

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st April, 2017

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hussey (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);  
Aldermen Convery and Rodgers; and  
Councillors Attwood, Clarke, Craig, Graham,  
Hargey, Hutchinson, Jones, Long, McAllister,  
McVeigh, O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also Attended: The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell).

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood  
Services;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Mr. G. Wright, Head of Facilities Management;  
Mr. M. McBride, Assistant Director of Finance  
and Resources;  
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd April.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Corr and McCabe.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

### Extension of Sunday Trading Hours – Request to Address the Committee

The Committee agreed to accede to a request from the area organiser of the Union of Shop, Distributors and Allied Workers (Usdaw) to address the Committee at its meeting on 19th May in relation to the consultation on the extension of Sunday trading hours. It was agreed also that representatives of the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce be invited to address the Committee.

**Restricted Items**

**The Information contained in the following five reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014**

**Proposed Re-Structuring of the Fleet Management Unit**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report on the proposed re-structuring of the Fleet Management Unit for a period of 1 month.

**Proposed Reorganisation of the Security Unit**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the proposed reorganisation of the Security Unit. The report detailed the following four options and the associated financial implications:

- (1) adopt the management proposals which would see the Council's Security staff from the Duncrue site be redeployed to the city centre at no cost;
- (2) keep all existing structures and rotas exactly as at present and cover the new Exhibition and 9 Adelaide building using the contracted supplier at an additional cost of £76,400;
- (3) create a minimum of 4 additional posts to provide the cover at the new locations while continuing all existing locations as at present at an additional cost of £134,000; or
- (4) split the 8 staff currently allocated to the Duncrue site, and continue to cover the site with 4 Council staff on a lone working basis and use the 4 staff freed up to cover the Exhibition and 9 Adelaide at a cost of £67,000.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt option 3.

**Andersonstown Mobilisation – Update**

The Committee was reminded that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the undernoted notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Heading, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

**"This Council recognises the upcoming redevelopment of Andersonstown Leisure Centre and the positive potential which this investment could bring to the City.**

**It also notes concerns which have been raised by Trade Union representatives about jobs during and after the redevelopment. The Council is opposed to any job losses as part of the redevelopment. It also believes that any displacement process should be done transparently and equitably, to ensure that current staff are treated fairly during this process.**

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**Finally, the Council considers it crucial that all current staff should be afforded the right to return to Andersonstown Leisure Centre after the redevelopment and under their current employment contracts, with no changes to their terms and conditions, if they so wish to. The Council calls upon GLL to work with Council staff, elected representatives and the relevant Trade Unions to ensure that action is taken which leads to the best possible deal for leisure workers."**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the consideration of the Committee an update report on the current position and indicated that a full report on the mobilisation plan would be submitted to the Committee in May. In addition, the Committee was advised that a request for a deputation had been received from the Unite and NIPSA Unions to address the Members in relation to this issue.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the issues raised in the report and that a full report on the mobilisation plan would be submitted to the meeting in May;
- noted that a mobilisation workshop for the West Area Working Group and Budget Panel Members was being arranged in advance of the May meeting, in order for GLL to present its overall mobilisation plan, including its engagements with sports clubs and users; and
- agreed to receive a deputation from the Unite and NIPSA unions at its May meeting.

### **Redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Site**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph building and the ongoing work on an Inner North West Masterplan.

The Committee noted:

- the progress to date with the former Belfast Telegraph site and the intention to submit a planning application later this year; and
- that work was underway to develop an Inner North West Masterplan and that Members would be engaged directly within the coming weeks before a draft report was submitted to the Committee.

### **Organisational Design - Update**

(With the exception of the Chief Executive and the Senior Democratic Services Officer, all members of staff left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.)

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration an update report in relation to the Council's Organisational Design Model and after discussion the Committee:

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- noted that a final report on the organisational structures would be submitted to the May meeting of the Committee;
- agreed to commence a recruitment process for a Strategic Director of the new Place and Economy Department, followed by a recruitment exercise for the Operational/Assistant Directors for Planning and Building Control; Economic Development; and City Regeneration;
- agreed that the process in moving functions and badging staff to the newly created department could begin;
- agreed that a timely and targeted executive search approach to the recruitment of the Strategic Director post commence immediately to ensure a strong and competent field for the post; and
- that the selection panel for the recruitment of the Strategic Director of Place and Economy reflect a fair balance in terms of community background and gender and that it comprises the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees), another elected Member from a political party not represented by the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees), the Chief Executive and a Council director.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion**

**Notice of Motion re Stained Glass Window – LGBT Community**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, in accordance with Standing Orders, had referred the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Campbell and seconded by Councillor McAllister, to the Committee for consideration:

**“This Council acknowledges the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our City, whose visibility creates a more welcoming and vibrant City. Recognising that one of the Council’s primary aims is to make the environment of the City Hall more balanced, inclusive and reflective of all of the citizens of the City, the Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of our LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall.”**

The Democratic Services Manager submitted for the Committees consideration a report which outlined the previous decisions and the current position in relation to four other motions regarding the installation of stained glass windows in the City Hall which had been considered within the previous 4 years.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the motion to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall be referred initially to the Party Leaders.

## Governance

### Council Constitution

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report in relation to amendments to the Council's constitution to enable them to be considered at Party briefings.

