

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 19th January, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr,
Graham, Long, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill,
Reynolds and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood
Services;
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen Browne and Councillor Hutchinson

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th December 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 January.

Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in respect of item 6a Physical Programme Update in so far as he was he was a shareholder with Glentoran Football Club.

Councillor Hutchinson

The Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded to Councillor Hutchinson expressing its wishes that he has a speedy recovery following his recent accident.

Presentations – Casement Park

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th December, it had agreed to receive representatives of the Ulster Council of the GAA to provide a presentation on the development of Casement Park.

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Subsequently, at its meeting on 5th January, the Committee had agreed to receive deputations from a number of other organisations in relation to the development.

The Chairperson advised the Members that the Committee would not be discussing issues in relation to an open Planning Application as there were other processes ongoing where such issues could be raised.

Ulster Council of the GAA

Accordingly, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed to the meeting Mr. S. McGeehan, Mr R. Miskelly and Mr. F. Quinn.

Mr. McGeehan stated that the focus of the presentation would be on the development proposals and the socio-economic, cultural and community benefits that the redeveloped Casement Park would bring both to the City and Ulster and also the links to the Belfast Agenda, which the GAA saw as central to the development.

He then outlined the background to and the current position in relation to the planning application and the consultation process which had been undertaken regarding the proposals. He then highlighted the major sporting and cultural benefits the stadium would bring and expressed the organisation's desire to bring the Ulster Football Final to the stadium for the first time since 1971. He reviewed the need to strengthen gaelic games within the city, as traditionally its rural areas were strong, and install civic pride in the new stadium.

Mr McGeehan explained that, from a community perspective, the GAA wished to reach out to communities beyond the traditional community within its own membership and wanted the facility to be used by all.

With regard to the economic and business benefits, there would be £31.8 million Gross Value Added to the economy during construction and it would create 315 full time equivalent jobs. The Ulster Council wanted to see the stadium have a regenerative effect around west Belfast and the wider Belfast area and be seen as a catalyst for bringing major sporting events, tourism, hospitality and business to the city.

From 2020/21 onwards, during operation of the new facility, economic reports had indicated that there would be a direct increase in spend of £6.7 million per annum in the economy as a direct result of Casement Park. This would include 13,300 out of state visitors staying in Belfast for major events, which was significant for businesses in Belfast. During operation, the Stadium would provide 71 full time equivalent jobs.

The Committee then viewed a short video which described in visual terms what the Ulster Council wished to deliver at Casement Park, following which the representatives of the deputation answered a number of questions from the Members.

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**Mooreland and Owenvarragh
Residents' Association**

Ms. C. McCavana, Mr. T Dignan and Ms. AM Hughes, representing the abovementioned Association, were then invited to address the Committee.

Ms. McCavana advised that the Association had been founded in January, 2012 following a public meeting. She indicated that the organisation was not against a new stadium but wished to see a suitably sized redevelopment of the stadium which was GAA orientated, no concerts, which was safe, which was part of the natural fabric of the community and which had an appropriate mass and scale for the area.

Mr. Dignan referred to the presentation which the Association had circulated to the Committee and drew the Members' attention to the following key points:

- The GAA's requirement for a provincial stadium was best satisfied at a different location;
- On the Casement Park site, a smaller stadium, dedicated to GAA events:
 - would be less expensive
 - would lever many, if not all, of the purported wider social benefits; and
 - would mitigate the range of social and environmental impacts.

The Association had had a long standing policy position that, in sporting terms, the site could fit a stadium with a capacity of between 20,000 – 25,000 persons. Since that policy position had been set, there had been a number of developments in relation to issues around safe evacuation.

He referred to a map of the local area around Casement Park which showed the ground fronted by the Andersonstown Road and, on the remaining three sides, by residential properties which abutted right up against the stadium. That created a set of constraints in relation to access to and egress from the ground.

Mr. Dignan referred also to the proposed costs which indicated that Casement Park would require public funding of £62.5 million, which could be used for other services. The Gross Value Added (GVA), as indicated in the Deloitte report, was approximately £1.7 million per annum, which was only 0.004% of the Northern Ireland total GVA, which for the 37 jobs was a net cost of £1.7 million per job.

In conclusion, he stated that the Association was aware that west Belfast contained areas of high social and economic deprivation and there was a need for interventions across a range of dimensions. The argument which the Association was making was that those needs, in the specific context of Casement Park, were best addressed by a smaller scale stadium.

The deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members.

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Gaels for Casement

Mr. B White and Ms. J. Adams, representing Gaels for Casement, were then invited to address the Committee.

Mr. White explained that Gaels for Casement was a grass roots organisation made up entirely of local GAA members. It had been established following the first Judicial Review which had halted the redevelopment of Casement Park. It was formed specifically to give voice to local Gaels to support Casement Park, to raise the profile of Casement within clubs and to campaign for a fit for purpose facility. The organisation had secured the support of every club in Belfast and had led the campaign #buildcasement.

Ms Adams outline her sporting achievements and their relationship to playing at Casement Park. She stated that the Gaelic sports needed Casement Park and the new proposal, together with the extensive consultation, from the GAA was to be welcomed.

The deputation then left the table.

Failte Feirste Thiar

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. H. Connolly and Mr. K. Gamble.

Mr. Connolly outlined the purpose, role and strategic objectives of Failte Feirste Thiar and the long standing relationship with the GAA in promoting games to locals and visitors alike. He highlighted that Casement Park had for decades attracted high volumes of tourists to Belfast and he provided examples of events in this regard. He referred to the Windsor Park and Ravenhill developments and the transformative impact they had generated and that Casement Park was the final piece in the stadia puzzle.

He expressed the view that Casement Park had the potential to transform west Belfast from a positive social, community, cultural and economic perspective and would provide employment. Mr Connolly outlined the work undertaken by Failte Feirste Thiar with other stakeholders to focus on maximising economic tourism at the local level and how Casement Park would complement this. He referred also to visits undertaken to other cities and a seminar hosted by his organisation which showed how stadia and the community could live and function together and how it could complement and drive the city economy.

In conclusion, he expressed support for the development and requested the Council to support it and then left the table.

Andersonstown Regeneration Committee

Mr. M. O'Hara representing the Andersonstown Regeneration Committee (ARC) was welcomed to the meeting.

He outlined the purpose of the organisation and how it had been established following the decision to reject the first planning application for Casement Park. He explained that it had been formed to be a positive voice to support the delivery of

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strategic regeneration initiatives in the Andersonstown area. The members of ARC were made up of local residents and the wider Andersonstown community, many of whom lived beside Casement.

Throughout its existence, ARC had engaged many times with many bodies to share enthusiasm and support for the project. The group was aware and acknowledged a number of the concerns which had been raised. It had met with the Project Board to discuss size, scale and safety and hoped the planned amendments being proposed would address those concerns.

Mr. O'Hara explained that the stadium provided a great opportunity for community participation and involvement in the facility and how it could be used. Should the stadium proceed, it was anticipated that there would be continued engagement to understand how that use could be maximised for the community.

He concluded by highlighting the need for the investment in the Andersonstown area and stated that, on behalf of the group, the hope that the stadium would be endorsed and he left the table.

West Belfast Partnership Board

Mr. Girvan representing the Board, was welcomed to the meeting.

He commenced by outlining the role and purpose of the Board and how Casement Park fitted within its strategic aims. He stated that the Board recognised the benefits that the residents of west Belfast would get from Casement through health, employment and education and, in particular, saw it as a catalyst for young people to tackle health inequalities for the future.

The Board had recently completed a Social Investment Fund employability programme and recognised the employment opportunities Casement would provide to allow young people to build skills and capacity through apprenticeships and work placements and full time employment and how this linked to the Councils Leisure Transformation Programme and the Belfast Agenda.

Mr. Girvan then left the table.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

Belfast City Council welcomes this considerable investment in a further modern stadium in the city. This is a vital part of our sporting infrastructure and we welcome the impact it will have on sport, the economy and jobs.

In making this strategic corporate statement we understand that the planning process is there to ensure that planning policy and concerns and aspirations of residents and others are considered in depth and that we are a statutory consultee to that process. We have and will continue to input to that process through our planning team and the Planning 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.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussions of these items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary Events

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 24th November, 2017, it had approved a pilot cash flow facility to support the delivery of one-off arts and festival events across the city. Accordingly, a request had been received from Féile an Phobail to avail of the cash flow mechanism in relation to the up-front costs of the 30th Anniversary Events in August 2018.

