the inefficient use of services and facilities, significant urban blight, poverty and educational disadvantage are all characteristics of divided areas.

3.7 We need to reconnect our city to ensure it continues to be recognised as a globally competitive, cohesive, welcoming, outward looking and forward-looking city with opportunities for all.

3.8 Belgium is a prosperous member of the European Union, but a country with three very distinct internal cultures: the Dutch-speaking region of in the north, the mostly French-speaking Wallonia region in the south, and the German-speaking cantons in the east. In 2010/11 Belgium did without a government for 589 days.

Germany, the heart of European social democracy, which is now struggling with issues arising from immigration. This is not just a recent phenomenon. In the 1960s and 1970s, the German governments invited 'guest workers' (Gastarbeiter) to migrate to Germany for work in the German industries. The largest immigrant group came from Turkey, and some generations on there are unresolved issues about the extent to which the host country and the immigrant communities experience a shared sense of citizenship.

Bosnia-Herzegovina The Bosnian war concluded in 1995 with the signing of the Dayton Accord, but since then the country has experienced an unhappy form of 'peace without reconciliation'. A complex constitutional architecture has led to the segregation of Bosniak, Serb and Croatian communities, but the Nansen Dialogue Project has created links extending across Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia.

Israeli/Palestinians. The Middle Eastern partnership in this project is not between Israelis and the Palestinians in the West Bank or Gaza, but rather with the Palestinians who live within the state of Israel. The Givat Haviva Centre, which would be the official partner organisation, was created in order to build solidarity between Israeli peace activists and the Palestinian community in Israel. It is a recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education for its longstanding work in promoting Jewish-Arab dialogue and reconciliation.

In Kosovo, the issue of ethnicity and national identity and has been bubbling on the back burner ever since the new republic was created in 2008. There are those who want to re-draw the national boundaries to align them more closely with Serbian and Albanian ethnic identities. Against this

backdrop, there are those who want to build a shared society within the existing boundaries.

**3.9 Decisions Required:**

If Members are minded to agree to the Council's participation in the project, a decision could be taken to participate in the event in September to explore how the project is developing.

A report on the project after the event would be brought back to the Council through the Shared City Partnership for consideration.

Given the nature of the project, The Chair and Vice Chair of the Shared City Partnership or their nominees would be the most suitable members to attend.

In addition, it should be noted that 7 days is an exceptional time commitment and there is a possibility that nominated Members may wish to look at participating for a shorter period. The most appropriate option will be investigated.

**3.10 Financial and Resource Implications**

The cost to Council would involve the participants' daily expenses which can be met from existing budgets. The costs of travel and accommodation for the first seminar will be covered by the Peace Academy grant as outlined in the report.

**3.11 Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural needs Assessment.**

The rationale for participating in the project is to look at how to create and sustain shared societies which will have a positive impact on equality and good relations."

**Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Garrett,  
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees not to participate in the International Shared Cities Project.

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

**Further Proposal**

Moved by Councillor Graham,  
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendations in relation to the International Shared Cities Project and authorises the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership at the residential seminar in Kosovo.

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

**Operational Issues**

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 10 June 2019 as set out below:

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
Embassy of Sweden	6 June 2019	<b>National Day Reception</b> – A reception to mark the visit of the Swedish Embassy to Belfast to support and develop connections between Sweden and Northern Ireland. Organised in conjunction with the European Unit.  Numbers attending – 50 – 100	B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links to Council</i>	Yes, Wine Reception	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No charge Wine Reception
Extern	12 June 2019	<b>Launch of Personal Change Programme (PCP)</b> – A launch event for the Personal Change Programme, a Shared Cities Partnership project which we are running in	B&D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No charge No hospitality