### Belfast Agenda

#### Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland; (Economy 2030) – Draft Consultation Response

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider and agree a response to the consultation document from the Department for the Economy on the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland – ‘Economy 2030’. The strategy sets out a vision for Northern Ireland as a ‘globally competitive economy that works for everyone’.**
- 1.2 The draft response builds on the Council’s position in relation to the draft Programme for Government 2016-2021, which was approved in January 2017, as well as the pre-consultation ‘Call for Evidence on Refocusing the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy’ which was approved in October 2016. In compiling the response, feedback has been gathered from officers across Council and members of the Economic Growth Forum.**
- 1.3 There is clear alignment between the regional ambitions in the draft Industrial Strategy and the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan. The Belfast Agenda’s social and economic ambitions for growth are that by 2035:
  - Belfast will be home to an additional 70,000 new residents
  - Our urban economy will support 50,000 more jobs
  - There will be a 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
  - Every young person leaving school will have a destination that fulfils their potential**
- 1.4 The consultation closes on 25 April 2017 and the document, equality screening and summary of evidence are available**

online at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/industrial-strategy> An online questionnaire is also available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/industrial-strategy-for-northern-ireland/>.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

### **2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

**Consider and approve the draft response to the draft Industrial Strategy for Northern Ireland (Economy 2030).**

## **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Key Issues**

The Industrial Strategy is a high level strategy that sets out the main policy commitment for growing the economy and creating jobs. In general, the proposals are in line with commitments contained within the Belfast Agenda and are likely to contribute positively towards growing the economy in an inclusive manner.

### **3.2 The draft Strategy provides contextual information about the economy, its recent performance, and how the region compares to other similar economies. It sets out the vision for 2030 for Northern Ireland to be ‘a *globally competitive economy that works for everyone*’.**

### **3.3 It contains commitment to outcomes-based accountability, in line with the Programme for Government. It also includes a number of headline milestones, namely:**

- **By 2021: 50,000 new jobs will be created; 18,000 economically inactive people will be helped back to work; Northern Ireland will be the number 1 FDI destination outside London**
- **By 2025: 380,000 qualifications at level 3 and above will be awarded; the value of sales outside of Northern Ireland will increase by 80%; the amount of spend by tourists from outside NI will be doubled**
- **By 2030: private sector output will grow by 35%, creating 80,000 new jobs; NI will be in top 3 most competitive small advanced economies; 80,000 jobs will be created in the knowledge economy; annual R&D spend will be increased to £1.5billion and the level of wellbeing in UK will remain the highest among all regions.**

- 3.4 To deliver improvements in regional competitiveness, five Pillars for Growth have been identified. The pillars are interdependent and actions will be required across each pillar to achieve the vision. The five pillars are:**
- Accelerating innovation and research**
  - Enhancing education, skills and employability**
  - Driving inclusive, sustainable growth**
  - Succeeding in global markets**
  - Building the best economic infrastructure.**
- 3.5 There are some areas where the strategy lacks detail. For example, there is little reference to engaging with local government and there is limited information about the resources, particularly finances, which will be used to deliver the ambitions. Many of the activities within the five pillars require support or are led by government departments other than the Department for the Economy (DfE), yet this is identified as a DfE strategy. It is not clear that there is a mechanism for securing buy-in and support from other government departments and external agencies – let alone making any financial contribution to the delivery of the priority areas.**
- 3.6 The draft response from Belfast City Council seeks to reaffirm the importance of Belfast to the wider region and includes the high level issues which Belfast City Council views as critical for growing the economy, as reflected in the Belfast Agenda and Local Development Plan. It emphasises the critical importance of inclusive growth in delivering the strategy and highlights the need to put in place resources to measure the impact of interventions. Finally, the response outlines the value of a place-based approach to maximise the benefits for the whole region. It also contains several of the key ‘asks’ which the Council has developed over recent months and emphasises the opportunities to co-design and deliver in partnership with government and other partners.**
- 3.7 In compiling the response, feedback has been gathered from across Council services, as well as the core participants of the Economic Growth Forum. The draft response attached as Appendix 1. In summary, the response highlights:**
- The absence of a place-based approach to growth and limited reference to engagement for local authorities with no reference to new forms of government/decision-making (particularly City Growth Deals). A key element of the draft UK Industrial**

Strategy is that it seeks to reinforce and strengthen the role of cities and localities in driving growth through a strong devolution agenda, yet there is no reference to this in the draft Northern Ireland Strategy.

- The draft strategy references ‘inclusive growth’ but it is not clear what is meant by this or how this is being defined. One of the key economic challenges in Belfast is economic inactivity and the social exclusion that this creates for residents within the city. It is important to set an agreed set of outcomes to measure inclusive growth – and then to establish a range of interventions that can help deliver an inclusive growth. This will require the involvement of a number of agencies – and will require flexible approaches that are different to current practice.
- There are limited references to the role of investment in infrastructure to support economic growth and connectivity. This can include investment in office space to accommodate projected future jobs growth in key growth sectors as well as investment in roads, rail and transport to improve access and connectivity. A key emphasis of the Local Development Plan that the Council is consulting on is to ensure that there is sufficient level of infrastructure to help deliver economic growth in the city and beyond.
- Recognition that the public sector will continue to play a vital role in delivering services and helping to enable private sector growth. The role of procurement and Social Value Procurement should be recognised but the strategy does not make reference to these.
- Harnessing innovation to drive growth – there are limited references to the use of information technology and better data management to support future economic growth. The SMART Cities approach is both scalable and transferable to other cities and towns across the region and should be included in the new strategy.
- While the ‘Succeeding in Global Environments’ pillar recognises the role of attracting business tourism and conferencing, there is also a key opportunity to emphasise the importance of attracting and retaining international students which is a key priority for both universities
- While we support the focus on priority sectors, we consider that there are also emerging opportunities in the clean tech sector (supported by our investment the North Foreshore) as well as the tourism/hospitality sector. The latter currently employs more than 17,000 people in Belfast and, with future investment planned



in new leisure facilities as well as hotel accommodation, there are opportunities to grow the sector significantly

- While the Northern Ireland Tourism Strategy is still being developed, tourism is a key economic and employment sector for Northern Ireland. Tourism has a vital role in driving inclusive growth and creating employment opportunities and is predicted to be a major employment generator in the coming years
- The role of academia and the education sector more generally should be strengthened; the regional centres of excellence are driven by university/industry collaboration.