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

The Committee approves the proposal for the Féile an Phobail 30th Anniversary Events planned for August 2018 to avail of the cash flow mechanism to cover upfront costs up to a cap of £300,000 which would be recouped through the direct receipt of ticket sales from Ticketmaster, subject to:

- appropriate legal agreements between the Council, Ticketmaster and Féile an Phobail; and
- cancellation insurance cover in place to the satisfaction of the Council and Ticketmaster.

On a recorded vote ten Members voted for the proposal and six against and it was declared carried

<u>For 10</u>	<u>Against 6</u>
Councillors Hargey, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Long, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill, Walsh	Aldermen Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence; Councillors Graham and Reynolds

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Update on funding position at The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)

The Committee considered the contents of a report which provided an update on the funding situation regarding The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) following engagement with the Department for Communities (DFC).

The Committee:

- noted the update on the funding position of The MAC;
- noted the correspondence which had been received from the Department for Communities' Permanent Secretary;
- noted the proposed engagement with relevant department officials at officer level and the commitment to feed back to the Committee; and
- agreed that representatives of The MAC be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

Recruitment Update

The Committee noted an update in relation to the recruitment of Chief Officer posts.

Rate Setting 2018-19

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on the 5 January 2018, considered the proposed 2018/19 revenue budgets and proposed cash limits for the Strategic Policy and Resources, People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees.**
- 1.2 The Committee agreed the recommended cash limits for the Strategic Policy and Resources, People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees, subject to consultation with the other Committees prior to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 19 January 2018.**
- 1.3 This report provides feedback from the meetings of the People and Communities Committee on the 9 January 2018 and the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on the 10 January 2018. A verbal update from the meeting of the Planning Committee on the 16 January 2018 will be provided at the meeting. This report also makes the final recommendations for the Committee Cash Limits, Capital Financing Limit and District Rate for 2018/19.**

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2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Agree that this paper should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the district rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February 2018.**
- **Confirm the cash limits agreed by the Committee at its meeting on the 5 January 2018 as follows:**
 - **A cash limit of £45,662,169 for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2018/19, including £3,270,000 relating to the Belfast Investment Fund.**
 - **A cash limit of £76,027,990 for the People and Communities Committee for 2018/19.**
 - **A cash limit of £16,036,980 for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2018/19.**
 - **A cash limit of £1,551,099 for the Planning Committee for 2018/19.**
 - **The capital financing budget of £20,706,901 for 2018/19.**
- **Agree that the increase in the district rate for 2018/19 should be 1.98%, based on an estimated penny product of 5,953,980 meaning a non-domestic rate of 26.8703 and a domestic rate of 0.3263 and that the amount to be raised through the district rate in 2018/19 will be £154,726,087.**
- **Note the Director of Finance and Resources statement on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position and the robustness of the revenue estimates as required by the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011.**
- **Note the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (Appendix 5) as required by the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (NI) 2011.**

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 Table 1 below summarises the net cost of the Council for 2018/19 and shows that the amount to be raised through the district rate in 2018/19 is £154,726,087. This represents a 1.98% increase in the district rate.**

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Table 1 Cost of Running the Council in 2018/19

	Cost (£)
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	42,392,169
People and Communities Committee	76,027,990
City Growth and Regeneration Committee	16,036,980
Planning Committee	1,551,099
Net Departmental Expenditure	136,008,238
Belfast Investment Fund	3,270,000
Capital Financing	20,706,901
Total Net Council Expenditure	159,985,139
Less Derating Grant	-5,259,052
Amount to be Raised from the District Rate	154,726,087

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee Cash Limit

- 3.2 The recommended cash limit for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed by the Committee at its meeting on the 5 January 2018 is £45,662,169, which includes £3,270,000 relating to the Belfast Investment Fund and the additional £1.6m of funding for European Capital of Culture (£374k), City Centre Regeneration (£240k) and City Deal (£1m).
- 3.3 The revenue estimates for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee comprise the revenue budgets for the Chief Executive's Department including City Centre Regeneration, Property and Projects Department and the Finance and Resources Department.
- 3.4 The budget for each main service area and corporate finance budgets are summarised in Appendix 1.

People and Communities Committee Cash Limit

- 3.5 The People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on the 9 January 2018, noted the revenue budget and cash limit of £76,027,990 as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Each main service area is summarised in Appendix 2.

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee Cash Limit

- 3.6 The City Growth and Regeneration Committee, at its meeting on the 10 January 2018, noted the revenue budget and cash limit of £16,036,980 as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Each main service area is summarised in Appendix 3.

Planning Committee Cash Limit

- 3.7 The Planning Committee at its meeting on the 16 January 2018, considered the revenue budget and cash limit of £1,551,099 as recommended by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. A verbal update from the Planning Committee will be provided at the meeting. Each main service area is summarised in Appendix 4.

Belfast Investment Fund

- 3.8 The annual contribution to the Belfast Investment Fund is £3,270,000 and this is included in the Strategic Policy and Resources Cash Limit above.

Capital Financing Budget

- 3.9 The Council will have secured a capital financing budget of £20,706,901 in 2018/19 to support its capital investment programme. This includes increases to the capital financing budget as a result of efficiencies generated by the Waterfront Hall (£200k) and Accommodation Strategy (£755k) along with the inclusion of £1m increase to the capital financing budget as agreed at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 5 January 2018.

The 2018/19 capital financing budget is summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Capital Financing Budget 2018/19

Capital Financing	(£)
Capital Programme	11,312,676
Transferred LGR Loans	677,319
Leisure Investment Programme	7,100,906
Accommodation Efficiencies	1,416,000
BWUH Efficiencies	200,000
Total	20,706,901

De-rating Grant

- 3.10 The grant received from central government (De-rating Grant) which compensates the Council for de-rated properties will decrease by £29,126 to £5,259,052 in 2018/19.

Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011

- 3.11 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 requires the Director of Finance and Resources, in his role as designated chief financial officer, to provide assurance to Members on the robustness of the revenue estimates. The Finance Act requires the Council to have regard to this statement when considering the estimates and the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates. He is also required to report on the adequacy of the Council's reserves position as part of the rate setting process.
- 3.12 The development of the revenue estimates for 2018/19 commenced in June 2017 with the identification of uncontrollable costs arising from external influences, the development of the detailed budgets at cost centre and account code level across the organisation and the consideration and challenge of base budgets and growth proposals.
- 3.13 Reports were presented to the Strategic Policy Resources Committee from August 2017 to January 2018 which detailed the budgetary pressures facing the Council, based on uncontrollable costs (e.g. salary costs including pay rise and pensions, utilities, waste contracts) and additional investment to support the Belfast Agenda. These reports also provided updates to Committee on the efficiency programme which resulted in £3,008,951 of efficiencies being removed from base budgets.
- 3.14 As the result of this process the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the estimates presented should provide adequate financial resources to support the running costs of the Council for 2018/19 and that reasonable consideration of the financial risks to the Council have been made in the preparation of the estimates.
- 3.15 Alongside the development of the revenue estimates, work was undertaken with Land and Property Services (LPS), supported by the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to validate the Estimated Penny Product for 2018/19 including losses on collection.

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- 3.16 The increase in the rate base, due primarily to more commercial properties coming on the valuation list, resulted in the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) being increased by £83,790 (1.48%) which generates an additional annual rates income of £2,076,392. This revised EPP has been included in the district rate calculations.
- 3.17 The Council's general reserves position is forecast to be £14.2m by the end of 2017/18. The Director of Finance and Resources believes that the level of reserves should be maintained at this level to safeguard the Council's exposure to financial risk including any backdated element of non-domestic revaluation appeals.
- 3.18 The Director of Finance and Resources is therefore satisfied with the robustness of the revenue estimates and that the reserves position is adequate for the Council and does not require enhancement though the district rate in 2018/19.

Regional Rate

- 3.19 The Regional Rate has not been set at this stage.

Impact on Ratepayer

- 3.20 Table 3 below illustrates the impact of a 1.98% increase in the district rate on ratepayers by average property type.

Table 3: Impact on Ratepayer by Property Type

Property Type	Annual Increase	Monthly Increase
Terraced House	£5.48	£0.46
3 Bed Semi-Detached	£8.38	£0.70
4 Bed Detached	£18.63	£1.55
Apartment	£5.29	£0.44
Average Office	£144.02	£12.00
Average Retail	£140.53	£11.71

Communication

- 3.21 It is proposed to use the following key messages for the announcement of the agreed rate:
- Belfast City Council has agreed a district rate increase of 1.98% which is 1.02% below the current rate of inflation.
 - To set this level of district rate, the Council has delivered £3.0m of cash savings without impacting on frontline service delivery.

