

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
15 August 2014**

1. Attendance

Members:

Councillor Deidre Hargey (for Councillor Jim McVeigh)
Councillor Maire Hendron
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Alderman Brian Kingston (for Alderman Gavin Robinson)
Councillor Pat McCarthy (for Councillor Tim Attwood)
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Alderman David Browne)

Apologies:

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
John McGrillen, Director of Development
Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Jill Minne, Director of Organisation Development
John Walsh, Town Solicitor (for item 12)
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

2. Council Chamber

The Director of Property and Projects updated the Panel on the outcome of the tender exercise for the seating arrangements in the Council Chamber. The Chief Executive advised that a report on the options would be presented to the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) Committee on the 22 August 2014.

It was noted that discussions regarding a potential Party Group seating move were being undertaken at a political level and that the Committee paper should allow for this option should it be feasible.

3. Working Groups

The proposals for the operation of working groups during the Shadow Council period were discussed and it was agreed that the recommendations outlined in the paper, subject to the following amendments, should be presented to the SP&R Committee on the 22 August 2014.

- The Diversity Group and the Party Group Leaders Forum should be held on the same day with a split agenda enabling officers to attend the relevant session.
- The Accommodation Steering Group could add value to the interim accommodation decision process and it was therefore agreed that group should be retained.

4. Standing Orders

The Chief Executive provided an update on the cross party discussions on the proposed process for "Call in" and advised that a further paper would be presented to the Shadow SP&R Committee on the 29 August 2014.

5. Capacity Building

The Director of Organisation Development presented a paper outlining the proposed capacity building sessions covering the political management arrangements and the Council's decision making processes. While the programme was aimed at new Elected Members, the Panel felt that it should be open to all members and that the paper presented Transition Committee should reflect this.

6. Leisure Transformation Programme

The Director of Parks and Leisure advised that a full report on the Leisure Transformation Programme would be presented to the SP&R Committee on the 22 August 2014. The Director highlighted the following issues which would be included in the report.

- The payback period for those posts recommended for voluntary redundancy all met the required payback period.
- The Leisure provider will apply to be an admitted body to the NILGOSC Scheme. The scheme will apply on an "open basis" which will mean that new staff can be join the NILGOSC scheme if they wish.
- The voluntary redundancy and pension costs will be met from the existing budgets previously agreed by committee.
- Further proposals on the "community benefit" funding as part of the stadia development would be included in the paper in order to resolve this outstanding issue. Members emphasised that adequate governance arrangements were required to support any future funding agreement to ensure that this provided additionality.
- Deloitte were undertaking a check and challenge exercise on the programme.
- A report on the next phase of the Leisure Capital Build would be presented to the SP&R and Shadow SP&R in September 2014.

7. Transfer of Functions

The Chief Executive updated the panel on the current position regarding the proposals for the transfer regeneration funds and in particular the case being made by the Council for regional funding for regionally significant projects. The Chief Executive also advised that the Director of Property and Projects had prepared a paper on transition fund proposals for specific projects which would be included in the briefing packs for members in advance of the Ministerial meeting on the 20 August 2014.

8. Capital Programme

The Director of Property and Projects referred to the capital programme update report which would be presented to the SP&R Committee on the 22 August 2014. Members noted developments in the Super Connected project. The Director of Property and Projects agreed to provide further information on the Planning Service position regarding the pavilion provision at the Ormeau Park pitches.

9. Quarter 1 Financial Report

The Director of Finance and Resources presented a report on the quarter 1 financial position and year end forecast. The Panel agreed that it should be recommended to the SP&R Committee that any year under spend should be ring fenced for the one off costs associated assets transferring under local government reform and for the mobilisation costs associated with the Waterfront Hall, Innovation Centre and Creative Hub which would be the subject of a separate report to SP&R by the Director of Development.

10. Rates Convergence

The Panel supported the draft response of the Council to the rates convergence scheme consultation and noted that this would be presented to the SP&R Committee on the 22 August 2014.

11. Civic Leadership Fund

It was agreed that further discussion with Party Groups was required before proposals for a Civic Leadership Fund could be considered by Committee and that it would not be appropriate to present the paper to Committee at this time.

12. George Galloway MP, Event at the Ulster Hall

The Panel noted the Legal Advice obtained in connection with the above event as presented by the Town Solicitor.

13. Boxing – potential request for funding

The Director of Development informed Members that there may be a request for funding to support the hosting of the Carl Frampton world championship fight in Belfast. If the request is received then a report will be tabled at the SP&R committee.

14. Date of Next Meeting

To be advised.