- 3.8 The Strategy retains its focus on regionally balanced growth. This is likely to be at odds with its focus on those growth sectors which are likely to be attracted to urban environments. Belfast is the top global destination for financial technology investments and Europe's leading destination for software development and technology support investment (fDi Markets 2015). It is important to build on these assets: if they are successful, they can bring benefit across the region.
- 3.9 Good economic growth must be sustainable and Belfast still needs to grow to compete. It is essential that the whole region continues to benefit from the impetus provided by a competitive and successful city that can attract talent and investment, generate regional employment and opportunity and drive forward further growth and clustering in the key sectors. The need for a place-based approach to growth and recognition of the role of cities in driving growth is imperative; yet it is totally absent from the draft strategy. The Council response draws attention to the draft UK Industrial Strategy which is also currently out for public consultation and places a strong emphasis on the further devolution of powers to cities as being essential to economic growth.
- 3.10 It is worth noting that unlike the previous Economic Strategy for Northern Ireland, this is a document from Department for the Economy, not the NI Executive. This is reflected in the relatively narrow view of the economic growth agenda – for example, no consideration of how to use business rates/incentives to support economic growth, limited information on the importance of infrastructure investment.
- 3.11 The consultation document asks a series of questions and the draft response to the questions, along with the opening narrative which highlights the key issues for the Council, is included in Appendix 1.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no direct financial or resource considerations for the Council.

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no direct equality or good relations implications for the Council. The draft Industrial Strategy has been subject to an equality screening exercise.”

The Committee approved the draft consultation response, subject to more emphasis being included in the response, which is located [here](#) on the Council’s website, on the need to secure a City Deal; and a reference to the need for “Free Ports”.

**Belfast Economy and Social Policy**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus collaborative efforts on economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:**

- Our city is home to an additional 70,000 new residents
- Our urban economy supports 50,000 more jobs
- There will be a 50% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential

**1.2 In an increasingly competitive global environment, Belfast must emphasise its distinct competitive advantage if it is to continue to compete and successfully attract FDI, and tourists to the city as well as encouraging more businesses to start and support those existing businesses to grow in the city. Members have emphasised the importance of continuing to attract and support FDI to Belfast and the Council has been delivering on the Tourism Strategy Action Plan, developing a ‘Go to Market’ plan and working with city stakeholders in the development of the International Relations Framework which seeks to promote the profile of Belfast internationally as a place to visit, live and invest.**

**1.3 To focus our efforts on growing a sustainable, inclusive economy a number of targets have also been set for 2021**

along with key programmes of work (see draft Belfast Agenda). This report focuses primarily on the issue of city deals and economic and social progress in the context of Brexit. It needs to be noted that significant other pieces of work sit alongside this paper on job creation, skills development, liveability and neighbourhood regeneration.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

### **2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- (i) note the current programme of work underway which seeks to position Belfast as a competitive place and key attractor for people to visit, live, learn and invest;**
- (ii) consider and agree the proposed next steps as set out at paragraph 3.3.4 below.**

## **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Key Issues**

**3.1.1 The Council is increasing its ambition around positioning the city to attract international investment from developers, FDI and institutional investment and the recent success at MIPIM 2017, along with the International relations Framework 2016-2021 provide fresh impetus to consider how the City can begin to embed and sustain this collaborative and outward-focused approach to deliver on the City ambitions in the Belfast Agenda.**

**3.1.2 Central to promoting growth and positioning the city is the Council's role in supporting and adding value to the work of key city partners in their efforts to increase the number of international students in the city, grow tourism investment and support more Foreign Direct Investment as well as helping local businesses to become more active in international export markets.**

**3.1.3 In the context of the Belfast Agenda, Members have already commissioned or agreed a range of work, currently underway, to drive forward growth and position the city in a time of increasing economic and political flux. Some examples include:**

- International Relations Framework – including the development of sister city relationships with Boston, Nashville and Shenyang.**
- Strengthening private sector relationships as demonstrated by the recent success of MIPIM and the**

strong public/private sector approach adopted (e.g. in access of 70 private sector representatives as part of the Belfast delegation and £240,000 private finance secured).

- Refocus the Belfast-Dublin MOU to enhance collaboration on economic, tourism, education & investment programmes.
- Exploring the development of a mutually beneficial city-to-city programme of co-operation and collaboration between Belfast and the City of London, in the interests of galvanising and stimulating both cities as growth engines, particularly as the UK exits the European Union.
- Launch of the Belfast-London Business Network in February 2017 with over 150 delegates attending providing a platform to pitch the real estate investment opportunities available in Belfast as well as promoting the opportunities for foreign direct investment, particularly the emerging and growing specialisms such as cyber security, legal services and business and professional services.
- The Council is developing a detailed programme of support, interventions and incentives to support business start-ups, existing businesses wishing to grow and foreign owned businesses that might consider Belfast as an investment location with a view to establishing a bespoke 'City Investment Advice/Concierge Service that supports and enhances the work of key city partners.
- Belfast part of the 100 Resilient Cities Network and is in the process of appointing a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) whose role is to work with city stakeholders to develop a Resilience Strategy which will seek to address the inter-related issues of economic, social & environmental resilience.
- The development of a City Growth Deal for the Belfast City-Region is moving into a detailed feasibility study and financial modelling phase. This work will focus not only on the delivery of key city infrastructure priorities but also how the principles of inclusive growth can be integrated within a city growth deal so that communities across the city benefit. Intensive engagement will take place with both elected Members and city and regional partners to define what is possible.

3.1.4 There is no doubt that there has been a growing recognition and support for the Council's leadership role in promoting economic growth and positioning the city on a regional,

national and international basis as evidenced in the engagement and feedback received on the Belfast Agenda.