- The average impact on domestic ratepayers is less than £1 per month or less than £10 per year. Business and offices will pay on average an extra £12 per month or £143 per year.
- The Council has shown responsible leadership by achieving the balance between investing in the city to secure jobs and grow the economy during these difficult times while also providing value for money services.
- The Council's long term strategy is to improve the retail and hotel offering and office and business infrastructure to attract major investors and businesses to the city in order to increase its rate income, with the effect of further investment and keeping rates as low as possible.
- The Council will continue to maintain and improve its services, to invest in local communities while at the same time committing to generate further efficiency savings £3 million in the next year.
- Over the past three years of the current Council Term the District Rate increase has been maintained below the rate of inflation providing a real term reduction.
- The Council will invest:
 - £18.77m in city centre regeneration projects
 - £40m in local regeneration projects
 - £150m in providing new facilities and refurbishing existing ones
 - £105m in new leisure facilities.

3.22 In addition, Corporate Communications will produce a press release for Members. A pull out section on the district rate, services and capital investment will be provided in the next edition of City Matters. The My Rates Page on the website will be updated.

3.23 Financial & Resource Implications

The report details the cash limits and level of district rate required to meet the additional financing requirement of the Council for 2018/19.

3.24 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.”

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APPENDIX 1

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Corporate Priorities.	6,372,785
City Centre Regeneration	1,389,322
Human Resources	3,040,950
Democratic Services	2,098,133
Corporate Communications	1,215,412
Central Support Unit	1,745,112
Legal Services	1,682,493
Strategic Policy	727,813
Corporate Management	1,663,474
Finance & Performance	2,425,147
Digital Services	4,972,859
Audit	1,025,714
Corporate Directorate	1,048,441
Property Mgmt	1,756,917
Estates	-4,632,135
Facilities	14,684,639
Contracts	784,621
Good Relations	390,472
COMMITTEE TOTAL	42,392,169
Belfast Investment Fund	3,270,000
Capital Financing	20,706,901

APPENDIX 2

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Cleansing	17,837,368
Community Services	6,704,110
Directorate Support	2,704,307
Environmental Health	6,945,147
Leisure - GLL	7,800,000
Leisure - BCC	327,879
Neighbourhood & Development	4,103,076
Parks & Cemetery Services	9,162,979
Waste Management	20,443,124
COMMITTEE TOTAL	76,027,990

APPENDIX 3

CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Economic Initiatives & ID	9,200,897
Development Directorate	2,637,682
City Events & Venues	4,156,659
Carparking	-1,098,487
Estates	356,825
Zoo	879,231
North Foreshore	-95,827
COMMITTEE TOTAL	16,036,980

PLANNING COMMITTEE
ESTIMATE ANALYSIS 2018-19

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>2018-19</u>
Planning	1,228,820
Building Control	322,279
COMMITTEE TOTAL	1,551,099

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in the report.

European Capital of Culture – Update

The Committee noted an update which was provided by the Chief Executive on the Council's bid for the European Capital of Culture.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion re: Education Support

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 In December 2017, the Committee considered and agreed to the Notice of Motion on Education Support which was proposed by former Councillor Bell and seconded by Councillor O'Hara:**

"This Council notes the continued Tory-led cuts to the Department of Education's budget and the resulting devastating impact on the Education Authorities, schools and youth providers. Schools, youth providers, children, parents and the wider community are now at breaking point with continuing threats to services. The Council strongly opposes these cuts.

The Council also notes the work being carried out by the various Partnership Boards and schools across Belfast to improve standards of literacy and numeracy amongst our young people, particularly those living in areas of high social deprivation. The Council commends the Partnership Boards and schools for their successes to date in improving standards of literacy and numeracy, especially at GCSE level, through their various Easter schools, mid-term schools, community-based classes and efforts outside of the classroom. It should be noted that the Council itself also provides educational support through homework clubs (for 5-11 years old) and parent and toddler groups

For these reasons, this Council agrees to task Council Officers to investigate ways in which it can contribute to the continued improvement and academic achievement in literacy and numeracy within local communities and will look at how it can help to overcome various barriers to learning at post primary level."

- 1.2 The Belfast Agenda drives the city's ambitions for Inclusive Growth and improving life chances for all citizens. This includes boosting attainment levels at all stages of life and ensuring that people have the skills they need for the jobs of the future as well as building a labour market that provides sustainable employment, removing barriers to employment and addressing and mitigating poverty. One of the four core ambitions is that 'by 2035 every young person in Belfast leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential'.
- 1.3 The Council has already been scaling up its level of investment in Employability and Skills activity which is overseen by the Council's City Growth & Regeneration Committee. At its meeting in January 2018, the Committee noted the following headline targets to be achieved in the current financial year:
- Up to 1,500 residents will be supported to find a job. To date, more than 1,000 residents have entered employment (735 through European Social Fund (ESF) and Employment Academies and 313 through our entrepreneurship (including Go for It programme) and business development support);
 - 4,000 residents will be engaged through employability interventions (e.g. careers insight activities) and early engagement projects (with 2,928 people engaged to date);

- Over 1,000 students and young people to be engaged through career events and digital skills programmes (715 young people engaged to date);
- Over 290 work experience opportunities to be provided through the Council and key employers across the city (with 25 employers signed up to provide the 290 work experience opportunities to date).

1.4 This report provides an overview of the work currently being undertaken by Council to tackle educational inequalities and the Employability and Skills challenges in the city in the context of the Belfast Agenda and proposes how the Notice of Motion might be taken forward.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the variety of mechanisms and activities currently provided to support educational attainment and the Council's commitment to enhancing Employability and Skills development for all citizens;
- Note the ongoing engagement with city stakeholders on this issue and agree to progress a scoping exercise to enhance the existing evidence base and support further collaboration and partnership working to ensure the Council continues to add value to help tackle the city's challenges associated with educational inequalities.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

With Inclusive Growth at the heart of the Belfast Agenda, a core ambition is that every young person in Belfast leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential by 2035. It makes explicit commitments to ensuring that children and young people can get the best start in life and to proactively and collaboratively addressing educational inequalities for those who are socially disadvantaged.

3.2 The Council's Employability & Skills Framework 2015-2025 mirrors this commitment, recognising that this will require a more integrated approach to learning and skills, ensuring that young people are supported through the education system and by their peer networks to develop their aspirations; to make informed career choices, based on labour market intelligence and have access to opportunities to experience the world of work. The framework also recognises a need to

promote alternative routes into employment through entrepreneurship.

- 3.3 Access to an effective education system aligned to current and future employment needs are vital components of an effective pathway to employment across all skill levels. The activities being undertaken by Council in this regard span across the Growing the Economy and Working and Learning priorities of the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.4 At the June meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members heard presentations from education experts working with young people across the city. These focused, in particular, on the innovative approaches that they are developing to focus on young people who risk leaving school without minimum education standards and also on new ways of improving work placements and careers guidance to help young people to navigate the world of work and explore new employment opportunities.
- 3.5 Council Officers have also engaged with a wider group of careers teachers from across the city to identify interventions that they might find useful in delivering their work and improving the work experience and skills development opportunities of the young people within their schools. This identified the need to simplify the current system, to provide access to meaningful work placements and to support the provision of high quality and timely information to give young people insights into the world of work. The Council is working directly with schools and support organisations across the city, with a focus on improving skills and enhancing employability. However, it is clear that there are also more fundamental challenges around achieving basic levels of literacy and numeracy and these risk impacting on the City's competitiveness, as well as reducing the ability of those individuals to access meaningful employment and, as a result, increasing the chances of falling into poverty.
- 3.6 The importance of engaging with children and young people outside the formal school setting has been noted and Council support is provided to encourage engagement with young people through sports and alternative mechanisms. The City & Neighbourhood Services Department also provides support through the Community Centre network, Play Services and Sports Development. Activities include homework clubs, after-schools clubs, and volunteering. There is also an opportunity to further consider how outreach and engagement work and employer engagement activity can align to the Local Area Working approach that is being developed. This would not only support the physical

improvement of those areas but also help to improve skills and create sustainable employment opportunities. The third sector has a vital role in this creating avenues for engagement and working with communities to help overcome various barriers to learning at post-primary level.

