

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 4th February 2020

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Deputy Chairperson) (In the Chair);
the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;
the High Sheriff, Councillor Verner,
Alderman McCoubrey;
Councillors Black, Bunting, Cobain, Corr, de Faoite,
Garrett, Gormley, M. Kelly, Magee, McAteer, McCusker,
McMullan, Mulholland, Newton, Smyth.

Also Attended Councillor Heading and McLaughlin.

In attendance: Mr. N Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from the Chairperson, Councillor Michael Collins.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 8th and 14th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McAteer declared an interest in respect of item 8d Request for the use of the Waterworks by ArtsEkta insofar as a family member worked for that organisation and she left the meeting whilst that item was under discussion.

Matters referred back from the Council/Motions

Motion - 'Parenting in the Picture' Campaign

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council, at its meeting on the 4th November 2019, considered a motion which had been moved by Councillor Mulholland and seconded by Councillor Smyth:

'Following on from the 20th year of Parenting Week, this Council recognises the vital importance of parents to society.

Furthermore, it notes with concern that 82% of parents indicated in the most recent 'Big Parenting Survey', that they felt that parents do not receive enough support.

In order to bring attention to and in an attempt to redress this, the Council formally supports Parenting NI's 'Parenting in the Picture' campaign and pledges to work towards implementing the promises and commitments contained in this campaign.

To do this, the Council commits to conducting an audit of the existing initiatives which it delivers to support parents, with a view to working with the voluntary and community sector, as well as other partners, to explore if such initiatives may be improved, as well as seeking to bring forward new programmes to support our parents.'

The motion was referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the findings of the service audit outlining Council's support/ provision for Parents.**
- ii. Agree that officers should work collaboratively with the Belfast Area Outcomes Group to explore the potential to enhance service provision to address parents' needs in the city.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the recent audit of the existing initiatives which council delivers to support parents in the city. In addition, officers met with Parenting NI in order to discuss the range of possible actions that BCC and other relevant agencies might take to support the promises and commitments included in the 'Parenting in the Picture Campaign'. (Attached as Appendix 1)

3.2 Council do not have the specific remit of developing and implementing Parent Support Programmes and, as such, does not deliver any targeted support programmes for Parents in the city. There are, however, a number of current

initiatives that have an impact on parents directly or indirectly.

Direct Provision of Parenting Support Initiatives

3.3 We defined direct provision as an intervention directly delivered by Council where parents are the main target beneficiaries and the aim of the programme is related to their parental skills, abilities, confidence and knowledge. The range of services delivered by council are:

- **Mother and Toddlers Groups:** delivered by Community Services in our Community Centres. There are 13 regular M&T groups across the city meeting on a weekly basis. The groups run from September to June annually.
- **Outreach Play Programme:** delivered by the Play Service to local voluntary and community groups and other Play Providers in the city. The outreach programme supports groups and parents with resources, information and advice on Play. The programme is implemented via weekly sessions for twelve consecutive weeks. There are around 19 programmes delivered weekly from Sep to Jun annually.
- **Playgroup Parent Support:** delivered by the Play Service. Programme to parents of statemented children. The group meets weekly for 15 weeks with parents participating in group discussions, information sharing, mindfulness and specific workshops on parenting and development.
- **Parenting NI Staff training:** Corporate HR provided staff introductory training to officers across council on effective Parenting and Raising a child during 2019.

Indirect provision

3.4 Defined as activities and interventions that have an impact in supporting parents but that might not necessarily be designed initially to provide parent support. There are a wide range of initiatives across Council, and the value of the contributions that they make should not be underestimated. Given the variety of interventions, we have provided an illustrative summary of the most relevant.

- **Council Network of Community Centres and other local neighbourhood facilities:** There is a huge number of events and interventions facilitated in our local community centres and other local venues such as women's groups, sports clubs, Crèches or particular parent activities such as art clubs, sports, informal training, children thematic projects and information sessions.

- **Officer support:** Officers across our community provision teams deliver a wide range of programmes which are supportive of parents in the city for example, afterschool projects, afterschool play provision and homework clubs.
- **Summer Scheme:** BCC host a summer scheme programme at each of our BCC community and play centres during July and August offering children a host of activities and play opportunities in safe and accessible environments.
- **Summer Scheme Grant programme:** Local community sector schemes have access to small grant funding and other support to extend the summer scheme offer in the city.
- **City Events:** Programmes of large-scale free events across the city. Examples such as Halloween, Christmas Light switch on and a range of local events in our parks and open spaces.

3.5 Officers held a series of meetings with Parenting NI in order to explore opportunities to progress some of the commitments outlined in the 'Parenting in the Picture Campaign'. We propose that the report and the note of the meeting with Parenting NI are shared with the Belfast Area Outcomes Group to explore the potential to enhance service provision to address parents' needs in the city. Some of the recommendations include:

- Consider the need for a specific scope of parental needs in the Belfast area replicating the regional Big Parent Survey.
- Expand the availability of the 'wellbeing in the workplace' seminars provided in the last year.
- Establish a 'parent network' for employees.
- Further train staff who interact directly with children, young people and parents in order to improve their ability to work with parents.

3.6 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report, however any agreement on a Belfast specific scoping study and related activity will need to be considered in terms of resource implications for the council.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that officers work through Corporate Communications to review the accessibility of information in relation to the Council’s direct and indirect provision through its website.

Motion – Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

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

“This Council will be aware of Sections 43A and 43B of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 outlining that new public building owned by public authorities from 2019 and all new buildings, including social and private housing developments, “must be a nearly zero energy buildings”, (NZEB43B) by 31st December, 2020.

The Council reaffirms its commitment to work with statutory and non-statutory agencies to end fuel poverty and the reduction of carbon emissions.