**Brexit**

- 3.1.5 Given the changing and uncertain global economic environment, there is a growing focus in other city-regions across the UK on the importance of place and ensuring that local government have the necessary financial levers and powers to support inclusive economic growth. There has been a reaffirmed commitment to devolution and introduction of growth deals covering all parts of GB but not Northern Ireland.
- 3.1.6 It will be important that the Council and Members continue to proactively seek to ensure that such similar freedoms, including a Growth Deal, are at the heart of any negotiations around Brexit and form part of the specific asks being developed by political parties and government. Whilst the detailed feasibility study will help to identify potential opportunities and evidence the financial and social benefits around a growth deal and further double devolution asks, it will be critical that this is supported by a strong political strategy/manifesto which gives focus and intent to the Councils engagement with relevant stakeholders and influencers.
- 3.1.7 Correspondence recently received from NILGA, attached at Appendix 2, outlines some the approaches being taken by other councils in relation to forward planning around Brexit including, for example, the commissioning of joint research pieces and entering into MOU type arrangements with cross-border council colleagues. NILGA is strongly advocating that an evidence-based and collegiate approach is taken to further strengthening NI council's position and in securing the best fiscal, legislative and policy outcomes associated with Brexit. Whilst it will be important that we continue to work with our local government colleagues including NILGA, it will be critical that we build upon the current momentum of growth and position Belfast to maximise the potential opportunities which may emerge around Brexit.
- 3.1.8 It is also important that the social implications of Brexit are understood and that plans to ensure 'inclusive growth' take account of these impacts.

**3.2 Next steps – creating an integrated and strategic approach and establishing ‘quick wins’**

**3.2.1** Given the changing economic, political and social landscape, it is vital that the Council continues to show leadership in driving inclusive economic growth. As detailed in this report, Members have led and commissioned a number of significant interventions which have successfully raised the profile of the city and started the process of effective advocacy around securing the powers and resources needed to deliver inclusive growth for the city-region.

**3.2.2** There is now a need to ensure we draw these strands together to ensure that they are mutually reinforcing and underpinned by clear evidence and messaging so that Members can effectively influence on behalf of the city and that this leadership is visible to city stakeholders. Key linked strategic pieces which will have the continued leadership and oversight of the committee moving forward will be:

- City-region growth deal
- Place positioning;
- International relations framework;
- City Resilience
- An inclusive growth model

**3.2.3** In terms of city marketing, it is important that we seek to build upon the momentum created at MIPIM and the successful relationships Members have built with the private sector to position and market Belfast at a time of flux when businesses are making location decisions. We must also consolidate and build upon to the relationships which Members have built with our surrounding councils and with other cities such as London and Dublin in line with our growth strategy.

**3.2.4** In order to take this forward Members are asked to consider and agree the following:

- (i) Members to lead and fully engage in the next stage of feasibility work on the city growth deal proposition including the specific deliverables (asks) and funding model.
- (ii) Develop and implement a political lobbying strategy which gives focus and intent to the Council’s engagement with relevant stakeholders and influencers; and seeks to inform the negotiations and forward planning around Brexit.
- (iii) Develop a strong and strategic marketing piece, in partnership with the private sector including

**developers, agents and investors, anchor institutions and the public to position Belfast in a post Brexit context as a place to live, visit and invest**

- (iv) **Engage and potentially co-commission specific research pieces with the City of London and Dublin City Council & Dublin Chamber of Trade and Commerce to identify opportunities of mutual benefit including e.g. joint marketing, trade and investment.**

**3.2.5 A cross-discipline project team of council officers is being established, chaired by the Chief Executive, to assist Members in bringing forward these strands of work in an integrated way so as to further enhance the city leadership role of Members and regular updates will be brought to the Committee**

**3.3 Financial & Resource Implications**

**Within budget estimates for 2017/18.**

**3.4 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Inclusive growth is intended to reduce inequalities and improve relations in the city.”**

The Committee:

- (1) noted the current programme of work underway which sought to position Belfast as a competitive place and key attractor for people to visit, live, learn and invest;
- (2) agreed the proposed next steps as set out in the report; and
- (3) agreed an independent review on the impact of Brexit on the City and best positioning strategy for future success.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Peace IV – Update on Capital Projects under Theme 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, 2016, had agreed to act as a partner for the delivery of the Shankill’s Women’s Centre and Black Mountain Shared Space project which were being submitted for Peace IV funding under theme 3.1 Shared Space and Services. Both the projects had now been advised by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB) that their relevant proposal had now been progressed to Stage 2 of the Peace IV funding process following successful completion at Stage 1.

The Committee was advised that 13 applications out of 33 had been successful in reaching Stage 2 under this call for funding. It included one other Belfast based project

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– the Greater Whitewell Community Surgery - for a project at the former Ballygoland Primary School. It was pointed out that the theme remained extremely competitive and the total funding for the shortlisted bids was approximately £90m and there was only £45m available under the theme. Therefore, the Committee was asked to note that any progression to Stage 2 was not a guarantee of funding and that no grant had been allocated yet to any projects, including the Shankill Women's Centre and the Blackmountain Shared Space project.

Noted.

**Leisure Transformation Programme – Assets Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

**Programme level – Planning**

- **note that planning was approved by the Planning Committee on Tuesday 11th April for the two new major leisure facilities at Brook and Robinson and the planning application for Andersonstown was submitted at the end of March**

**Specific projects**

**Members are asked to –**

***Brook***

- **note the updates as outlined at 3.4 in respect of the planned pop-up gym facility in part of the main sports hall at Brook and on the basis of the information provided to consider if they wish this to progress. In considering this Members are asked to note that officers investigated the potential of using space upstairs but that this is not feasible; that discussions have taken place with all affected groups and that all groups/activities can continue to be supported in the remaining part of the Hall or can be re-arranged**



elsewhere and the Centre can continue to act as an evacuation point if this is required.

*Andersonstown –*

- note the feedback from the additional Stage 2 - consultation exercise which was undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application.
- note after lengthy discussion Members agreed not to relook at the agreed facilities mix given the implications on the cost, design, planning and programme but requested officers to bring back an options paper to a future meeting which would consider all options available for securing the required additional resources for a moveable floor to be included within the existing proposal including details in respect of discussions with the DfC regarding community benefit monies and the mobilisation budget. Members are asked to note this is currently under development with an update to be brought in due course.
- note that a mobilisation workshop will be scheduled in advance of May SP&R.