3.7 Given the complexity of the barriers to learning within communities and the need to work in partnership to tackle the educational and employability challenges in the city, it is proposed that Officers will undertake a scoping exercise to collate the existing range of supports and activity underway in the city. This work will enhance the existing evidence base and identify potential opportunities, gaps and areas for further collaboration with a view to developing and securing support for targeted interventions that can contribute to the continued improvement in literacy and numeracy within local communities and look at how it can help overcome various barriers to learning at post-primary level. A report will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration and approval. The Committee is also asked to note the ongoing programme of engagement with Members that has been agreed through the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in order to progress the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda and for the Council to take on a more strategic and operational role on Employability and Skills development issues. A special meeting of the Committee is planned for 21 February 2018.

3.8 The Committee is also asked to note that Council Officers are continuing to engage with government departments and the Belfast City Region Councils to identify areas for collaboration and to add value to improve educational levels, Employability and Skills as part of the work on the Belfast Region City Deal. This engagement activity may help identify additional opportunities to lever resources and maximise the impact of any Council investment.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Financial implications associated with enhancing the evidence base will be met within existing departmental budgets. Members should also be aware that the expansion of the Employability and Skills workstreams will require an increase in the current budget allocated to this area which will be managed through the annual estimates process. There is also potential to leverage funding from central government and other income streams once this work is developed.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report; subsequent actions will be agreed and considered in discussion with the Equality and Good Relations Officers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Citizens’ Basic Income –
Motion – proposed next steps**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on a Notice of Motion that was brought to the Council in October 2017 and was subsequently presented to the Strategic Policy in Resources Committee on 20 October 2017.

1.2 The Notice of Motion relates to a proposal to explore the implementation of a Citizens’ Basic Income (CBI) scheme. The principle behind a CBI scheme is that all citizens – regardless of their employment status – would receive a basic weekly or monthly income payment. Citizens would then be able to work and earn additional income on top of the basic payment. For those in receipt of benefits, the CBI would replace many of these.

1.3 The Notice of Motion proposes that the Council ‘will undertake a feasibility study into how it might support a pilot study concentrated within our most deprived communities’. This would potentially mean that a Belfast CBI would be focused on certain target groups or areas of the City.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:-

- **Note the Notice of Motion proposed at Council meeting on 2 October 2017 regarding the potential implementation of a Citizens’ Basic Income Scheme**
- **Note that Officers will liaise with Officials in Northern Ireland Executive with a view to undertaking a feasibility study into how the scheme might support a pilot study concentrated within the City’s most deprived communities.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 At the Council meeting on 2 October 2017, the following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson:**

'This Council recognises the devastating impact that unemployment and benefit cuts can have upon citizens, families and communities.

The Council will explore, as part of a wider employability initiative and with the help of the Executive, the implementation of a Citizens' Basic Income (CBI) scheme. In order to inform this process, the Council will undertake a feasibility study into how it might support a pilot study concentrated within our most deprived communities.

The CBI initiative would mean, for those identified as part of the initiative, the replacement of benefits and pensions with an unconditional flat rate payment. Citizens would then be able to work and earn additional income on top of the basic payment. Such a scheme has the potential to help eradicate poverty and homelessness in the City.'

- 3.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Notice of Motion was referred to the Committee for consideration. At the 20 October 2017 meeting of the SP&R Committee, Members agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting.**
- 3.3 The concept of a Citizens' Basic Income has been around for some time as part of policy discussions on how to make public benefits systems more effective. It has come to the forefront in recent months with the announcement in September 2017 by the Scottish Government that they would make available resources for local authorities to undertake research into the introduction of Citizens' Basic Income schemes in their areas. The principal driver behind this development is to look at how the Welfare System can incentivise work as opposed to potentially acting as a deterrent to work – particularly for those whose earnings levels are low.**
- 3.4 A CBI payment is usually made to all citizens. It is not means tested and does not increase or decrease as an individual's circumstances change. The allowance is generally free of tax but it replaces personal allowances and tax credits. It would replace a number of benefits but would not replace benefits such as disability benefit, maternity benefit, housing benefit**

or bereavement-based benefits. Given that the CBI is tax free, it would mean that all income would then be liable for tax.

- 3.5 Research undertaken by the Public Policy Charity Reform Scotland suggests setting the CBI at a rate of £5,200 per adult (£100 per week). Its assessment indicates that it would cost around £2billion annually to introduce such a scheme (alternative research suggests that the costs to the Scottish government could actually be as high as £3.6billion). It would also require an increase in the contributions from all those paying income tax.
- 3.6 At present, the Scottish Government does not have the full legislative authority to bring about the introduction of a scheme such as this. However, it has been piloted in a number of European countries, including Finland, where all adults are entitled to a monthly income of €580, regardless of whether they work or not.
- 3.7 The introduction of a CBI in the local context would require support from the NI Executive, given that they have the responsibility for the benefits system. Consideration would also have to be given to how any additional funding requirement would be met. The Notice of Motion proposes that the CBI would focus on 'our most deprived communities'. It would be important to consider how any future CBI could be focused or targeted towards certain groups or within certain geographical areas.
- 3.8 It is proposed that Officers will engage with relevant departmental officials to consider how a CBI and/or other relevant policy instruments might be effective as part of a range of interventions to address the challenges of low skills and low levels of employment, particularly within some of the City's communities. A report on how this might work alongside other employability support activities will be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee for information and consideration.
- 3.9 Equality and good relations implications
- No specific equality or good relations implications at this point.
- 3.10 Resource implications
- The financial implications of any new scheme will be considered as part of the future report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**Motion – Audio Recording of
Area Based Working Groups**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 3rd January, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor McReynolds and seconded by Councillor O'Neill:

“This Council recognises the important role that transparency, accountability and openness play in strengthening the trust of the public in their representatives; notes the important role audio recording of committee meetings since January 2016; acknowledges that the Area Working Groups perform a vital function in allocating sums of money to worthwhile projects across Belfast; that they will have an additional important role with the upcoming local area plans; and, agrees to commence recording of all Area Working Group meetings to demonstrate to the public that resources are being allocated openly, fairly and transparently”

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

In order to provide some relevant background, the Committee was requested to take account of the following points when considering the Motion.

At the first Annual Meeting of the Council in April 2015, it had been decided that a traditional Committee style governance system would operate for the duration of the Council Term. That type of system provided for the establishment of a number of Committees which considered the operation of the Council services and (except where the Council delegated its powers to the Committee as in the Planning and Licensing Committees) make recommendations to the full Council which was, ultimately, the decision-making body.

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, at Section 47, required the Council, so far as was practicable, to make an audio recording of so much of any Council meeting which was open to the public and required that the audio recording must be available to the public at the Council offices for a period of 6 years from the date of the meeting. The Council had, for a number of years, gone further than that requirement by providing for a live webcast of the Council meetings through the Council website.

There was no requirement within the 2014 Act for the proceedings of Committee meetings to be audio recorded. However, the Council, in September, 2015, had agreed to provide for the audio recording of all of its Standing Committees which took place in the Lavery Room in the City Hall. That decision had been extended further in December, 2015 to allow for the audio recording of the Planning Committee meetings which routinely took place in the Banqueting Hall in the City Hall.

Accordingly, the Council had been audio recording its Standing Committee meetings since January, 2016 based upon an operating protocol.

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For a number of years, pre-dating the establishment of the new Council in 2015, the Council, in addition to the establishment of its Standing Committees, had formed a number of Working Groups, the purpose of which was to allow for early deliberation of matters by the political process before reports were submitted for formal consideration by the Standing Committees and ultimately the full Council. Those Working Groups were not decision-making bodies and could only make recommendations for a Standing Committee to consider. They were not governed by the rules set out in the 2014 Act and were entirely discretionary. Therefore, the Council decided itself upon the membership, remit and procedures for these Working Groups. Accordingly, the reports to be considered by Working Groups were not publicly available in the way in which Committee reports were published, as required under Part 8 of the 2014 Act. As such, officers could include details in Working Group reports which would, if the same reports were to be presented to a Standing Committee, require to be restricted from public view due to the confidential nature of the information provided. The Working Groups were a less formal way in which discussions could commence on matters which would, ultimately, come before a Standing Committee for formal approval.

There were not any technical issues involved in the audio recording of Area Based Working Groups as the equipment used was portable and could be set up for meetings which took place in the Conor Room as easily as for those which took place in the Lavery Room. There would not be any significant additional expenditure involved should the Committee decide to proceed with the audio recording of those meetings.