In addition, it acknowledges the evidence gathered by the World Health Organisation and environmental groups indicating the damage to both health and our climate from fuel poverty.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to:

- (i) write to the Minister of Finance in the NI Assembly seeking an update on how the Department will assist local councils in implementing Sections 43A 43B and enquiring if the Department has an assurance from the building industry that they are prepared and their staff trained to meet this policy implementation;
- (ii) seek a meeting with the Minister of Finance or his officials to consider the adoption of Passive House standard as an amendment to the 2012 Building regulations or in any new legislation reforming building regulations;
- (iii) seek an all-Party meeting with the Northern Ireland Federation Housing Association and the Chartered Institute of Housing to discuss how their members will implement and adhere to Sections 43A and 43B and NZEB;

- (iv) seek an all-Party meeting with the Minister for Communities or Department officials to discuss Passive House standard for all social housing developments, as a means of meeting current obligations set out in Sections 43A and 43B; and
- (v) write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ascertain if there are any proposals for planning legislation to be amended or introduced to tackle fuel poverty.”

The Committee agreed to adopt the motion and approved the actions outlined.

Motion – Graffiti

The Committee was reminded that, at the meeting of the Council on 3rd February, the following motion had been referred, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), to the Committee for its consideration. The motion had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor M. Kelly:

“This Council notes that graffiti is an area of concern for many residents of Belfast. It spoils the local environment and can encourage other forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Council notes also that it can also be costly to remove graffiti and is not a service which it currently provides, but believes that it is an issue it should be taking responsibility for.

The Council will, therefore, review current practices in other councils to remove graffiti and will work through the Area Working Groups to develop an Anti-Graffiti Strategy, which will identify areas of partnership in order to creatively and proactively tackle this growing problem.”

The Committee agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed and be brought back to a future meeting.

Motion – Irish Language Street Signage Policy

The Committee was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd February, had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Walsh and Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council has one of the most restrictive policies of any council in the North in regards to Irish Language Street Signage Policy.

Currently, the policy is that you need a 1/3rd of the eligible electorate in a street to sign a petition which starts the process. Once the process has been initiated, a letter is sent to everyone in that street who is on the electoral register asking if they consent to have bilingual signage installed. The resident has three options, namely, Yes, No and Don't

Care. For the process to come to a successful conclusion, 2/3rds of the total electorate in the street need to consent to yes. If a letter is not returned, it is considered by the Council as saying that they don't consent for the bilingual signage. Furthermore, where residents send the survey back saying 'Don't Care', this is also considered to be a negative response.

If we, as Elected Members were held to the same standard as this policy in the Local Government elections, not one Member would have been returned to serve on this Council, as we would not have met those restrictive parameters. The Council's Language Strategy refers to increasing the visibility of the Irish Language in our City. However, it is essential not to impose the Irish language on residents if the majority of them in a street do not consent to it.

Therefore, this Council will amend its Irish language street signage policy to the following:

1. continue with the 1/3rd of the eligible electorate in the street to initiate the process;
2. change the policy to reflect that it will be the majority of respondents to the survey that will decide if the process has been successful. Therefore, it will be 50% +1 of respondents that will determine if the petition to erect bilingual signage has been successful. Non-respondents will not be considered as a negative response; and
3. those respondents who respond as 'Don't Care' are not considered to be a negative response and will be treated as a void vote."

The Committee agreed that a report on the proposals outlined in the motion and the impact on the current Policy be submitted to a future meeting.

Motion – Historic Graveyards

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

"This Council is deeply concerned about the serious neglect of two of our Belfast Historic Cemeteries, namely Balmoral and Clifton Street. In Balmoral Cemetery, many headstones and monuments are dilapidated and many of the Victorian iron surrounds have been damaged and suffer from rust. The railway and northern embankments at Balmoral are completely covered with undergrowth, making it impossible to locate the graves in these sections. Clifton Street Cemetery suffers from a similar set of conditions, the undergrowth along its perimeter walls is accelerating the deterioration of a number of headstones and tablets.

Often, when environmental work is carried out, rubbish is left on graves near the entrance.

Given the historical importance and worth of these burial grounds to the narrative of our Belfast history, it is proposed that the Council organise a tour of the two cemeteries for Members; prepare a maintenance and conservation plan; provide a report on the plan and costs and set a timeframe for the completion of the required works.”

The Committee agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.

Motion – ‘Nutrition in Council After/Out of Schools Provision’

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The Council, at its meeting on the 4th November 2019, considered a motion which had been moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor McAteer:

Nutrition Support for Children in Out-of-Hours School Clubs

‘Practical healthy eating, supported by positive influence around lifelong food choices, improves children’s wellbeing in physical and mental terms, including their ability to concentrate and learn.

Good nutrition is essential for children to grow properly, do their best in school and be healthy and happy in the future. (Education Authority).

A World Health Organisation commission has described childhood obesity as a ‘growing epidemic’. Department of Health survey statistics indicate that 25% of children in this region are deemed to be overweight or obese. The estimated costs of healthcare attached to weight problems are around £450 million, representing 2.8% of total healthcare expenditure.

Small changes across a range of arenas can help to turn the tide. Implementing healthy snack choices, as part of the daily routine, significantly increases the capacity of positive choices becoming embedded, ultimately, resulting in wider savings to the health sector.

Belfast City Council supports a range of services and programmes for children, including Summer Schemes and Out-of-Hours School Clubs in areas facing disadvantage and food poverty.

Such spaces provide daily opportunities for children to undertake physical activity, learning and play. It is worth noting the capacity for such spaces to further improve the health of children via the provision of small healthy snacks.

It is within this Council's gift to contribute to the improvement of quality of daily life for children and to cement children's positive relationship with food and nutrition.

Accordingly, the Council agrees that a report, looking at clubs located in areas of disadvantage and the potential for such spaces to incorporate healthy snacks, as part of out of school hours provision during both term and non-term time, be prepared.'

The motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The committee is asked to:

- i. Note the findings outlining Council's current practice in relation to addressing nutrition in Council-owned/supported facilities providing either after schools or out of school hours (e.g. summer schemes) youth provision.
- ii. Support the recommendation that officers should work collaboratively with the Active Belfast and Nutrition Leads within the Belfast Health Development Unit to develop and promote a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to promoting healthy eating (as well as increased physical activity) within BCC supported after school and summer scheme initiatives – in our community and leisure centres, aligning with Belfast Agenda priorities.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 To inform this report, Grainne McMacken, a BHSCT dietician working within the Belfast Health Development Unit liaised with the Public Health Agency and Food Standards Agency and spoke with staff within Council's Community Services

Team as well as BHSCT's Community Dietetic Team alongside the Food in Schools dietician.

3.2 Findings from a sample survey on current practice

(completed by Assistant Community Development Officer)

- A number of after schools projects accommodate a short break and provide some refreshments e.g. water, diluted juice (no added sugar), fruit, plain biscuits, toast.
- Parents provide details of allergies in the registration form which helps staff if they are supplying items of food or drinks.
- For trips during summer schemes lunch is provided by the parents. Staff encourage the parents to provide healthy options and discourage the inclusion of items such as energy drinks, fizzy drinks and crisps however ultimately the decision rests with the parents.
- Parents providing the lunch or snacks reduces/removes the risk to staff in terms of inadvertently providing items that could cause a reaction if a condition exists.
- Overall there appears to be a general culture of encouraging healthy options however there are no prerequisites and there's no formal guidance/instruction in place.
- There would also be limits on what can be provided in Centres due to budget constraints.

3.3 Current After schools food and physical activity provision

Almost all of the 22 BCC owned Community Centres have after schools activities in place for 5-11 year olds. Activities include a combination of drama/arts/crafts/open play/music etc. as well, to a lesser extent, sporting activities. The main focus is on recreation and play.

In general food (as in a meal) is not provided due to the short time period the child is present (less than 2hrs). Mostly children go home first and then attend to the centre to take part activities (assumption being then that they eat in lunch in school and perhaps have a snack/small meal prior to going to the centre).

Although food currently does not appear to be a big feature of existing after schools provision there could still be potential to raise awareness amongst staff and parents of the importance of healthy eating and providing nutritious snacks as well as the value of offering, and taking part in, more physical focussed activities within the after schools setting.

After schools clubs/programmes have also been supported via the Belfast Health Development Unit's Active Belfast grants scheme. In these instances, grant awardees are invited and encouraged to attend a nutrition update session at the start of their project which focusses on promoting healthy eating, support available from other organisations and highlighting resources.

3.4 Current Summer Scheme food and physical activity provision

Food provision is different at summer schemes as children usually attend for a longer session (2 hours or more with a break included). They may attend either once or twice a day for 4 weeks. A snack is also provided morning and afternoon and there isn't currently a BCC-led healthy eating policy or guidance in place that the centres have to follow/adhere to in relation to providing nutritious meals and snacks.

BCC fund community based summer schemes via a grants scheme and one of the criteria is that the scheme '*provides activities that improve health - including physical activity/exercise/mental health/healthy diet/health behaviours.*' This criteria could be strengthened were we to develop a guidance and support process (further outlined in 3.6) Applicants are allowed to include a small budget line within their bid for provision of food.

3.5 Current Guidance

The nutritional guidance for afterschool clubs or school related activities in Northern Ireland comes from the 'Nutritional standards for other food and drinks in schools' document [available from the PHA website www.publichealth.hscni.net]. This publication provides details of the standards as they apply to all food and drinks served outside of lunchtime, which will include breakfast clubs, break time services such as tuck shops, vending machines and after schools clubs. It also explains the reasons why nutritional standards have been introduced and offers practical advice on how to implement the standards.

'School food: the essential guide' is another useful, practical supporting document available from the PHA website which is accompanied by a range of other resources including guidance on how to develop a healthy eating policy – within the school setting (but which could easily be adapted to other settings such as community provision).

3.6 Potential actions

- Belfast Health Development Unit, in partnership with BCC officers within community services and other stakeholders such as PHA/FSA, are best placed to develop a range of actions to support a more consistent and coordinated approach to promoting and encouraging health eating and increased physical activity within the after school and summer scheme settings provided or supported by Council. These actions could include:
 - Further engagement with the BCC Assistant Community Development Officers Forum
ACDOs are responsible for supervising BCC's after schools and summer scheme projects within the community setting and have expressed an interest in exploring further with BHDU leads how they could support this work going forward.
 - Resource development
The resources referred to in 3.5 could be adapted and tailored for use in the community setting – Council could then, via lead officers responsible for community services and leisure, put in place processes for both developing and promoting them within Council facilities such as community centres and leisure centres – particularly where/when after school clubs and summer schemes are running. Consideration could also be given to developing a template healthy eating policy for after school programmes/summer schemes which highlights to children, parents and staff actions that will be taken to promote healthy eating/being active. A healthy living centre healthy eating policy already exists which could be referred to.
 - Staff training
Potential for the development and delivery of a nutrition/ physical activity awareness session delivered by a community dietitian to key target groups involved in delivering children's programmes within BCC community centres. This would involve providing information on healthy eating – the importance of eating well for school-aged children/benefits to health/what is meant by a healthy diet for children/what are healthy snacks/the importance of oral health/healthy cooking as well as covering current physical activity recommendations for children. Staff would also be alerted to relevant

resources e.g. posters/websites/healthy snacks leaflets for parents and children/ recipes etc.

- **Information provided for parents – and children**
There may be potential for input to be delivered directly to participating children around healthy eating/ physical activity e.g. incorporating it into games/ activities. Information (written or verbal) could also be provided to parents on the importance of healthy eating and regular physical activity.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report, however if Committee agree that the actions outlined in 3.6 should be pursued, this will need to be considered in terms of resource implications for both the BHDU and Council, that being said promotion of physical activity and nutrition are currently a priority work area within the Belfast Agenda framework and for staff within BHDU.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also to engage with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships.