**3.0 Main report**

**Programme level – Planning**

- 3.1 Planning approval for the redevelopment of the £20m Robinson and the £15m Brook was approved by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 11th April. This represents a significant step forward for the overall programme with works due to commence on site in the summer. Planning for Andersonstown was submitted at the end of March following a further round of consultation on the proposed changes to the centre (see 3.7). Members are asked to note that any changes to the design could have an impact on planning which in term will impact the overall programme**

**Project level**

**Brook – Pop-up gym facility**

- 3.2 Members have expressed their desire to start construction on the new Andersonstown as soon as possible and subject to a positive planning decision it is envisaged that construction will commence on the new facility in August 2017. As part of the business continuity planning for Andersonstown Members endorsed a proposal in February that a pop up gym**

facility would be set up in part of the main hall at Brook. It is proposed that this will be a 50station gym and would use the existing equipment from Andersonstown when this closed. The rationale for this was to ensure continuity of provision for existing Andersonstown gym members and also to help attract new members to the centre thereby providing a platform from which to market the new centre prior to its opening in 2019.

**3.3 Since this time a number of concerns have been expressed including the impact on**

- **groups who currently use the main hall**
- **use of the centre as an Emergency Rest Centre**
- **current car parking as the car park is already very busy at peak times**

**Members at a special West AWG on the 6th April therefore asked officers to consider these issues and also to check if it was feasible for the area upstairs which is currently used for changing facilities to be used as a gym area.**

**3.4 Officers have now investigated the concerns raised and Members are asked to note –**

- **Feasibility of using the upstairs space as gym space – Officers along with GLL undertook a site visit on 10 April to ascertain the feasibility of using this space rather than the main hall. This space is currently used as changing provision and would require additional works to be undertaken in order to facilitate their use for gym equipment including the removal of internal walls and additional electrical works. On the basis of the site visit it should be noted that these areas would only accommodate up to ten additional items of gym equipment (vs 50 stations downstairs). Given the additional works that would be required it is questionable if this would represent value for money. It would also not represent a quality customer experience. In light of this officers advice is that it is not feasible for the area to be turned into additional gym facilities.**
- **Impact on groups currently using the Hall – There are currently a range of groups who have regular bookings in the Hall including a Surestart and a judo club together with some regular activities including ballet/dance and 5-a-side. GLL have met with all potentially affected user groups over the past week.**

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In relation to each affected group the current position is outlined below

- Judo club – can continue to be accommodated in the remaining space in the main hall. It should also be noted that the new judo mats in Andersonstown are scheduled to be transferred to Brook which means the Club will no longer have to bring their own mats which the Club have welcomed
  - Surestart – the day to day activities can continue to be accommodated in the remaining space in the main hall. They have highlighted that there are number of larger seasonal events that they deliver including a summer sports day & Christmas celebration event. Officers and GLL are looking at alternative venues for hosting these e.g. other centres or local schools. Any costs associated with this will be come out of the mobilisation budget
  - Ballet/dance activities – this will require some minor equipment which can be accommodated in the fit out from the mobilisation budget if agreed
  - 5-a-side activities and community programme – it has been emphasised that there is still significant community space and the current 5-a-side bookings can be reprogrammed to the 3G pitch outside or to an alternative centre. Again any costs associated with this would be funded through the mobilisation monies.
  - All the groups had queries in relation to wall partitions and safeguarding. These have been addressed through the concept designs and a walkthrough with groups on the site. Members are therefore asked to note that all the groups affected can either continue to be accommodated if the gym proposal is taken forward and/or alternative provision will be secured for them. Any costs associated with this will be met from the mobilisation budget.
- Use as an Emergency Rest Centre – Members are asked to note that Brook has been opened once as an Emergency Rest Centre since the Council took it over under LGR. On this occasion there were no attendees to the centre. From an Emergency Planning perspective the Council's preferred option during emergency responses in the area is the Sally Gardens Community Centre. However the Emergency Planning Team has confirmed that they would still like to have the option of activating Brook if required. They have

been given an overview of the proposals and are content that this still allows for the centre to be used as a fall back option if required.

- Car parking – It has been noted that the current car parking at Brook is under pressure at peak times on 3G & grass pitches particularly in the evening and Saturday mornings. Members will be aware that additional car parking is being provided under the plans for the new centre however in the interim it is proposed that the situation is kept under review and if required further options will be brought back to Members in due course.

- 3.5 In light of the above Members are asked to consider if they wish to proceed with the proposed pop-up gym facility in the Main Hall at Brook

Andersonstown

- 3.6 Members are asked to note that the Planning Service recommended that additional consultation was undertaken in respect of Andersonstown before the submission of the planning application. This was to reflect the changes to the facilities mix and design following the initial Stage 2 consultation in October which were agreed by Committee in November 2016 (i.e. the exclusion of the sports hall, moveable floor in the pool, geo-dome over the pitch and the BMX track in order to increase in the size of the leisure waters)

- 3.7 2 further consultation sessions were therefore undertaken in early March together with an online survey. In total there were over 750 responses to the consultation and the key findings are summarised below –

- 96.5% expressed support for the redevelopment
- Most popular comments were as follows:
  - Supportive of design and excited about the project (188 responses)
  - Request for a movable floor to be included in the 25m pool (172 responses)

- 3.8 The exclusion of the movable floor element from the main pool has raised a number of concerns particularly from the local water polo clubs. This was considered at the special meeting of the West AWG on 6th April at which Cathal Brugha Swimming and Water Polo club put forward a case for the consideration of re-instating the moveable floor.