Should the Committee decide to proceed with the audio recording of the Area Based Working Groups then this would be subject to the already established protocol. Therefore, if those meetings were receiving presentations from any third parties or deputations, then the prior approval of those persons would have to be obtained prior to the audio recording of that part of the meeting for which they were in attendance. If such approval was not forthcoming, then the audio recording would be paused during that person's presentation.

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to the audio recording of the meetings of the Area Based Working Groups.

On a vote by show of hands, ten members voted for the proposal and one against and it was declared carried.

Motion re: Transparency of Council Funding

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a Motion in relation to the Transparency of Council Funding until its meeting on 16th February to enable legal opinion to be obtained.

Motion re: Support for Positive Life HIV Charity

The Committee deferred consideration of the Motion until its meeting on 16th February.

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Motion - Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds

The Committee was reminded that, the Council, at its meeting on 1st November, had passed the following Motion on Voting Rights for 16 Year Olds, which had been proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Nic Biorna;

"This Council calls upon the British Government and the Secretary of State to bring forward legislation to extend the right to vote to everyone aged 16 or over, in time for the 2019 Local Government elections and for all future Assembly and Westminster elections and any referenda."

The Democratic Services Manager reported that a response had now been received from Lord Duncan of Springbank, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who was responsible for elections policy in Northern Ireland.

Lord Duncan had stated that the Government recognised and highly valued the contribution which young people made to society. However, he pointed out that, of those countries within the European Union, only Austria had lowered its voting age to 16 years for national elections and that most democracies considered 18 to be the appropriate age to enfranchise young people. He confirmed that the UK Government continued to hold the view that 18 years was the age at which most young people were likely to be sufficiently politically aware, mature and independent to decide who should represent them and concluded by thanking the Council for its interest in this issue.

The Committee noted receipt of the response.

Motion - Universal Credit

The Council, at its meeting on 1st November, had passed the following Motion on Universal Credit, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Kyle:

"This Council notes the well documented and evidenced hardship caused in England, Scotland and Wales by the roll out of Universal Credit.

The Council calls for an immediate halt to the rollout of Universal Credit across Northern Ireland, to protect the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged from poverty, rent arrears and homelessness and calls for all Political Parties to work to deliver a system that is fair, practical and compassionate.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to and seek a meeting with the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities and with the Secretary of State about the implications of Universal Credit."

The Democratic Services Manager reported that a response had now been received by Mr O'Reilly, however, a response had not yet been received from the Secretary of State.

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He pointed that Mr. O'Reilly had stated that the Department for Communities, having drawn upon the experience of the Department for Work and Pensions, had adopted a phased approach for the roll-out of Universal Credit in Northern Ireland. The process, which had commenced in September, 2017 in the Limavady Jobs and Benefits Office, would cover a twelve-month period and be rolled out to offices in Belfast in May and June, 2018.

Mr. O'Reilly had then outlined the financial and other support which the Department for Communities would provide to claimants during the roll-out period and beyond and provided an analysis of the Universal Credit service to date. However, he did not address the request to meet with a delegation from the Council, as alluded to within the motion.

The Committee noted the response which it had received from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Communities.

The Committee agreed also that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on the possibility of the Council developing a Universal Credit plan, in order to direct people to organisations providing support services such as advice, food banks, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, housing rights, debt advice and employment training, as had been agreed by the Council on 1st November when it had considered the motion.

Belfast Agenda

City Region Growth Deal – update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on recent progress and next steps on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **note the next steps in the development of the Belfast City Region Deal**
- **agree to commission Future Cities Catapult to develop proposals for the Digital Infrastructure element of the city deal.**
- **agree that the party group leaders and chair of SP&R attend the next meeting of the joint city region deal councillors' forum on 12 February.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will be aware that momentum for the Belfast City Region Deal has increased over the past few weeks with the

chancellor's announcement in the autumn budget statement that he would 'open negotiations for a Belfast (Region) City Deal as part of our commitment to a comprehensive and ambitious set of City Deals for Northern Ireland'.

- 3.2 The commitment to the Belfast Region City Deal received further support with the visit of Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to the city where he met with members and stakeholders from across the six councils to hear about the emerging proposals. In response he lent his support to the ambitious proposition and an ongoing commitment to working to further develop the deal with Belfast and across Northern Ireland.
- 3.3 The committee will also be aware that a specified reserve of £500K has been created to support a programme of work aimed at ensuring the region has the evidence base, information and emerging projects to make the best possible case for an overall programme that will support the city region's economy. This includes development of the overall policy context, programme management, project development, governance and stakeholder engagement and was outlined to members at their meeting in November 2017.

Timeline for the development of the deal

- 3.4 Following the visit of the SoS, officers have been engaging with officials from DCLG to agree an overall timeframe for the development of firm proposals with a view to getting a deal agreed in the autumn 2018. The first step in this is to develop a further proposition paper by April 2018 providing more detail and analysis on the region, its economy, emerging growth sectors and the case for investment. This will be informed by the Belfast City Region Industrial Framework which is currently being drafted. This proposition will also include key outcomes and emerging projects linked to the three themes of infrastructure, innovation and skills with indicative costs. It is envisaged that following discussions with DCLG, HMT and NI Executive the proposition will be subject to economic modelling and be further developed with individual business cases with a view to having an overall programme including outcomes for consideration in September 2018.
- 3.5 Further evaluation of the overall programme will then take place between central, regional and local government with a view to having an agreed Heads of Term by November 2018. Detailed programme and project plans are now being developed in line with this timeframe.

Digital Infrastructure

- 3.6 Initial work on the Infrastructure aspect of the City Region Deal has identified ‘digital infrastructure’ as a particularly important element of the bid. This is in terms of its potential to contribute to increased productivity across the entire economy, but also in supporting skills development and in bringing innovation, resilience and future-proofing to the other investments associated with a successful City Region Deal.
- 3.7 ‘Digital infrastructure’ represents investment in next generation Fibre and Mobile networks. But it also includes the ‘digital layer’ on top of traditional infrastructure – ie, the control & monitoring systems, sensors and analytics that overlay transport, water, energy and other systems, to support the management of such systems and to aid region-wide planning, modelling and decision-making.
- 3.8 It is proposed that the Government’s Future Cities Catapult is commissioned to engage with the six councils to provide an analysis that draws on the latest technological developments and international practice and policy, to develop a series of costed digital infrastructure proposals that complement the wider City Region Deal bid. These proposals would also identify alternative financing models including co-investments from industry for such digital investments.
- 3.9 Future Cities Catapult are well-placed to deliver this piece. They have insights into the Government’s Industrial Growth strategy and the emerging thinking within the global digital sector. They also worked closely with Belfast City Council to develop the well-regarded Smart Belfast framework.

Communication and Engagement

- 3.10 Reports will be brought on an ongoing basis to each of the six Belfast City Region Councils. In addition, ongoing engagement will happen across the council through the already established joint city region deal councillors’ engagement forum. The next meeting of this group will be held on 12th February to discuss the development of the process and the timelines outlined above. As at previous meetings it is recommended Party Group Leaders and the Chair of SP&R represent Belfast City Council at this event.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

Funding for the development of the programme will be financed through the City Deal specified reserve of £500K. Costs associated with the Digital Infrastructure proposals will be financed through this reserve.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications

To be considered in preparation of Belfast City Region Deal.”

After discussion the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that Party briefings be held in order to provide the Members with an opportunity to discuss with officers a number of issues in relation to the City Deal.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Physical Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Physical Programme covers over 350 projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This paper provides an update for Members on the Physical Programme

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to –

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- **Agree that the New Crematorium is moved to Stage 3-Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of up to £18million to be allocated** (see section 3.3-3.7). Given there are a number of outstanding issues to be resolved (as laid out in 3.5 below) it is recommended that this is held at *Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk* and Members will be kept up to date on the progress of the project including the final budget allocation. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most

economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

- Agree that the following project is added as Stage 1 – Emerging Project - Belfast Zoo – Programme of works - with further detail to be brought back to Committee (Section 3.8-3.10)

Project Updates

- King George V Playing Fields (*currently Stage 2-Uncommitted*) – agree that this proposal is de-coupled from the Oval proposal and is now taken forward as a proposal in its own right. If agreed, Members are asked to note that further work is required in working this proposal up in its own right and that further detail will be brought back to Committee in due course (see 3.11-3.12)

Externally Delivered Initiatives

- Social Investment Fund – note that the Council has now received approval to proceed for the 6 SIF projects as outlined in 3.13 below
- Urban Villages – agree in principle that the Council acts as the delivery agent for a range of projects which are proposed under the next round of UV funding (see 3.14)

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial physical programme covering over 350 projects under a range of funding streams including the capital programme, BIF and LIF together with the projects that it is delivering on behalf of other agencies including the Executive Office and the Department for Communities.