Request to Present

Request to Present - Mr Declan Boyle

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Mr. Declan Boyle to make a presentation in relation to the administration of Houses of Multiple Occupation Licences. It was reported that, subject to the report having been issued, further requests had been received from Ms. B. Ruddy and the Landlord's Association of Northern Ireland (LANI).

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to the Members the work which had been undertaken and was currently ongoing in relation to this issue, which when completed, would be presented to the Committee for consideration. He pointed out that, later in the meeting, the Committee would consider a report in relation to the holding of a workshop regarding Houses of Multiple Occupation and it was a matter for the Committee how it wanted to proceed with the requests.

The Committee agreed not to accede to the requests and noted that, as part of the process, all relevant stakeholders were being included and would continue to be consulted.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the following 4 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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

Proposal to install a Panoramic Wheel in Botanic Gardens

The Committee considered a report in relation to request from G Force Amusements Ltd to install, promote and operate a 33 metre Panoramic Wheel in the lawn area adjacent to the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens during the period 22nd May 2020 - 13th September 2020.

The promoter had indicated that they would be flexible regarding dates for the installation of the Panoramic Wheel. They had stated that they would require at least a 6-week installation period to ensure it was economically feasible. They had been advised that other events had already been booked into the Botanic Gardens, for example, music events and the Belfast Mela. The promoters would be required to liaise with the existing pre-booked events to ensure there are no operational impediments to events already booked into the venue.

The Committee granted authority to:

1. G Force Amusements Ltd to install, promote and operate a 33 metre Panoramic Wheel in lawn area adjacent to the Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens during the period 22 May 2020 – 13 September 2020, or a suitably agreed time scale over the summer of 2020;
2. The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for use of lawn area, adjacent to the Tropical Ravine, on condition that:
 - The promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - An appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
 - The promoter meets all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence;
 - The promoters are advised that a social levy will also be charged in accordance with Council policy;

- The event company reimburse any ancillary costs for services provided by the Council at the event; and
- Agree that Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.

Keep NI Beautiful Communities CARE Funding Application

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful for the Council to support its National Lottery Community Fund funding application.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful was an independent charity dedicated to creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Northern Ireland by delivering on improving environmental education in every school in Northern Ireland, increasing public engagement for communities in need and raising environmental standards for the places where people spend time, where they live, work and relax.

Its mission was to inspire all sectors of society to take responsibility for creating cleaner, greener and more sustainable communities. They worked with councils, volunteer and community groups, local businesses and other organisations to deliver the vision of creating cleaner, greener communities.

During discussion, several Members suggested that it would be useful if the Council could provide support and resources to assist local communities to participate in such initiatives as local alleyway/community clean-up programmes.

The Committee:

- agreed to provide a letter of support for this funding application to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful; and
- agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining the support and resources available to assist local communities to participate in local alleyway / community 'clean up' programmes.

Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC

The Committee was advised that a request for the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for use of premises at Morton Community Centre had been received.

Streetwise Community Circus was a not for profit company which had been established and based in Morton Community Centre since 1995. The core activity was the provision of 'social circus' programmes throughout the community using the benefit of circus to have wider social impacts. Programmes were delivered throughout Northern Ireland.

It was reported that the use of Morton Community Centre had been under a block booking arrangement with the group having use of a small office. Due to the

growth and expansion of its activities, Streetwise had now exclusively occupied a small office, store and open mezzanine storage area.

Following consultation with Streetwise Community Circus, the Council's Estates Unit had advised that their occupation should be dealt with by way of a licence agreement. The group were willing to enter into a rolling one year licence agreement from 1st April 2020 for the accommodation they occupied, up to a maximum of five years.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to approve the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for the use of premises at the Morton Community Centre.

Request for The Hire of Boucher Road Playing Fields

The Committee considered a report in relation to a request from UP Productions for the hire of Boucher Playing Fields from the 24th May - 7th June 2020 for the AVA Music Festival.

The Committee was advised that the AVA Festival was an Audio Visual Arts 2-day event with multi-stage electronic music, visual art installations and an outdoor art exhibition. The Festival was part of a wider event across the City called AVA Belfast, which was supported by the Council and included a free conference in The Mac and a proposal for more installations at Custom House Square. The event programme featured both local and International talent, with over 60+ artists involved.

The Committee was advised that the festival was a ticketed event, for strictly over 18's, with the demographic of the event being music fans, tourists and arts enthusiast. The average age was 23-24 years old. Over 35% of the tickets were sold to tourists travelling in from outside of Northern Ireland, so there for the event was key in driving economic and social benefits for the City. This would be the Festival's 6th Year, and it had celebrated great success and press to date being named 'One of the UK Best City Festivals' by the Guardian, and a finalist in the UK Festival Awards for 'Best Metropolitan Small Festivals' and a winner of that category in the Irish Festival awards.

The Arts Council, Future Screens NI, Invest NI and the Tourist Board all supported the AVA Festival and AVA partnered with Help Musicians NI in order to raise money via guest list donations for that charity. It also broadcast a stage, which went out live from the event to over 900,000.

The event would operate controlled access and the space used would be securely fenced off with steel shield type fencing. All attendees would hold a ticket, and would need to present both a ticket and a passport or driving license in order to gain access. Those tickets could be purchased via the Council's website and the main ticketing providers.

