

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 13 September 2018

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Councillor Peter Johnston (for Alderman Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Alderman Rodgers

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
Nora Largey, Senior Solicitor
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. Independent Leisure Review

The Chief Executive updated the panel on the implementation of the independent leisure review and in particular highlighted the costs of making changes to the operating model at this time. The Director of City and Neighbourhood services outlined the progress against the recommendations in the improvement plan which would also be reported to September Committee.

2. Community Festivals

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the applications in relation to the programme for Community Festivals which will be considered by Committee in September. Members discussed the need to begin to plan for next year on the development of a programme with agreed criteria for future diversionary funding.

3. Inclusive Growth

The Director of City & Organisational Strategy provided an update on the proposed timeline for the development of the Inclusive Growth Framework which would be presented to Committee

in December 2018. The members welcomed the drafting of a definition of inclusive growth but highlighted the need to translate it into simple messages that everyone could understand.

4. Bank Buildings

The Chief Executive outlined the ongoing work in response to the recent fire at the Bank Buildings including discussions with the Secretary of State and the development of a short and medium term recovery strategy. Members expressed concern at the lack of response from NICS and asked that the Chief Executive write to ask for a single point of contact to work alongside the partners. Meetings were continuing with all relevant parties and a further update would be present to the September SP&R Committee.

5. Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)

The Panel were given an update on the BRCD emerging negotiating position which was being discussed with party groups over the coming days before being presented to SP&R for approval on 21st September. Members were also reminded that a meeting with representatives from all six councils was being held on 24th September in Ballymena, and an event was also scheduled for Westminster on 24th October.

6. Planning Update

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

7. AOB

Memorial Trees

Party Group Leaders agreed to meet in advance of SP&R to discuss a request to plant memorial trees