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 21st June, 2019**

**B**  
**2469**

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
		partnership with Belfast City Council.  Numbers attending – 80				
St Rose's Dominican College	22 June 2019	<b>St Rose's Dominican College Gala Dinner</b> – A dinner to celebrate the lifetime of the school over the last 58 years before it merges with two neighbouring schools to become All Saints College.  Numbers attending – 150 est	C	No	Yes, Wine Reception	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No charge Wine Reception
British Council	25 July 2019	<b>IAESTE Annual Summer Reception</b> – a dinner to welcome international trainees involved in the IAESTE programme for paid industry placements across the STEM industry in NI.  Numbers attending – 80 – 100	B&C	No – Charity	No hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No charge No hospitality
Education Authority, Intercultural Education Service and The Executive Office, Urban Villages	16 September 2019	<b>Schools of Sanctuary Celebration Awards</b> – An awards ceremony for primary and post primary schools participating in the Schools of Sanctuary programme.  Numbers attending – 200 est	C	Yes - £115	No hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No charge No Reception

**B**  
**2470**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 21st June, 2019**

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	11 or 25 November 2019	<b>Belfast Trust Chairman's Awards 2019</b> – Awards ceremony to recognise the contributions and achievements of the staff in the Belfast Trust.  Numbers attending - 300	C	Yes - £825	No hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Peace Players Northern Ireland	31 August 2019	<b>PeacePlayers Champions 4 Peace Graduation Ceremony</b> - to celebration the work of participants who have completed the Champions 4 Peace programme.  Numbers attending – 100-135	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Soft Drinks Reception	Approve No charge Soft Drinks Reception
Organisation of Malayali's in NI (OMNI)	1 September 2019	<b>Ponnonam 2019</b> – Cultural programme to celebrate Onam in the Indian community.  Numbers attending - 500	C & D	No (Community)	No as annual event with cultural programme format	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Community Relations Council	17 September 2019	<b>Together Building a United Community Engagement Forum</b> - celebration event as part of Good Relations Week to acknowledge the results of community projects involved in the forum.  Numbers attending – 150-200	B & C	Yes - £115	No hospitality	Approve Charge £115 No hospitality



**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 21st June, 2019**

**B**  
**2471**

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
Belfast Healthy Cities	7 October 2019	<b>Launch of Care Zone –</b> Launch of the CareZone project which aims to highlight key health inequalities in North Belfast and create an action plan to tackle these.  Numbers attending – 50	B & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Esc Films	25 October 2019	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank You Lunch –</b> Informal lunch to celebrate achievements of esc films over 20 years working with vulnerable people in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 60	C	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Queen's University Belfast	28 October 2019	<b>European Conference in Molecular Pharmacology Welcome Reception –</b> Welcome reception as part of 3 day conference taking place at Queen's University Belfast.  Numbers attending – 150	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Family Care Adoption Services	1 November 2019	<b>Family Care Adoption Services 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception –</b> Reception to celebrate 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Family Care to acknowledge the achievements of adoptive families and their young	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

**B**  
**2472**

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**  
**Friday, 21st June, 2019**

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
		people.  Numbers attending – 50-80				
United States Consulate General Belfast	3 November 2019	<b>Welcome Reception for the US Department of State Management Officer's Workshop –</b> Welcome reception as part of 6 day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 150	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Association for Simulated Practice in Healthcare (ASPiH)	5 November 2019	<b>ASPiH 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Dinner –</b> Conference dinner as part of 4 day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 250 - 300	A & B	No  <i>£825 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Onus (NI) Ltd	19 November 2019	<b>Onus 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony of the Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence –</b> Awards Ceremony to recognize the achievement of participating Workplace Charter organisations.  Numbers attending – 120	B, C & D	No (Community)	Yes, Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	7 December 2019	<b>10 Year Celebration of the Regional Primary Percutaneous Coronary</b>	C	Yes - £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee  
Friday, 21st June, 2019