The Committee approved the request, subject to the following:

- the appropriate legal agreements, including bond arrangements being prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;

- the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services negotiating an appropriate fee for use of the facility, taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy;
- the Event Organisers being required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities, including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and entertainment licensing;
- the timely payment of the bond as required in the legal agreements
- Event Organisers consulting with public bodies and local communities as necessary;
- The preparation of an event management plan, which would be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements;
- Organisers would also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use. Organisers would be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event might have to change due to adverse weather conditions, which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Every Body Active 2020 Year 5 Extension

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To advise the committee of extended support for delivery of the participation strand of Sport NIs investment programme called Every Body Active 2020 Strand 1 (EBA2020).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree to extend the Every Body Active 2020 Strand 1 programme to 31 March 2021 with our delivery partners, subject to funding being approved for release from Sport NI.**
- **Continue to support additional programming being coordinated by BCC officers; Programme Manager and EBA Coordinator, where there is an identified underspend in delivery partner budget or delivery partner underperformance against any of the KPIs.**

3.0 Main report

Sport NI Programme

3.1 In 2016, Sport NI commissioned Belfast City Council, along with the other council areas to deliver the participation strand of Every Body Active 2020. The aim of the programme is to increase the number of quality opportunities for targeted groups to develop and sustain participation in sport across key life-course transitions.

Sport NI Targets

3.2 Belfast’s programme had five specific targets namely, overall participants, women and girls, people with a disability and people living in areas of high social need and sustained participation. Participation evidence highlights lower levels of participation within these groups.

Committee authorised officers to develop and commission a blend of providers through a public application process to deliver Belfast’s Every Body Active 2020 targets.

3.3 Participation targets 2020-21

Total Participants	Women / Girls	People living with a disability	High Social Need	Sustained Participants	Surveys	Surveys 4-17 Years	% 4-17 Joining a Club
25,949	15,564	4,929	9,754	7,782	1,749	1049	51%

There are significant increases in all targets set by Sport NI for Year 5 2020-21

- Unique Participants - Increase of 3,426 (15%)
- Female Participants – Increase of 2,268 (14.6%)
- People with a Disability-Increase of 877 (21%)
- Areas of High Social Need- Increase of 1,876 (23.8%)
- Sustained Participation –Increase of 578 (8%)

3.4 The table above also includes three additional targets which have been added by Sport NI; the number of user surveys to be collected, the number of surveys to be collected from participants aged between 4 and 17 and the number of participants between the ages of 4 and 17 joining sports clubs.

3.5 The funding offered has seen a reduction from £468,074.00 in Year 2019-20 to £460,596 in Year 2020-21. A reduction of

£7,478. The impact of this represents 17% reduction in budget per unique participant and will present Council with significant challenges in delivery. Along with efficiencies in management costs, reduction in budget has to be negotiated across the 15 programmes delivery partners, whilst supporting partners to increase in their outreach into underrepresented communities to increase participation targets.

- 3.6 Officers will continue to link programme delivery to other Council investments including the new indoor and outdoor leisure infrastructure, small grants programmes, neighbourhood working and Peace IV programmes to enhance the outcomes from Every Body Active 2020.
- 3.7 The final permission to proceed for Year 5 is expected by the end of February 2020. Sport NI have indicated that this will be the final year of funding for Every Body Active 2020. Taking into account the challenges in terms of both the significant increase in targets and the reduction in budget, BCC officers have worked in partnership with our delivery partners to produce the proposed Belfast City Council Every Body Active Strand 1 Year 5 programme. It is opportune to remind Committee that the Sport NI funding for this high impact participation programme will end in March 2021. Consideration should be made to how Council continues to draw down external funding and enable partnership working with key governing bodies through the emerging Sports Development Strategy and funding framework.

The partners and the main KPIs each will work to achieve are:

Partner Organisation	Main KPI Target Groups
1.Athletics Northern Ireland	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need-Disability Inclusion
2.Basketball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
3.Colin Glen Trust	Areas of High Social Need-Disability
4.Disability Sport Northern Ireland-Girdwood Sports Hub	Disability-Areas of High Social Need
5.Disability Sport Northern Ireland/Live Active (North and West Belfast)	Disability-Areas of High Social Need
6.Disability Sport Northern Ireland/Live Active (South and East Belfast)	Disability-Areas of High Social Need

7.Irish Bowls Federation	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
8.Netball Northern Ireland	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
9.Irish Football Association	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
10.Irish Athletic Boxing Association	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
11.Ulster Badminton	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
12.Ulster Branch Tennis Ireland	Women and Girls-Disability Inclusion
13.Ulster Rugby Disability Participation	Disability Inclusion
14.Ulster Rugby Female Participation	Women and Girls-Areas of High Social Need
15. Ulster Squash	Women and Girls

Current Position

3.8 Every Body Active Strand 1 provides council a resource to support the physical activity and health outcomes citywide and within the Belfast Agenda Framework.

3.9 **Financial and Human Resource Implications**

Sport NI has given an indicative budget of £460,596 for the delivery of Every Body Active Strand 1 in Belfast for Year 5 (2020/21) which is a reduction of £7,478 from the budget offered for Year 4 (2019/20). Sport NI have indicated that this will be the final year of funding for this current programme. This Sport NI funding covers the cost of a fixed term contract of the Every Body Active coordinator, this officer's contract will be extended to match the term of the funding offer.

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

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing Scheme Workshop

The Committee considered a report in relation to the holding of a workshop in late February/early March to consider the HMO licensing scheme. This would be in the context of planning controls, policy issues in terms of the draft Local Development Plan,

and the impact of the operation of the scheme on local communities, particularly in areas where there were significant numbers of HMOs. All Members would be invited to participate in the workshop, which would be supported by presentations and information from Place and Economy and the City and Neighbourhood Services.

The Committee agreed the following actions:

- To invite all Members to a workshop to consider the HMO licensing scheme in the context of planning controls, regulation and the impact of the operation of the scheme on local communities;
- That officers could send out an invitation to attend the workshop to all council elected members in advance of ratification of the minutes of this Committee by Council; and
- That a further report be brought back to the Committee clarifying the existing controls and identifying a course of action to address any policy or legislative gaps that might exist.

Alleygating Programme Review

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a further report to be submitted on the possibility of the evaluation being undertaken in-house or options to reduce costs associated with an external evaluation.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Request to install Porta Cabin at Orangefield Park

The Committee:

- Agreed to defer consideration of the request from Bloomfield FC and any future or outstanding requests until the Council had developed a policy position in relation to the installation of these type and similar structures on Council-owned land; and
- Noted that Council officers would continue discussions with representatives of clubs on the use of the pavilions at parks .

City Cemetery Heritage Project – Request for Aerial Mapping

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **The purpose of this report is to update Members on the requirement within the City Cemetery Heritage Project for aerial digital mapping.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, to give special permission to allow a suitably competent company with sufficient public liability insurance, to undertake the necessary aerial digital mapping as part of the City Cemetery Heritage Project.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Project Background

3.2 In late 2013, BCC began liaising with Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) around potential to apply into their Parks for People Fund. The fund is designed to protect and enhance existing heritage in parks/cemeteries across UK and attract/encourage more people to engage with this heritage

3.3 After visits to several Council sites, City Cemetery was agreed as having vast potential in this regard and in mid-2014, a Council Project Sponsor and internal project team was established to develop the work.

3.4 The overall objective of the project is to 'protect and enhance the existing history and heritage of Belfast City Cemetery and to encourage more people to access, engage with and understand it in order that it is safeguarded for future generations to enjoy, and the initial project identified the following project elements:

- Capital - new visitor centre
- Restoration - of key listed assets
- Interpretive - improved signage, storytelling, genealogy etc.
- Biodiversity - enhance natural heritage
- Promotion/Engagement - encourage greater engagement with site from wide range of stakeholders

3.5 The Stage 1 application was submitted to HLF in March 2015 (high level project plan) and Stage 1 funding of £160k (match funded with £60k from BCC) was secured in late 2015. The stage 1 funding was used to engage relevant external expertise (design team, conservation architect, interpretive planner, activity planner) and work up detailed project plan (18 month process).

- 3.6 The Stage 2 application was submitted to HLF in late 2017 with delivery funding of £1.67m secured from HLF in summer 2018 (match funded with £620k from BCC). 2019 was spent finalising designs/costs, securing planning, procuring contractors etc and planning for the move of the Council service yard to another location within the site to accommodate the new project. The move of the service yard is funded by Council up to value of £420K.
- 3.7 The contractor has been appointed for the three core elements of service yard move, visitor centre build and restoration of listed assets. Additionally, an engagement officer has been recruited. Works are due to commence on site in February 2020 alongside an extensive activity plan delivered by the engagement officer over the next three years (tours programme, schools programme, volunteer initiatives, events etc.).
- 3.8 In tandem, a range of non-capital elements such as a detailed activity plan, extensive research and robust interpretive plan are also being delivered. The delivery of these will be further enhanced by the recent recruitment of a dedicated engagement officer.
- 3.9 Another key aspect of the project is the genealogy element, where people will be able to search and interact with the cemeteries burial records. This will involve the enhancement of the current records and the development of appropriate hardware and software to ensure that the records can be accessed in a user friendly way, from both within the visitor centre and remotely.
- 3.10 A key requirement of the digital element of the project is that the cemetery is digitally mapped. This involves photographing the cemetery from the air and geo-tagging each grave and monument. Photographs are then also taken of each grave. This means that graves are not only much easier for cemetery visitors to physically locate, but also that pictures of each and every grave/monument within the site can be accessed from anywhere in the world.
- 3.11 The digital mapping element of the project is seen as absolutely essential to the project's success and requires a drone flight over the site. In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, special permission for this flight over City Cemetery is therefore being formally requested through Committee.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs of the aerial digital mapping of the site have been built in to the costs of the overall project.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment

These have been considered throughout the project with necessary screenings undertaken. These will be reviewed as the project progresses.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Support for Mary Peters Trust

The Committee considered a report in relation to the provision of financial support to the Mary Peters Trust for its contribution to its work for the 2020/21 financial year. The Committee was advised that an assessment of the request had indicated that it would bring a direct benefit to the inhabitants of Belfast, based on the Trust’s previous annual allocation of £22,800 to Belfast athletics in the previous financial year. An agreement was in place to co-ordinate funding allocations between the Trust, GLL Sports Foundation and Support for Sport Individual grants to avoid duplication. The Council had supported the Trust, in the amount of £5,000 annually over 15 years. Any support for the year 2020/21 would be from the Support for Sport Development Grant Budget.

The Committee agreed:

- (i) to provide an amount of £5,000 to the Mary Peters Trust, which provided significant financial support for developing talented athletes from Belfast; and
- (ii) to review this partnership as part of the planned City and Neighbourhood Services partnership review.

Active Belfast Grants – Process for 20/21

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Active Belfast Partnership established a grant scheme in April 2012, utilising pooled resources from the Public Health Agency and Belfast City Council.**
- 1.2 The scheme has been operational now for the past eight years and aims to create opportunities, at local/community**

level, for individuals to participate in physical activity and promote healthy eating in Belfast in order to help reduce health inequalities. It also raises awareness about the importance of being active and the benefits that stem from regular to moderate activity.

- 1.3 Staff within the Belfast Health Development Unit promote, administer and monitor the Active Belfast Grants Scheme. The BHDU is a co-located team of people from BCC, BHSCT and PHA working together to support better health and wellbeing outcomes for the city of Belfast. The role and function of the BHDU and the staff within it is currently under review and it was agreed during this transition period that where possible workload would be kept at a level to allow for the necessary review and developmental processes to take place.
- 1.4 With this in mind, and to build capacity and sustainability within the C&V sector to address health inequalities, the option was built in to the previous 19/20 grants process to offer continuation funding where applicants could demonstrate that they were meeting targets and that they could build on their successes/achievements for a further year.
- 1.5 Furthermore, with all of the changes at a strategic level, dissolution of the Belfast Strategic Partnership, introduction of the Belfast Agenda and associated Boards and the aim to establish a Healthier Belfast Forum – there is a need to review and rejuvenate the Active Belfast Partnership in terms of role and function, membership and priorities going forward. The three partner organisations (BCC, BHSCT and PHA), have committed to driving forward this process during 20/21 with the view that the Partnership will then be best placed to recommend how physical activity and nutrition-focussed outcomes can be best supported going forward.

