

## **Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 12 January 2014**

### **1. Attendance**

#### Members:

Councillor Tim Attwood  
Councillor Deidre Hargey  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Alderman Gavin Robinson

#### Apologies:

Alderman David Browne  
Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Jim McVeigh  
Alderman Christopher Stalford

#### Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources  
Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure (for Item 6)  
John McGrillen, Director of Development (for Item 4)  
Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development  
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

### **2. Rates / Estimates**

The Director of Finance and Resources provided an overview of the rate setting and non recurrent expenditure reports which will be presented to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 16 January 2015. This included:-

- the current departmental estimates position, which had been prepared on the new boundary basis
- the transfer of functions estimates including the funding gap for Off Street Car Parking and Planning
- the proposed capital financing budget for 2015/16 and the pressures on the capital financing budget for the capital programme and the investment in the leisure estate
- the estimated level of district rate income based on the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) and a zero increase in the domestic rate
- the level of de-rating grant due to the Council and the potential cuts to the budget being proposed by the DOE
- the level of non recurrent expenditure required for 2015/16 and the recommendation to establish a transition fund of £3.31m of finance this expenditure

### **3. Capital Programme**

The Panel noted that the capital programme report would be presented to the Shadow SP&R on the 16 January and would provide information on the 2015/16 capital expenditure and capital financing plans, as well as a progress report on existing schemes within the capital programme.

The Chief Executive updated the Panel on the resource issues affecting the Innovation Centre, the North Foreshore Environmental Park and the Waterfront Hall (Existing Venue) and confirmed that any proposals for additional capital expenditure presented on the paper would be supported by the clear reasons for the need for the additional costs together with the business case for the project.

**4. Update on Deloitte Area Working Review**

The Panel noted the initial feedback from Deloitte on options for future area working and governance and agreed that further consideration of the options was required by the Party Group Leaders and the Party groups before firm proposals could be considered by Committee. The Chief Executive agreed to organise a party Group Leaders meeting in February.

**5. European Social Fund (ESF)**

The Director of Development advised that there had been 19 applications from groups seeking the Council to match fund ESF projects and letters of comfort had been issued to the organisations which would let them continue with their applications. The Director advised that the update report to the Development Committee would remind Members of the principles under which matched funding can be made and that the total budget available for matched funding was £240k.

**6. Work Programme**

The Chief Executive distributed a copy of the work plan and key decisions to be considered by the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting between January and March 2015.

**7. Active Belfast Board**

The Director of Parks and Leisure updated Members on the revised proposals for the make-up of the Active Belfast Board and that the recommendation for a Board of 15, including 4 Elected members would be presented to the Shadow SP&R Committee on the 16 January.

**8. Capacity Building**

The Director of Organisational Development distributed an update for members on the Member capacity building programme.

This included confirmation that the first practical session on the Shadow Planning Committee had been delivered on the 7 January 2015. Feedback from members who attended the event was that the session had helped put the theory into practice and that further practical sessions should be organised before the end of March. A further two practical sessions are currently planned and it was noted that once members of the Planning Committee are identified, the current programme could be reconfigured to ensure training is targeted on a timely basis.

Members agreed to consider additional attendees for the Bristol study visit as only 3 members have been able to confirm attendance to date.

It was also noted that re-assessment against the Member Charter would commence in March 2015 with the Lord Mayor, Members of the Budget and Transformation Panel and Members who participated in the 360 feedback pilot, being interviewed as part of the review process. Further information on the preparations for the review would be provided at the next meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised.