

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 17th June, 2022**

**B
4103**

**City Hall: Proposed recovery plan –
update on progress**

The Committee noted a report which provided an update in relation to the progress on the City Hall reopening and recovery.

**Dual Language Street Signs Policy
Public Consultation and EQIA**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the results of the public consultation to the proposed changes to the council's Dual Language Street Signs Policy and the conclusions reached in the accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). A report on the consultation and the EQIA final decision report had been appended to the report.

The Chief Executive reported that the public consultation had opened online on the Your Say Belfast platform on 22nd November 2021 and had closed on 28th February 2022. The survey was available in both the English and Irish languages.

There was a total of 4.4k visits to the consultation page and 1,078 written responses (785 in the English language version and 293 in the Irish language version). Officers had arranged four online public information sessions, which had a total of 4 attendees and each political party on the Council had been offered a briefing session. Information sessions had also been held for stakeholder groups, which included Irish language groups and academia, the Ulster Scots Agency and the Council's Equality Forum, Migrant Forum and Disability Advisory Panel.

The consultation survey had focused on five proposed changes to the Dual Language Street Signs policy. For four of the five questions, respondents had been asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the proposed changes, and they could comment if they wished. For the remaining proposed change relating to the operation of the Council's residual discretion, respondents were asked to comment. Respondents were also asked to comment on any aspect of the proposed policy that had not been addressed by the preceding questions.

The survey also gave respondents the option to comment on the draft Equality Impact Assessment running concurrently with the consultation and on the draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the results of the public consultation and the EQIA; and
- (ii) agreed that the revised Dual Language Streets Signs Policy be implemented following ratification by the Council at its meeting on 4th July.

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