Budget for 2020/2021:

BCC	£90,000	Active Belfast		
PHA	£90,000	Active Belfast		
PHA	£17,051	Enhancement	'Nutrition & Healthy Eating'	
Total: £197,051				

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree recommendation for current Active Belfast Grant holders to be able to continue their programmes/initiatives subject to meeting review

criteria and agreeing a new action plan with relevant leads within the Belfast Health Development Unit (BHDU).

- Support the reconvening of the Active Belfast Partnership, supported by BHDU, who will have responsibility for defining priority areas and developing a new funding model post 20/21 for consideration (which takes account of, and aligns with, the BCC review of grants and grant processes).

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware senior staff from Council, BHSCT and PHA/HSCB have been considering the future of their joint working to address health inequalities in the Belfast area to include reviewing and reaffirming current commitments to the previous Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) and the reduction of life inequalities in line with the Belfast Agenda/Community Plan, Making Life Better and a range of forthcoming strategic developments focussing on public health.

3.2 In relation to Active Belfast specifically, the partners have considered a range of options which have been discussed and agreed at corporate level. The agreed preferred option involves:

- A refresh of the Active Belfast Partnership.
- Allocation of continuation funding to current Active Belfast Grant holders (from 2019/20 through now to 2020/21) where targets have been met and outcomes are promising and where the contract holder has indicated that they can build on the initiative (ability to do so was built into the process in 19/20). This is being proposed for two reasons, to increase capacity and foster sustainability at the local/community level as well as to allow time for development and consideration of a new funding model for future resourcing of physical activity and nutrition focussed work in Belfast.

3.3 History of AB Grants

The Active Belfast Grants Scheme was created in April 2012 and aimed to create opportunities for individuals to participate in physical activity. The Parks and Leisure Committee at the time agreed to match fund the Belfast Strategic Partnership/Active Belfast investment (£90k in place from PHA) by agreeing to provide a total of £90k from

BCC towards the Active Belfast Grants (this has continued for the past 8 years).

The current focus of the Grants is to create opportunities for individuals to participate in physical activity and promote healthy eating in Belfast in order to help reduce health inequalities.

3.5 Rationale for Continuing to Fund Current AB Grant holders

In 2019/20 the application for the grants included a sustainability question for the first time.

Question: If further funding was to become available for an additional 3 years, how would you develop/shape the programme?

The form stated that there was no guarantee of additional funding however if this could be offered it was made clear that any further funding awarded would be subject to the outcomes and performance of the original contract having been met and/or exceeded.

3.6 During this transition year (2020/21) the three partner organisations and leads within BHDU are proposing to roll over and extend the current contracted Grants, with BHDU staff continuing to monitor on a quarterly basis and continuing to release funding based on positive progress monitoring, this will help sustain, and test out ongoing sustainability and achievement of outcomes, from the previous year (2019/20).

3.7 There may be a few instances where some contracts are not rolled forward or funding amounts are reduced – in this instance any surplus funding (expected to be small) will be considered and allocated by the Active Belfast Partnership – options include enhancing contracts that are performing well and funding of developmental or exploratory work to inform the priorities of the partnership going forward.

3.8 BHDU will direct anyone making enquiries around funding to other potential sources of support such as the BCC Everybody Active grants round which opens in April 2020 as well as other grant opportunities such as those provided by the National Lottery Community Fund – as well as directing them to NICVA as a source of advice re. grants.

3.9 Active Belfast Partnership

The partnership has not met in over a year, however a meeting date has now been set for the 27th January 2020 for key stakeholders to meet and agree the process for reconvening the partnership and refreshing terms of reference, membership, etc. It is anticipated that the rejuvenated Active Belfast Partnership will align with the Belfast Agenda/Healthier Belfast Forum (once established) and work closely with Active Belfast Limited to clearly define and guide work to address physical activity and nutrition focussed actions for the City.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Subject to Council and PHA approval/agreement a minimum of £197,051 (as outlined in the table at 1.0) will remain available to support this work in 20/21, BCC contribution has been included as part of the rates setting process.

Kim Kensett (PHA) and Grainne McMacken (BHSCT) will continue to lead on this work within the BHDU during the transition year. Project and business support is also currently available within the BHDU.

Oversight will continue to be provided by Kelly Gilliland within BCC and David Tumilty within PHA with all stakeholders in the Active Belfast Partnership taking on a more active role as the year progresses and the partnership regains its focus and momentum

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

Proposal for naming new streets and the continuation of an existing street

The Committee approved an application for naming two new streets in the City and the continuation of an existing street in the City as set out below:

Proposed Name	Location	Applicant
Castlegowan Crescent	Off Castlegowan Drive, BT5	Braidwater Limited
Castlegowan Road	Off Castlegowan Drive, BT5	Braidwater Limited

Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant
Castlegowan Drive	Off Castlegowan Place, BT5	Braidwater Ltd

Proposal For Dual Language Street Signs

The Committee approved the applications to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at Slieveban Avenue and Rockville Street.

Appointment of Public Analyst

The Committee was advised that Article 27(1) of the Food Safety(NI) Order 1991 required the Council to appoint suitably qualified persons as Public Analysts within the district of the Council, for the purpose of examining and analysing food samples to determine compliance with food safety, compositional and labelling requirements. Such individuals must meet the qualifications prescribed within the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) Regulations (NI) 2013.

The Committee approved the appointment of Donna Hanks BSc, MChemA, MRSC as a public analyst with the district.

Request for The Use of Waterworks by ArtsEkta

The Committee was advised that ArtsEkta had requested the use of the Waterworks to stage its "Luminate" event on Saturday 21st March, 2020, from 6pm – 8.30pm. The normal park closing times were 7.00pm and the event organisers would be required to notify the public if the park was to close before that time.