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- 3.2 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme

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Project	Overview	Stage
New Crematorium	<p>The proposed development of a new two chapel crematorium (2 x 150 seat chapels) on Roselawn site with the re-use of the existing Crematorium building</p> <p>Maximum budget of up to £18million to be allocated - The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council</p> <p>Members are asked to note that this is a ring-fenced budget at this stage pending further work on the design and access and the final figures will be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>	<p>Move to Stage 3- Committed</p> <p>Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending further work on the design and access</p>
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works	<p>Members have previously agreed their ambitions and objectives for the Zoo and will be aware that a feasibility study on the longer term management options for the Zoo is currently underway. It is however recognised as part of this that the Zoo needs significant capital investment in order to make it a state of the art visitor attraction and this project is to develop up a costed programme of works for the Zoo</p>	<p>Add as an Emerging Project</p>

- 3.3 Move to Stage 3 – Committed**
New Crematorium – Members will be aware that the Council is responsible for providing cemetery and crematorium services for the people of Belfast and aims to: *‘ensure an adequate supply and effective management of burial land and to provide appropriate crematorium services that adequately meet the needs of the local catchment area’*. The existing crematorium at Roselawn was constructed in 1954 and designed to accommodate 700 services per year. However, in the year

ending 31 March 2016 a total of 3,255 services were performed which represents almost five times the designed capacity. At present it is the only crematorium in operation in NI and therefore providing cremation service to the entire population of NI. Members will be aware therefore that there is pressure in terms of the capacity of the crematorium facilities and that there is also no Plan B in place if the catafalque breaks down.

- 3.4 It has therefore long been recognised that significant investment is required in order to ensure continued operational efficiency and provide users with a dignified cremation service. The development of the new crematorium is currently a Stage 2- Uncommitted project on the Capital Programme and a detailed Economic Appraisal has been undertaken. A range of options were identified within the EA and these were considered in depth by the Council's Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group at its meeting in December. Following detailed consideration, the Working Group have recommended that the option of - a new two chapel crematorium (2 x 150 seat chapel) on Roselawn site with the re-use of the existing Crematorium building be recommended to the SP&R Committee in respect of the new crematorium facilities. This option emerged as preferred option in the EA as the options which not only demonstrated the best NPV when compared to the other options over a 30-year period but also the potential to provide the highest level of non-monetary benefit to the wider public and BCC staff.
- 3.5 Given the outcome of the EA and the recommendation on the preferred option by the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group it is recommended that the development of the new crematorium (*new two chapel crematorium (2 x 150 seat chapel) on Roselawn site with the re-use of the existing Crematorium building*) is now moved to the next stage on the Capital Programme – Stage 3 - Committed. Members will however appreciate that this is a significant project and that although the preferred option has been identified there is still a lot of work to be carried out including –
- *Design* - Further work on the design of the new facility including operational requirements
 - *Options for the re-use of the existing Crematorium* – Members are asked to note that the existing crematorium building is a Grade B2 listed building which is listed for both historic and architectural merit. Any proposed re-use of the building will therefore need to be sympathetic to the building's listed status.

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Members are asked to note that no decisions have been taken in respect of the future use of the building and that Members will be kept up to date as these options develop

- **Access** – the proposed new Crematorium facility will require a new entrance creating a second entrance into the site. The A23 (the Ballygowan Road) on which Roselawn is situated is a protected route and discussions are therefore ongoing with Transport NI in respect of the access
- **Planning** – Members will appreciate that Roselawn sits outside the boundary of Belfast City Council and that the planning application for the new facility will therefore be assessed by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. Discussions have already been held with senior officials from Lisburn and Castlereagh and these will continue over the coming months
- **Business modelling** - Further work on the business modelling in terms of the whole life costs and revenue implications
- **Use** - Discussions with neighbouring Councils in respect of a strategic approach to ensure a regional approach and the development of a facility which is future proofed in terms of future needs

3.6 Given this it is proposed that this project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme but is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending further work on the issues above. It is also recommended that a maximum budget of up to £18m is ring-fenced for the project. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this budget allocation is within the overall affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to note that this is a ring-fenced allocation at this stage and following further work on the issues above the final budget will be brought back to Committee for further consideration along with updates on the issues above. Moving this to the next stage will allow the Council to appoint a design team and move to outline planning stage.

3.7 In addition, Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging

3.8 Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works - As part of the discussion of the long-term future of Belfast Zoo, Elected Members have identified priorities for change that include:

- Enhancing the customer offer to generate additional revenue streams
- Building a reputation for providing a high-quality visitor experience which brings people back time and again as well as attracting new customers and increasing dwell time
- Providing assurance that the health and wellbeing of the animals is maintained at all times
- Providing strong education and conservation programmes
- Providing an ability to access external grants and potential for generating third party investment for improvements
- reducing the current Belfast City Council subsidy
- Contributing to the Belfast Agenda

3.9 Members will be aware that a feasibility study is currently underway on the options for the management of the Zoo. Committee will also be aware that there has been under-investment in the Zoo over the past years and as a result there is a need for significant investment if the Zoo is to become a state of the art visitor attraction and achieve the outcomes agreed by Members.

3.10 It is therefore recommended that Belfast Zoo – Programme of works is added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1 – Emerging Programme. This will allow a full programme of capital works required for the Zoo to be worked up, costed and on this basis prioritised. It is anticipated that this project will have two work streams:-

1. *Short-term* – eradicate immediate health and safety issues that will in-turn generate additional revenue opportunities for the Zoo including proposed works at the Lion/Tiger Enclosure; the Aviary and the Sea Lion Enclosure
2. *Medium to long-term* – this will follow the resolution of operator model considerations and the NFS proposals. In consideration of these it will be imperative that, in the long-run, a new Master Plan is required to address outdated buildings and infrastructure, changing animal care and guest needs including accessibility, and to ensure the Zoo continues to evolve and be an example of a modern Zoo.

Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision and that further updates will be brought back to Committee in due course.

Project Updates

- 3.11 **King George V Playing Fields** – Members will recall that the redevelopment of both the Ulidia Playing fields and King George V Playing Fields were moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme in May last year. At this stage, discussions between Glentoran and the Council in respect of King George V Playing Fields had been to develop the facility in conjunction with the redevelopment of the Oval which was due to receive funding from the Department for Communities under the Sub-Regional Stadia Programme. However, given the ongoing impasse at Stormont there have been no movements on this funding and this therefore means it is extremely unlikely that it will be possible to redevelop the Oval in the short to medium term.
- 3.12 Given the huge demand and lack of 3G pitch facilities in East Belfast there is a need to develop the KGV prior to the Oval redevelopment and as such it is **recommended to Committee that this proposal is de-coupled from the Oval proposal and is now taken forward as a proposal in its own right.**

Externally delivered initiatives

Members will be aware that over the past couple of years the Council has been requested to deliver a series of capital projects under a number of externally funded initiatives including the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) on behalf of the Executive Office together with projects Building Successful Communities (BSC) on behalf of the Department for Communities. In addition the Council is also taking forward a number of other projects on behalf of the Department of Communities. These requests recognise both the successful track record of the Council as a delivery agent for capital projects and also the uniquely placed role of the Council as a civic leader in the city. These are also a sign of confidence in the Council and recognition of the Council's increasing role in terms of regeneration and community planning role. Letters of offer have been signed for over 40 projects worth approx. £8m

Social Investment Fund

- 3.13 Members will recall that the Council is proposed to be the delivery agent for a range of projects under the Social Investment Fund on behalf of the Executive Office. Members

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are asked to note that the Council has now received approval to progress to the next stage for 6 SIF projects and that work on these will now be progressed. Council officers have been following up with all Groups.

Project	Description	Status
PIPs Suicide Prevention Ireland	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Joanmount Methodist Church	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Mount Merrion Parish Development Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Glenburn Methodist Church Community Outreach Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
Mornington Community Project	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed
South City Resource Centre (St. Simon's Church Hall)	Refurbished Community Facility	Approval to proceed

The Council is also continuing to work closely with the Executive Office and project promoters on the other projects under SIF for which the Council is the proposed delivery agent.