**3.9 After lengthy discussion Members agreed not to relook at the agreed facilities mix given the implications on the cost, design, planning and programme but requested officers to bring back an options paper to a future meeting which would consider all options available for securing the required additional resources for a moveable floor to be included within the existing proposal including details in respect of discussions with the DfC regarding community benefit monies and the mobilisation budget. Members are asked to note this is currently under development with an update to be brought in due course.**

**3.10 Members are also asked to note that a mobilisation workshop on Andersonstown has been scheduled for May.**

**3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

**Brook – the ‘pop-up gym’ facility if agreed will be funded out of the mobilisation monies. Any costs associated with displacement will also be funded from the mobilisation budget**

**Andersonstown – note that any changes to the design at this stage could compromise the overall programme and have a significant cost impact.**

**3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no direct equality implications.”**

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the decision in relation to a pop up gym facility in part of the main hall at Brook be deferred to enable it to be considered again by the West Area Working Group.

**Area Working Update**

**Minutes**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups as follows: South Area Working Group 20th March; North Area Working Group 29th March; East Area Working Group 6th April and West Area Working Group 6th April.

**North Area Working Group**

The Committee noted that the North Area Working Group, at its meeting on 29th March, had approved a minor change in scope in relation to NLIF2-17/NLIF072 Ballysillan Youth for Christ Project so that the funding could be used for new build

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equipment and to upgrade fixtures and fittings as additional funding for the project had been received under New Urban Villages.

**East Area Working Group**

The Committee noted that the East Area Working Group, at its meeting on 6th April, had approved a minor change in relation to ELIF2-14 – The Dock Titanic Quarter in respect of its location as the Group had been advised by Titanic Quarter that the proposed premises were no longer available.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Contracts for Award**

The Committee:

- (1) approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 below, through the Council's electronic procurement system; and
- (2) granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender, and allow extensions where contracts were under review as per Table 2:

**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply of Mobile Video Screens for BCC annual events and possible one-off partner events	Donal Durkin	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a further 3 years
Supply of ancillary equipment for BCC annual events and one-off events	Donal Durkin	4 years
Supply of Production Management Services for the Council's annual events programme and possible one-off partner events	Donal Durkin	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a maximum of 4 years
Supply of PA Staging, Lighting, Audio Visual Equipment for the Council's annual events programme and possible one-off partner events	Donal Durkin	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a maximum of 4 years.
Maintenance and Repair of Grounds Maintenance Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with the option to renew on an annual basis for a further 4 years.

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City Hall upgrade CCTV systems & cameras	Gerry Millar	3 months
Duncrue Complex replace existing heating boilers	Gerry Millar	3 months

**Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period**

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Measured Term Contract for repair & maintenance of fire and intruder alarms systems	Gerry Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place
Measured Term Contract for installation of new soft flooring	Gerry Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity**

The City Solicitor submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues**

**1.1 To request approval of the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* for public consultation, including staffing resource.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Approve the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* for consultation.**
- **Consider the staffing resource element of the policy i.e.: (i) staff member dedicated to the promotion of the Irish Language (currently included in the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*); or (ii) a staff member dedicated to the promotion of Linguistic Diversity (not currently included in the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*). Or (iii) an Irish Language Officer and a post covering wider language promotion (perhaps at a later date)**
- **Agree the outline consultation plan and next steps**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

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The original Language Policy was adopted by Council in 2006. The Joint Diversity Group (of Party Group Leaders and the Historic Centenaries Working Group) agreed that it should be up-dated and refreshed in line with legal advice on the Council's compliance with all relevant legal obligations.

Denise Wheatley of Policy Arc consultants was commissioned in March 2013 to prepare a scoping paper, as she had experience of preparing the Equality Schemes for both *Foras na Gaeilge* and the Ulster-Scots Agency, she had also assisted Magherafelt District Council with the EQIA of their recent Irish Language Policy.

The opinion of Richard Gordon QC of Brick Court Chambers in London was sought since he had extensive experience in advising on human rights issues and his advice, including references to both local and international law, was submitted to the Joint Diversity Group at its meeting on 21 May 2013 along with a draft language policy.

Following discussion at the Joint Diversity Group, 18 October 2013, an enquiry was made to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) regarding Newry & Mourne Council's Language Policy. ECNI responded:

**'We have commented that Newry & Mourne has a clear policy in place to promote the Irish Language and the Commission has provided advice, when requested, in relation to the implementation of the policy. In general we consider the language rights issue to be more a human rights issue than an equality issue although there is an intersection with employment and good relations aspects.'**

ECNI also summarised their response to Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages:

**'Our response had made the point that the notion that providing equality or protection for one group limits their availability for another is both unfounded in itself and acts to the detriment of all who seek to live in a society that is fair and equitable and should be avoided in the drafting of public policy.'**

At that time no agreement was reached and the demands of Local Government Reform prioritised work streams in that area, consequently the 2006 Language Policy remained in place. In late 2016 a decision was made to revisit the 2006



Language Policy and following refreshed engagement with key stakeholders the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* is presented.

- 3.2 In developing the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* the Council was mindful of various legal positions including Counsel's opinion and International and domestic legal obligations and standards. The development was also informed by demands for minority languages and feedback from consultation.