The event organisers would set-up from 10.00am on Saturday 21st March and would have the event dismantled by 10.00pm that evening. They would be required to liaise with the Park Run organisers to ensure the weekly Park Run would continue as normal.

The public art project would involve widespread community participation from young people and help create hundreds of light-up sculptures to form an illuminated cityscape that would float on the Lower Pond. The event would be free to attend and

was a public funded project. It would be focused near the Lower Pond and would use the surrounding area of the park.

The event would include food vendors, market stalls, family entertainment and live music. A stage and gazebos would be erected and the organisers would provide all first aid cover, event stewards and toilets. In addition, the event organisers would be required to submit an Event Management Plan and all the appropriate paperwork to the Council prior to the event, in a timely manner.

The Committee:

- approved the ArtsEkta event at the Waterworks on Saturday 21st March 2020, subject to the completion of the appropriate Event Management Plans and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that the Event Organiser
 - resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - meets all statutory requirements, including Public Liability Insurance cover and Health and Safety; and
 - shall consult with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary.

The Committee also approved:

- any further "Luminate" events by ArtsEkta at Waterworks, subject to the completion of an Event Management Plan and all other appropriate paperwork for each event.

**Request for the hire of Botanic Gardens
for a series of music events.**

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council has received a request from Aiken Promotions to re-consider its decision to restrict advanced approval to an annual basis for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2021 and 2022, to include set up and take down.**
- 1.2 Given previous queries raised by Members, Aiken Promotions has requested an opportunity to attend a meeting of the People and Communities Committee to enable them to respond directly to any queries raised, which was agreed in advance by the Chair and Vice Chair.**

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Committee is asked to:

1. Grant authority to Aiken Promotion request:

- for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2021 and 2022 to include set up and take down.

- 2. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:**
 - the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
 - the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the park's Entertainment Licence.

2.2 To address concerns previously raised by Members, Officers are to ensure that the license agreement includes clauses that requires the promoter to:

- Consider the genre of music as suitable for the urban environment;
- Provide a plan which seeks to address and provides adequate welfare support, including links with other service providers, to deal with any potential underage drinking, should this be relevant to the event.

2.3 The licence agreement will also include a review clause which allows for consideration of any issues both during the event and prior to any authorisation for the future year.

- 3. Grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy.**

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 Members are reminded that on 4th June 2019 a formal request was received by Aiken Promotions to host a series of music events during the month of June in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 in Botanic Gardens.

3.2 Members agreed to defer a decision and await a report concerning the music events in Botanic Gardens in June 2019.

3.3 Members received a report on 6th August 2019 concerning the recent music events held in June 2019 in Botanic Gardens. Members agreed to defer a decision and requested confirmation concerning a number of issues;

- **Impact of underage drinking**
- **Social clauses in License Agreements to support youth services**
- **Charges for use of Council Services to Promoters during music events.**
- **Option of reviewing 3 year contract on an annual basis.**

3.4 September Committee granted authority to Aiken Promotion for the use of the great lawn for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons for last week in May and the month of June 2020 to include set up and take down.

3.5 The promoter understands Committee have concerns with granting the use of the Great Lawn for 2021 and 2022. The promoter has asked to attend the meeting to discuss these concerns.

3.6 Members had previously received a copy of the annual programme of events for a 'typical year', and a copy of this is attached for Members' information.

3.7 Financial & Resource Implications

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy. The Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services will authorise the relevant level of the necessary bond of intent and reinstatement bond.

3.8 Staffing resources from our Open Space & Street Scene and Community Safety teams will be required to provide support around site management and issues in relation to maintaining a safer event (i.e. Alcohol enforcement / Safer Neighbourhood Officers). Cost associated with this will be recouped as part of the agreed fee and used to offset gaps in service provision, which may be created in other parts of the city.

3.9 Equality, Rural proofing or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee was advised that Mr. C. McNamee, Aiken Promotions, was in attendance to answer any questions in relation to the application and he was welcomed by the Deputy Chairperson.

Mr. McNamee reviewed the events which his company had put on in the city the previous year and the type of acts which were booked for the Botanic Gardens to ensure that they in keeping with the venue and its surroundings. He outlined the measures which his organisation undertook to mitigate against overwhelming the city and its resources and the risk assessments undertaken for each different type of event which were based on demographics, age, male/female ratio and other factors. He referred also to other measures such as the use of Safer City Officers, the provision of medical facilities and identification checks at the bars.

Several Members expressed the view that there was still not enough information provided in relation to the exact dates of events and potential clashes, the types of event and the resources required by the Council to manage them, benefits/non-benefits to the city in order to make an informed decision for granting the application over a three-year period.

The Members also recognised the commercial nature of the organisation and its need to secure venues and dates in advance in order to book the best acts for Belfast.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

That the Committee agrees to adhere to its previous decision to approve the application for one year only, that is, 2020, and to consider the application for 2021 and 2022 after that event.

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

Accordingly the Committee:

1. Granted authority to the Aiken Promotion request:
 - for use of the great lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events with attendances under 5,000 persons in the years 2021 and 2022 to include set up and take down.
2. Granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:
 - the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
 - the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service including the terms and conditions of the park's Entertainment Licence.

To address concerns previously raised by Members, the Committee noted that officers are to ensure that the license agreement includes clauses that requires the promoter to:

- Consider the genre of music as suitable for the urban environment; and
- Provide a plan which seeks to address and provides adequate welfare support, including links with other service providers, to deal with any potential underage drinking, should this be relevant to the event.

The Committee noted also that the licence agreement would also include a review clause which allows for consideration of any issues both during the event and prior to any authorisation for the future year.

3. Granted authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to negotiate an appropriate fee for the use of the facility taking into account the costs to Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the City economy.

Invitation to a Address the Committee

The Committee agreed to invite to a future meeting, Mr. Eddie Lynch, Commissioner for Older People for Northern Ireland, to discuss the "Home Truths – A Report on the Commissioner's Investigation into Dunmurry Manor Care Home".