

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 13 April 2017

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Deirdre Hargey (For Cllr Jim McVeigh)
Councillor Lee Reynolds

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Councillor Hussey (Chair), Cllr McVeigh

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Phil Williams, Director of Planning and Place
Nuala Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development
Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director City and Neighbourhood Services
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

In attendance for item 1

Lorraine Dennis, Equality and Diversity Officer

1. Draft Policy – Linguistic Diversity

An update draft policy on Linguistic Diversity was circulated and the Chief Executive outlined the amendments that had been made following Party Group Briefings. The draft policy would be presented to April SP&R and if approved would be issued for an eight week consultation from May 2017. The final document would then come back to committee for approval in August 2017.

2. Capital of Culture

The Chief Executive referred to a report which was approved at the April meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee updating members on progress in relation to the City of Culture bid. Members asked for some information on the timeline for the bid and were informed the initial proposal needed to be submitted in October 2017. Given the tight timescales members would receive regular updates on the bid.

3. Peace IV

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services updated the panel on the Peace IV revenue bid which the council had submitted. She informed them that the Council was continuing to work with SEUPB to provide additional information and levels of assurance given the significant level of the bid. A decision on the outcome and possible levels of funding was not now expected until July 2017.

In relation to the capital bid the Chief Executive advised that three Belfast based projects have been shortlisted through to Stage 2. This includes the Shankill Women's Centre and the Blackmountain Shared Space projects which the Council has previously agreed to act as the delivery partner for. An update report would be presented to the April SP&R Committee.

4. Bel Tel and Wider Masterplan

The Chief Executive provided the Budget Panel with a project update on the redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph building and the ongoing work on an Inner North West Masterplan. A report including timelines would be considered by April SP&R Committee

5. City Development Forum and Community Engagement Framework

A report and draft operating protocols on the operation of a possible City Development Forum were circulated and the Director of City Centre Development provided information on how these forums operate in other cities. It was agreed that both the City Development Forum and Community Engagement Framework would be discussed at the next Party Group Briefings with a view to taking final reports to committee in May 2017.

6. Belfast Economic and Social Policy

A briefing note was circulated to the panel outlining the various pieces of work that were currently underway to support the development of the Belfast Economy, in particular how to grow a sustainable, inclusive economy and position the city in a time of increasing economic and political flux. The members agreed the need to continue and augment this work and in particular to forge closer links with other surrounding and border councils to secure the best deal that supports the region as a whole. Further work was also being proposed with London City and Dublin Chamber of Trade and Commerce to explore areas of mutual benefit in terms of, for example, marketing, investment, trade, etc.

7. Council Constitution

The City Solicitor outlined a number of updates to the council constitution which were being presented to April SP&R for approval. These changes had been made in the main to reflect changes in the organisational structure and also to provide the Director of Planning and Place with increased delegation to support improvements in the planning process.

8. Planning Updates

The Director of Planning and Place informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month.

9. City Hall Exhibition

The Chief Executive reminded the panel that a walk-through of the new exhibition in the City Hall had been arranged for 25th April ant 5.30pm.

10. AOB

Security Review

An update report on the review of the Security Unit would be presented to SP&R in April following the recent party group briefings.

Leisure Update

The mobilisation workshop for Andersonstown was being scheduled and the intention was to have this in advance of May SP&R meeting.

Party Leaders Forum – 27th April 2017

Agenda items – Harbour Commissioners and Organisational Development

11. Organisational Development – *All Officers except CX left the meeting*

The Chief Executive discussed with members options for future organisational structures.