3.14 Urban Villages

Members will be aware through the AWGs that the Urban Villages Team is now looking at their next phase of capital investment and have a prioritised list of projects which are now going through business case assessment. Many of the proposed projects on the UV lists either align closely to ongoing Council initiatives or to projects already being funded or proposed for funding by the Council under other funding streams including LIF/BIF and the proposed Social Outcomes Fund and the Council is therefore working closely with the Urban Villages Team. In addition, the Council is proposed as the delivery agent for over 40 projects however the final number will be dependent on which projects are successful through the appraisal process. The Council is also having discussions with UV in relation to agreeing a level of management fee to deliver these projects.

Members are asked to agree that the Council continues to work closely with Urban Villages in respect of their next round of funding and that in principle that the Council acts as the delivery agent for projects. Members are further asked to agree that any necessary procurement processes for these projects (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate

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‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

***Financial* – Costs for all projects have been agreed by Committee and through the three stage approval process which all physical projects are required to go through**

New Crematorium – that a maximum budget of up to £18m is ring-fenced for this project. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. As outlined above Members are asked to note that this is a ring-fenced budget at this stage and that further updates will be brought back to Committee in due course

***Resources* – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

No implications arising.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations:

- subject to the design option for the new crematorium being a 2 x 150 seat chapel or equivalent;
- to Party briefings being held in relation to the proposals for the new crematorium; and
- to a report on a potential master plan for the broader “Cavehill” area, including facilities such as the Cavehill, Belfast Zoo, the Belfast Castle and the North Foreshore, being submitted to a future meeting.

Building works in City Hall: January - June 2018

The Committee endorsed the scheduling of the various works in the City Hall during the period from January til June 2018 which included the following:

- (a) the male/female toilet swap in the East corridor being completed by Monday 29th January;
- (b) the new Disabled WC and the new Parenting/Family Room facilities in the East being ready for use by Monday 5th March;
- (c) the new integrated Reception facility being installed on the marble and ready for use by Monday 19th March;
- (d) the existing business-as-usual reception desk being removed by 23rd March; and

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- (e) the new Changing Places WC facility in the entrance lobby being completed and operational by Monday 4th June.

Asset Management: Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members about works that are to take place by NI Water under its statutory powers as part of the Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to :**

- **Note that NI Water proposes to undertake sewer improvement works as part of an Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme and;**
- **Note that these works affect BCC car parks located at Little Victoria Avenue, Charlotte Street and Cromac Street, as well as BCC lands located at the Gasworks.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 NI Water is proposing to commence sewer improvement works under its statutory powers as part of an Ormeau Avenue Sewer Upgrade Scheme. Statutory Notices were served in 2013 on the Department for Regional Development [as the previous owners of the car parks] under the relevant legislation, the Water and Sewerage Services (NI) Order 2006.**
- 3.2 The purpose of this scheme is to reduce spills from the Ormeau Avenue sewer system to the environment, reduce hydraulic and odour issues associated with the high levels of grease in the system and reduce the possibility of flooding in the catchment.**

The scheme is to cost approx. £5m and involves the following works:

- **Upgrading of existing sewer with a new large diameter sewer from Sandy Row to a new wastewater pumping station at Hardcastle St. This sewer will run in parallel to, and compliment, the existing sewer. The new sewer**

will be 'tunnelled' under Great Victoria Street and Dublin Road.

- A new overflow located at the junction of Cromac Square and East Bridge Street overflowing to a new cross connection to the Belfast Sewer Tunnel at Cromac Street via Cromac Street car park.
- Relocation of the existing Ormeau Road overflow connecting to the Blackstaff culvert on Ormeau Avenue via Charlotte Street car park
- Construction of a new pumping station to pump flows to the existing sewer network in Cromac Street
- The pumping main will be 'tunnelled' under Ormeau Road.

- 3.3 A copy of the proposed scheme layout is attached at Appendix 1 (drawing number W-001).
- 3.4 There are 3 BCC off street car parks affected by the Ormeau Avenue Sewer Scheme, located at Little Victoria Street, Charlotte Street and Cromac Street. These car parks are shown hatched in red on the plan at Appendix 1. Part of the land located at the Gasworks Northern Fringe is also affected by the Scheme, also shown hatched in red on the plan at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 NI Water has recently appointed Dawson Wam to carry out the works on its behalf. NI Water advise that it is anticipated that work will commence in early February 2018 and will last for approximately 16 – 18 months. They also advise that there will be no road closures and that a traffic management plan has been agreed with TNI.
- 3.6 Little Victoria Street Car Park: A new proposed combined sewer will be located on part of this site (see map at Appendix 1). The location of the new sewer pipe has been kept to the edge of this site, as far as possible. NI Water has advised that it is not possible to locate this along the entire edge of this car park site, due to the hydraulics of the system (no sharp bends), the location of the Belfast Sewer exclusion zone and the area that is required for the tunnelling rig. In order to drive the piles and lay the new sewer pipe, large machinery is required, necessitating the closure of the car park (88 spaces) for a period of approximately 22 weeks from the beginning of February 2018. The surface of the car park will be reinstated by NI Water to an agreed specification at the end of the 22 week closure period.
- 3.7 Charlotte Street Car Park: A new proposed rising main is to be located on part of this site. This pipe will be directionally drilled underground with only inspection pits visible at ground

level. The inspection pit will be approximately 10m X 10m and will be reinstated to original condition on completion. There will be no visible features at surface level on completion. NI Water have advised that the rising main could potentially be relocated if future development takes place. An area of approx. 10m X 10m will be fenced off for the duration of the works, which is to last for approximately one week, envisaged for April 2018. A total of approx. 18 spaces will have to be closed off during these works with the remainder of the car park remaining open during this time.

- 3.8 Cromac Street Car Park: A new proposed sewer is also to be located on part of this site. The narrowness of the carpark and the fact that there is only one entrance necessitates the closure of the entirety of this car park (104 spaces) for a period of approximately 4 weeks, envisaged in April 2018. NI Water has agreed that this car park will not be closed at the same time as the Little Victoria Street car park in an attempt to minimise disruption to city centre car park users. It should be noted that BCC does not own this land as Council occupies the site under a short term licence from NIHE.**
- 3.9 Signage is to be erected at each car parks by NI Water to inform users about the car park closures.**
- 3.10 A new rising main is also to be located within the grass verge along the Cromac Street frontage of the Council's Gasworks Northern Fringe lands. (See Appendix 1). NI Water has advised that the new rising main cannot be located in the carriageway due to existing services congestion. However, it will not impact upon development proposals for these lands.**
- 3.11 NI Water requires access to the Gasworks Northern Fringe site for approx. 3 weeks envisaged in April 2018 to assist with the drilling works at the Charlotte Street car park lands. This land is currently not in operational use by the Council, although it forms part of the larger Gasworks Northern Fringe Masterplan that is currently being progressed.**

It should be noted that the Belfast Sewer Tunnel is already situated underneath the car parks and the Gasworks Northern Fringe site and acts as an emergency storm run-off from the network. The Belfast Sewer Tunnel is to remain in situ after the completion of the Ormeau sewer scheme works.

- 3.12 In accordance with the statutory basis under which these works are being undertaken, compensation will be payable for any damage caused by or in consequence of the execution of the works. NI Water have also advised they will pay in full the estimated loss of income for the car parks on occupation of**

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each site. It is NI Water's intention to make one lump sum payment of an agreed amount at the start of the contractor's occupation of each of the car parks.

3.13 Finance and Resource Implications

NI Water is to pay compensation in respect of the loss of income during the car park closures. The estimated loss of revenue for the car parks is as follows:

Little Victoria Street: £153,014.00

Cromac Street: £12,830.

Charlotte Street: £810

3.14 Any other compensation payable will be negotiated between Estates and NI Water (or LPS on their behalf) on completion of the works.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

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

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Design, Delivery and Management of the Twilight Market at St George' Market	Donal Durkin	1 year

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Expert technical advice to support the design and implementation of corporate approach to Customer Focus	Ronan Cregan	1 year
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Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Construction Services Frameworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework A – Collaborative Employer’s Agent and Project Manager Services • Framework C – Collaborative Cost Management and Quantity Surveying Services • Framework E – Collaborative Landscape Architectural Services 	Gerry Millar	Extend to 31 March 2019
Provision of an Advertising Service for the placement of Planning Notices	Keith Sutherland	Extend to 14 May 2018 and monthly thereafter, to allow for a new tender exercise

Welfare Reform Support Project Funding DfC

The Committee was advised that, in preparation for the introduction and roll-out of Welfare Reform, the Department for Communities (DfC) had supported front-line advice organisations via grant-aid and capacity development. The Council currently administered an annual grant programme of £931,765 for generalist advice, with levered income via the DfC’s Community Support Programme, to five Advice Consortia covering east, north, south, west and central Belfast for generalist advice services.

