Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 14 June 2018

Attendance

Members:

Alderman Jim Rodgers (Chair)

Councillor Ciaran Beattie

Councillor Billy Hutchinson

Councillor Brian Heading (for Councillor Attwood)

Councillor Michael Long

Councillor Lee Reynolds

Alderman Peter Johnston (For Alderman Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne and Councillor Attwood

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive

Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources

John Walsh, City Solicitor

Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects (for items 1 & 2)

Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

Dominic Donnelly, Finance and Investment Manager (for item 3)

James Collier, Development Manager (for item 3)

Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. North Foreshore

The Director of Property and Projects updated the panel on possible further development proposals for the North Foreshore. A site visit to the North Foreshore including the Film Studios was being arranged for Members in the coming weeks.

2. Housing

The Director of Property and Projects outlined a number of potential housing projects across the city that were possibly in the pipeline and advised that a report would be brought to committee.

3. City Centre Development Decisions

Officers from the City Centre team updated the panel on the applications to the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) including the investment decision which would be presented to the June meeting of the SP&R Committee. The Chief Executive also advised members of some possible future investments in the city which would be part of the CCIF and agreed that this would also be included in the report to Committee.

4. Year end Management Accounts

The Director of Finance and Resources provided a summary of the year end financial out turn and reserves position which would be presented to the June SP&R Committee for approval.

5. Discretionary Payments

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined a proposed framework for the management of discretionary payment requests which do not fall within existing Council funding schemes. The panel discussed the proposal and agreed it should be considered by the SP&R committee in June.

6. International Cultural Programme

The Chief Executive circulated a report on the planned cultural programme which had been agreed by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. She also circulated a presentation on the emerging outline business case for a new Belfast visitor attraction.

7. City Deal

The Chief Executive provided an update on the ongoing work to develop a city deal proposition and in particular referred to a number of strategic, evidence based documents that would be presented to June SP&R including the draft proposition for the deal. She outlined the challenging deadlines and the need to have discussions in relation to project prioritisation to allow detailed templates to be further developed. A Joint Member Forum with representatives from all six councils was scheduled for 25th June where the next stages of the deal would also be discussed.

8. Planning Update

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month. The panel were also reminded that the draft LDP was being presented to SP&R and if approved would be issued for consultation.

Members were also advised that a report in relation to advertising planning applications, which had been agreed by the Planning Committee, would be brought to SP&R for consideration.

9. AOB

Temporary Posts

Members were advised that work was ongoing to review and reduce the number of temporary posts in the organisation.