Developments in linguistic diversity in central government laid out principles reflected in our draft policies, particularly in relation to:

- The Strategy to Enhance and Protect the Development of the Irish Language over the period 2015-2035
- The Strategy to Enhance and Develop the Ulster-Scots Language over the period 2015-2035

In 2016 the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure opened a public consultation on a *Sign Language Framework*, with the ECNI response providing important insight to the particular challenges the Framework was designed to address, including:

- A report into educational inequalities in Northern Ireland reported that whilst statistics show that attainment for disabled children generally is rising, deaf children's attainment is actually falling.
- Lack of provision could be met through the establishment of Deaf Cultural and Linguistic Centres in Belfast and Derry
- The lives of deaf people could be improved by addressing aspects of direct and indirect discrimination

Following on from recommendations made in the scoping report on the revision of the 2006 Language Policy the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* is a comprehensive strategic approach which will explore the connections between all different languages written and spoken in Belfast, whilst being mindful of our legal obligations with respect to Irish and Ulster-Scots. The key recommendation was to develop a framework, with three correlated policies:

- Irish Language Policy
- Ulster-Scots Language Policy
- Other Languages Policy

This approach is in line with the ECNI response to the Consultation by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure on *Proposals for an Irish Language Bill*, May 2015:

‘An important aspect of language policy is the interrelationship between individuals or groups that speak different languages. Any duty placed on public authorities should ensure that the development of provisions to protect and promote the language is viewed within the context of the duty to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations within the provision of public services. Public authorities should consider aspects of mutual understanding, co-operation, communication and partnership between different ‘language communities’, including engagement with relevant communities to seek to explore and take reasonable account of concerns or perceptions about the promotion of minority languages.’ (Para 11)

### 3.3 Key Issues

#### a. Framework

The draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* presented at Appendix 1 includes the *proposed Language Framework* and drafts of the three policies within it:

- Irish Language Policy
- Ulster-Scots Language Policy
- Other Languages Policy

#### b. Staff

Members are asked to consider the issue of a dedicated staff member. In line with our obligations to promote the Irish Language under Part III, Article 10 of the Charter for Regional and Minority Languages there is a dedicated staff resource in the draft *Irish Language Policy* (p.17 draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*). Under ‘Council staff, it states: ‘pending the outcome of the review by *Foras na Gaeilge*, appointment of an Irish Language Officer to promote Irish within the Council and in the Council area, with responsibility for the development of an action plan to ensure the promotion of Irish language can be effectively provided by Council, including awareness raising and language training’. The Irish Language Officer would develop two work streams, internal and external.

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**Internally focused work would be aimed at training staff in Irish and supporting staff in translations and providing services in Irish. The external work stream would provide support for Irish language groups in the city with training and support.**

**During the party briefings however there were a number of options discussed as follows:**

- Staff Member dedicated to the promotion of the Irish Language Policy (as currently included in the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity and identified as a specifically required role by Irish Language groups)**
- OR**
- Staff Member dedicated to the promotion of Linguistic Diversity (not currently included in the draft Policy on Linguistic Diversity)**
- A combination of both of the above (i.e. 2 posts)**

**Based on the outline details provided below it is likely the post as presented in the draft policy (one Irish Language Officer) would be approved between PO1 and PO4 (salary of £29,323 and £39,177 from April 2017). A full assessment of the post would have to be undertaken and full economic cost to include employers NI contributions and pension included. Further details on the options are presented below:**

***Foras na Gaeilge* opened consultation on ‘The Irish Language Officers Scheme in Local Government in the North’ in early March 2017. In reviewing the successes of previous schemes which supported officers, the consultation document notes: ‘under the scheme recognition is given to the language throughout the councils by providing comprehensive information and services in Irish, and through a range of work which would not be done if it were not for the Irish language officers in the local councils’. The consultation document outlines four options, summarised below:**

- a. Do nothing – and to have no funding scheme again aimed at councils in the north.**
- b. Offer 50% of the employment costs for appointing Irish language officers for 3 years. Match funding could be offered to 3 successful councils under this choice.**
- c. Provide support for councils to prepare an ‘Irish language development strategy’ through expert**

consultation. All councils could be funded under this choice.

- d. A special fund aimed at councils in the north to provide relevant activities which would support Irish speaking and learning communities within their administrative areas. Applications from all councils could be catered for under this choice.

### 3.4

#### c. Consultation

Both the documents are presented in draft as a period of public consultation is required before they are finalised. The body of statute and case law relating to consultation is increasing with regard to the need to consult the public before final decisions are made.

When Council have approved the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*, and/or recommended any changes, the documents will be opened for a period of public consultation running from 26 May until 18 July 2017. The recent debates on the appropriate period of consultation are fully acknowledged and the extent of consultation already undertaken provides rationale for the eight week period recommended.

An outline plan of the consultation follows:

- Two public meetings on the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity*
- Four targeted focus groups on each of the individual strands (i) Irish Language Policy; (ii) Ulster-Scots Language Policy; (iii) Two separate events for the Other Languages Policy a. New-comer communities; b. Deaf and partial hearing loss community.
- Questionnaire on Citizen Space
- Internal engagement with HR, staff and Trade Unions

The consultation document will reference how any changes in compliance related to the Irish Language Act may impact on planned implementation and the scope of the draft policy.

The following resources are required to support the consultation:

- Budget for catering / alternative formats/signers/translators at four meeting = £250 x 6 = £1500

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- **Staff resources: Support required re: Citizen Space questionnaire design and analysis, communications and engagement of consultation, development of action plan (internal).**
- **External consultant for co-facilitation: 5 days @ £450 per day = £2250**

**TOTAL = £3750**

**3.5 Timeline for next steps**

It is planned to issue the draft *Policy on Linguistic Diversity* for an 8-week public consultation from May 2017. The table below outlines the next steps:

23 May – 18 July 17	8 week public consultation - events and questionnaire open
10 August 17	Budget panel: draft SP&R report
11 August 17	Final reports issued for SP&R
18 August 17	SP&R debate report
4 Sep 17	Council ratify SP& R decision
Sep 17 – Aug 18	Delivery of Year One Action Plan
August 18	Monitoring Report on Delivery of Year One Action Plan. Costed year 2 Action Plan to SP&R.

**3.6 Financial & Resource Implications**

The following resources are required to support the consultation:

- **Budget for catering / alternative formats/signers/translators at six meetings/focus groups = £250 x 6 = £1500**
- **Staff resources: Support required re: Citizen Space questionnaire design and analysis, communications and engagement of consultation, development of action plan (internal).**
- **External consultant for co-facilitation: 5 days @ £450 per day = £2250**

**TOTAL = £3750**

Following the period of public consultation final documents and a costed one year action plan will be presented.