At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee in December, it had been agreed to accept an additional in-year allocation of £61,103 from DfC through the Community Support Programme towards the provision of the City-Wide Tribunal Service.

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The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reported that DfC was now seeking support from the Council to facilitate payment of £64,589.43 to Citizens Advice for the provision of frontline services relating to welfare reform. The total funding allocation covered the following:

- Belfast Citizens Advice Adviser Salaries (6 Advisers): Total £44,234.94 for period 1 October, 2017 – 31 March, 2018;
- Hosting Costs: Total £11,349.74 for 2017/2018 year;
- Additional Welfare Reform Support: Total £5,404.75 for 2017/2018 year; and
- Training Package for 6 Welfare Reform Advisers at £600 each, total £3,600.00 for year 2017/2018

This additional allocation would be administered via the current Community Support Programme arrangements with DfC and a letter of variance would be issued.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request from the Department for Communities to administer funding for Welfare Reform support project to Citizens Advice through the current Community Support Programme arrangement pending receipt of the formal Letter of Variance.

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership Meeting – 8th January 2018

The Committee:

- Approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 8th January, 2018 which:
 - Noted the update on Peace IV and approved the rebid process and timetable as outlined in the minutes;
 - Agreed the recommendations in relation to the Review of the Shared City Partnership as outlined in the minutes;
 - Approved the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2018/19 for submission to The Executive Office;
 - Commissioned work to record and map the good relations outcomes that had been delivered by the DCGRP in 2017/18 at a cost of £10,000, which would include the establishment of a mechanism to measure long term attitudinal change which would demonstrate the impact of the work supported by the Good Relations Unit over a number of years;
 - Approved an additional £5,000 towards the research piece on Islamophobia in Belfast that had been approved by the Partnership at its meeting on 6th November, 2017
 - Approved an amount of £5,000 to TURAS to produce and launch a map of Belfast denoting the Irish place names for the associated townlands, together with the Irish Language sources of their names;
 - Awarded an amount of £1,000 towards an event in the City Hall (or another venue should the City Hall not be available) during Seachtain na Gaeilge which was held from 1st – 17th March every year;

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- Approved the hosting of the annual event to mark International Women's Day 2018 on 10th March 2018 and also agreed to the use of the City Hall and cobbled area as a venue for the event for the next three years, until March 2020.

Operational Issues

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 11th January.

**Requests for the use of the City Hall
and the provision of hospitality**

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

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
Belfast City of Sanctuary	1st March 2018	Launch of 2 year strategy and AGM – Introduce and present Belfast City of Sanctuary's intention is to make Belfast a welcome environment for refugees, asylum seekers and new communities. Numbers attending - 100	D	No (Voluntarily)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Red Cross	21st March 2018	Celebrate the Orientation Programme within Refugee Support – promote the work taking place and promote cultural dialogue with refugee population and city. Numbers attending - 70	D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
Belfast Interface Project	26th March 2018	Launch of “Reality Changes Perception” Virtual Reality Software – reception to showcase new software to engage communities to look at how areas will look with no barriers, peace walls etc Numbers attending - 90	D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Lise McGreevy Photographic	13th April 2018	Abandoned: Not Forgotten – Exhibition commemorating the 20th anniversary The Good Friday Agreement. Numbers attending – up to 100	D	Normal charge would be £115 but cross community nature of event – waiver £115 and 1 in 3 event	No	Approve No charge No hospitality
Autism NI	14th April 2018	Making Sense of Autism - Family Fun Day – family entertainment, sensory challenges and interactive stands to assist in understanding Autism. Use of City Hall grounds required. Numbers attending – up to 200	D	No (Charity)	No	Approve No charge No hospitality
Royal Victoria Hospital	1st June 2018	50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner – Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner to celebrate 50 years of the cardiac unit. Numbers attending - 300	C & D	Yes £825	Yes – Wine Reception as 50th anniversary	Approve Charge £825 Yes – Wine Reception Illumination

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NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry	15th June 2018	Annual Lunch with guests from business, elected representatives and key influencers from across UK. Numbers attending - 400	B & D	Yes £300	No as commercial company	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Belfast Healthy Cities	2nd October 2018	WHO Healthy Cities Politicians dinner Major European 4 day Conference of 800 delegates linked to BCC/ VB Numbers attending – 150.	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception as BCC linkages	Approve No charge Wine Reception
St Brigids GAC	6th October 2018	20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner – Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner to celebrate 20 years of the club Numbers attending - 400	C & D	No (Voluntarily)	No	Approve No charge No hospitality
National Black Police Association	9th October 2018	Welcome Reception for delegates attending a 3 day conference in Titanic Belfast. Numbers attending – 250	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception as BCC linkages	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Willis Events and Ulster Rugby	29th November 2018	Chris Henry Testimonial Dinner – Drinks Reception and Gala Dinner to celebrate Chris playing for Ulster for 10 years Numbers attending - 400	B & C	Yes £825	No as commercial company	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Dynamic Conferences and Events	5th or 6th May 2019	Conference Gala Dinner for delegates attending the EMEA Regional Conference Numbers attending - 300	A & B	Yes £825	Yes - Wine Reception as VB linkages and international delegates	Approve Charge £825 Wine Reception

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Minutes of Meeting of Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board of 11th December and 8th January.

ABF The Soldier's Charity (NI) - The 'Ulster at War' Concert

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from ABF The Soldier's Charity (NI) concerning an event entitled The 'Ulster at War' Concert to be held in the Belfast Waterfront on Saturday, 24th March, 2018.

The charity was seeking to recreate 1940s Ulster by means of music, comedy and fascinating stories of local heroism from every corner of the Province. The event would be hosted by 'Fermanagh Funny Man' Gary Wilson.

The Committee had previously booked places to attend events hosted by the Charity – in 2014 to 'The Great War Concert' and in 2016 to the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme concert. The cost of attending the event was £45 per person which could be met from existing budgets.

The Committee approved the attendance at the event of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee (or their nominees) and one representative of each of the four other main Political Parties on the Council.

Legal-Island Equality and Diversity Awards 2018

The Committee was advised that the Council had been shortlisted as a finalist in three categories of the 2018 Legal-Island Equality and Diversity awards in respect of the 'Best Disability Initiative'; 'Best Gender Initiative' and 'Best LGBT Initiative' categories and had been invited to attend this year's awards event which was scheduled to take place on the evening of 23 March, 2018 in Titanic Belfast.

The Committee was advised that the nominations followed an increase in activity in recent years to support and raise awareness of disability, gender and LGBT issues both externally and in the workplace. This was part of the Council's ongoing work to fulfil its Section 75 and other legislative duties, as well as to demonstrate civic leadership and best practice. The submissions were prepared and submitted by Corporate HR and the Equality and Diversity Unit.

The event organisers were inviting organisations to purchase a table of ten at a cost of £1200.

The Committee:

- agreed to the Council's attendance at the 2018 Legal-Island equality and diversity awards on 23rd March; and
- approved the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or their nominees), a chief officer; and three Council officers involved in the three awards

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submissions should it be possible to purchase six individual places at the event. Alternatively, if individual places could not be purchased, the Committee approved the purchase of one table of ten should this be the only available option and agreed to the four additional places being allocated to additional Committee members.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

**Report by the Environmental Audit Committee
into the impact of disposable coffee cups in the
United Kingdom**

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McReynolds asked the Committee to consider the following motion:

“This Council welcomes the recent report by the Environmental Audit Committee into the impact of disposable coffee cups in the United Kingdom; acknowledges the impact they are having on the environment given that 2.5 billion are thrown away each year with many ending up in landfill; agrees to replace current coffee cups on council sites with compostable cups.”

The Committee agreed that a report on the replacement of current coffee cups on Council sites with compostable cups be submitted to a future meeting. It was agreed also that a report on the Council’s use of plastic materials be also submitted to the future meeting.

Chairperson