B  
2473

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		<p><b>Intervention Service –</b> Dinner to celebrate 10 years of the service being provided in Cardiology units across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 200-300</p>				
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
HelmsBriscoe	9 March 2020	<p><b>EMEA Regional Meeting Welcome Reception –</b> Welcome reception and networking event as part of a 3 day conference taking place in Belfast.</p> <p>Numbers attending –250</p>	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No charge Wine Reception
CO3, Chief Officers 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sector	12 March 2020	<p><b>The Leadership and Good Governance Awards –</b> Awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of leaders in the charity sector in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 80</p>	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
44 <sup>th</sup> Scout Group Belfast	11 September 2020	<p><b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner –</b> Dinner to celebrate the past 100 years of the 44<sup>th</sup> Scout Group in Belfast.</p> <p>Numbers attending – 70 - 90</p>	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION</b>	<b>FUNCTION DATE</b>	<b>FUNCTION DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>CRITERIA MET</b>	<b>ROOM CHARGE</b>	<b>HOSPITALITY OFFERED</b>	<b>CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND</b>
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	26 November 2020	<b>Belfast Trust Chairman's Awards 2020 –</b> Annual awards ceremony to recognize the achievements of Belfast Trust staff.  Numbers attending – 300	C	Yes - £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
<b>2021 EVENTS</b>						
European Council on Eating Disorders	23 September 2021	<b>European Council on Eating Disorders General Meeting Welcome Reception–</b> Welcome reception for international delegates as part of a 3 day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 250-300	A & B	No  <i>(£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No charge Wine Reception

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel of 13th June, 2019.

**Use of the City Hall – Destination Tourism**

The City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services informed the Members that the Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB) had been working in conjunction with a number of companies to promote Belfast as a showcase destination for tourists, with a particular focus on tour operators and business incentive market (in which companies offer travel products as bonuses/incentives). That entailed bringing a range of venues and attractions together and marketing them in a unique package.

As an example, last year the City Hall was used to host the Hosts Global Conference which had generated £4 million for the local economy to date. That type of market was very competitive and lucrative and the unique selling proposition (USP) of a city was key to successful marketing and securing business. The City Hall was regarded as a signature feature of the City and a major incentive in attracting business. Giving access to the City Hall for events was a major selling point that many other cities

could not offer. The NITB regarded this type of business as of equal importance to conferencing in terms of bed nights and visitor spend in the City. It was further of the view that there was a serious risk that this business would be lost if the City Hall could not be made part of the offer. Under the current arrangements the City Hall was permitted to be used for hosting events related to conferences but not the destination tourism type events described.

Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee agrees to amend the terms and conditions regarding use of City Hall to permit the hosting of events to promote destination tourism.

The Committee adopted the recommendation and granted delegated authority to the City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services to approve the hosting of events as described and to also delegate to the Director the negotiation and charging of fees for such events.

### **Issues raised in advance by Members**

#### **Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC): Divestment**

In accordance with notice on agenda, Councillor Long addressed the issue of divestment by NILGOSC and proposed the following:

*“This Council calls on the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) to divest the Local Government pension scheme from any fossil fuel companies within 5 years.”*

The proposal was seconded by Councillor McDonough-Browne.

At the request of a Member, the proposer agreed to amend his motion with the replacement of the words “within 5 years” with “as soon as possible” and to the addition of “and agrees to write to the other NI Councils seeking support for this motion”. However, he refused a further request to include “tobacco and arms companies” in the proposal.

Accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor Garret and  
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the proposal standing in the name of Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor McDonough-Brown be amended to read as follows:

*“This Council calls on the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) to divest the Local Government pension scheme from any fossil fuel, tobacco and arms companies as soon as possible and agrees to write to the other NI Councils seeking support for this motion”.*

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

The amendment was put as the substantive motion, when nine Members voted for and seven against and declared carried.

**Closure of Avoniel Leisure Centre and Templemore**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Kyle addressed the Committee in relation to concerns around future leisure provision in East Belfast, mainly with regard to the closure of the Avoniel Leisure Centre and Templemore.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that officers host further meetings with users of the Avoniel Leisure Centre in order to discuss mobilisation and community concerns.

**Report – A Prison Without Walls –  
Asylum, Migration and Human Rights**

Councillor M. Kelly, in accordance with the notice previously given, referred to a report which had been published earlier that week entitled “*A Prison Without Walls – Asylum, Migration and Human Rights*”. She explained that a number of the recommendations contained in the report were relevant to and/or impacted on the Council and requested if a report on these issues could be submitted to the August meeting of the Committee.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Chairperson