

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 10 May 2018

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)
Councillor Sian O'Neill
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Alderman David Browne

Apologies: Cllrs Hargey and Long

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)
Nuala Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development (for item 1)

1. Belfast Telegraph Building

The Chief Executive provided the Budget Panel with a project update on the redevelopment of the former Belfast Telegraph building. A report on this would be considered by the SP&R Committee in June.

2. Independent Review of Leisure

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reminded members that party group briefings were scheduled to be held early next week followed by a joint workshop, which would also include trade union representatives, to discuss the findings of the Independent Review of Leisure.

3. Memorials

The City Solicitor outlined the independent response received in relation to a complaint regarding memorials at a graveyard. Members were also asked to review a previously circulated report on possible options for a council memorial policy with a view to recommendations being brought to a future committee meeting.

4. Area based Festivals

At the request of the SP&R committee discussions were ongoing to identify possible funding options for area based festivals for 2018 /19. A report would be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the May SP&R meeting. Members also asked if a more general paper on the use of underspend could be brought to a future meeting to allow a process for possible allocation of this spend to be agreed.

5. Holiday Resort Designation

The Town Solicitor informed the panel that the Summit on the Holiday Resort Designation as requested by Committee was being held that morning. All interested parties had been invited to attend with an independent facilitator. The facilitator will produce a report from the meeting which will be presented to SP&R.

6. City Deal

The Chief Executive provided an update on the ongoing work to develop a city deal proposition. She highlighted the significant amount of work required in the next stage of development in defining and prioritising projects as well as providing more accurate costings and financing arrangements. An update report would be presented to the May SP&R Committee.

7. Review of Procurement

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined to the panel the recommendations from a recent review of the procurement function. This included the need for the current procurement unit to become more commercially focused which will require a number of new posts and a revised organisational structure. The recommendations from the review would be considered at the May SP&R meeting and members were asked to note that there would be no additional costs associated with the implementation of the review.

8. Planning Update

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month.

Members were also advised that a report in relation to advertising planning applications would be brought to SP&R for consideration.

A definition of affordable housing was circulated for discussion within party groups. The Chief Executive reminded members that this was an important element of the LDP and was currently being considered through the party group briefings.

9. AOB

Brexit Committee

A draft terms of reference for the proposed Brexit Committee was circulated to the panel for information.

Catering Review

The City Solicitor informed members that he would circulate a report on the Catering Review to them and would welcome any comments.