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**Dependent on the scope of the action plan the financial resource implications may be significant.**

**3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**A draft comprehensive screening of the policy has been undertaken and will form part of the public consultation. This screening report is in draft form which will enable us to engage more fully with key stakeholders, internal and external, during that process.”**

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees to approve the draft Policy on linguistic diversity for consultation with option (i), a staff member dedicated to the promotion of the Irish Language, included in the draft Policy but that the consultation included a question regarding consideration of this and any additional resource.

On a vote by show of hands ten Members voted for the proposal and seven against and it was declared carried.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 11th April and specifically agreed the following:

**Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme**

- to adopt the recommendation to grant the use of delegated authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to approve applications under the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme; and approve the recommendation that Reverend Bill Shaw be appointed to the role of independent assessor on the Programme Review panel.

**Review of the St. Patrick’s Day Small Grants Programme**

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees to reject the decision of the Partnership to approve the proposal to review the current approach to St. Patrick’s Day celebration grants and undertake a consultation and screening process with current grant recipients and adopt - in principle, option 3, subject to further information being provided in due course; and accordingly agrees

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to adopt option 1, that is, to do nothing and continue with the grants scheme in its current format.

On a vote by show of hands twelve members voted for the amendment and four against and it was declared carried.

**Belfast Pride Parade – Employee Participation**

The Committee was reminded that Belfast Pride was a major city event which was embraced by many people who support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) community. It attracted audiences of up to 50,000 people each summer. The Council had, through the Community Festivals Fund which was match funded by the Department for Communities, regularly supported the Belfast Pride festival.

The Council's Equality and Diversity Network championed and steered the Council's strategy on matters relating to diversity and equality in both service delivery and employment and in particular fed into the development of the Council's diversity action plans. An LGB&T sub-group of the Equality and Diversity Network was tasked with assisting the Council to address key issues around promoting positive attitudes, respect and inclusion of people from the LGB&T community relating to the Council's workforce and customers. It was also tasked with the revision and development of the Council's LGB&T action plan.

In addition, as part of the LGB&T action plan, an LGB&T employee network was established last year. It brought together, across all areas of the Council, individuals who identify as belonging to the LGB&T community, along with their allies and other supporters, to meet and share ideas and also to feed into the LGB&T action plan. Both the sub-group and the employee network were keen that, as part of the LGB&T action plan going forward, Council employees participate in the annual Belfast Pride Parade, either by entering a walking group or a float, that is, using a Council vehicle along with an accompanying walking group.

The Committee agreed to interested employees participating annually in the Belfast Pride Parade, with initial attendance at the 2017 event being held on Saturday 5th August.

**Operational Issues**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 13th April.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Active Belfast Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Active Belfast Board of 21st March.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
North Foreshore Steering Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group of 20th March.

**Business in the Community's Responsible  
Business Awards June 2017**

The Committee was reminded that, every year, the Business in the Community's Responsible Business Awards captured inspiring stories of businesses as a positive force for change and told them to a local, national and international audience. The awards event was open to companies of any size, sector and scale and the entries were rigorously assessed by a select judging panel. The Committee was advised that, following the success of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which was considered as an exemplar within the public sector, the Council had submitted an application to the "Wellbeing at Work" category of the awards. The Council had been successfully shortlisted in this category, together with the Bank of Ireland, Queen's University, Belfast Lagan Construction, BT, Coca Cola and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. The winner of the award would be announced at a gala awards ceremony in the Belfast Waterfront on 1st June, 2017.

The Committee approved the attendance of three officers at the Business in the Community's Responsible Business Awards 2017 and noted that the event was being held on 1st June, at the same time the Annual Council would be held at which the new Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee would be appointed, and therefore agreed not to nominate any Councillors to attend on this occasion.

**Requests for the use of the City Hall  
and the Provision of Hospitality**

The Committee adopted the recommendations in relation to the requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality set out below:

<b>April 2017 Function Applications</b>						
<b>Name Of Organization</b>	<b>Function Date</b>	<b>Function Description</b>	<b>Criteria Met</b>	<b>Charge</b>	<b>Hospitality Offered</b>	<b>Civic Hq Recommendation</b>
Conway Education Centre	20 June 17	Reception to present adult students with qualifications/ certificates gained and formal thank you to volunteers	Yes – c & d	No charge (charity)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality



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<b>April 2017 Function Applications</b>						
NI Kids Ltd	7 July 17	Awards Ceremony to recognize organization and special individuals who put families and young children at the heart of this business.	Yes –b & c	£300	No	Allow Charge £300 No hospitality
Walkway Community Association	25 August 17	A showcase of Walkway projects and reception to celebrate their volunteers	Yes – a, c & d	No charge (community)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality
OMNI (Malayalis NI)	3 September 17	A Cultural dinner and entertainment programme to celebrate PONNONAM.	Yes – d	No charge (community)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality
Marks & Spencer's 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball	30 September 17	Commemorate 50 years of trading in NI with 200 staff and suppliers.	Yes – a & c	£825	No	Allow £825 No hospitality
Belfast Hospital School	19 October 17	Night of Celebration and Prize giving for pupils who attend Belfast Hospital School; children who are unable to attend school because of physical or mental illness.	Yes – c	No charge (charity)	Yes – Tea, Coffee (£2 per head)	Allow No charge Hospitality Tea/ Coffee/ Biscuits reception £2 per head
Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	23 November 17	Belfast Trust has staff of 22,000 and the Chairman's Awards recognize, award and celebrate the achievements of some of these staff.	Yes –c	£300.00	No	Allow £300 No hospitality

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<b>April 2017 Function Applications</b>						
NOW Group Graduation	28 February 18	Annual Graduation ceremony and celebration for trainees supported by NOW Group – not for profit organization providing support to people with barriers to employment & learning.	Yes – c & d	No charge (charity)	No	Allow No charge No hospitality

Chairperson