

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 6 December 2018

Attendance

Members:

Alderman Jim Rodgers (Chair)
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Councillor Peter Johnston (for Alderman Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Councillor Attwood

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. Neighbourhood Services Managers

Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Neighbourhood Services Managers: Alison Allen (West), Cate Taggart (East) Stephen Leonard (South), Ryan Black (North)
John McConnell Logistics Manager and Valerie Brown City Services Manager
(In attendance for Item 1)

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services introduced the new tier of managers in the department to the Panel. He outlined their role in the department and the city and neighbourhoods and encouraged councillors to contact them on issues relating to service delivery in their areas. The Chair welcomed the officers and wished them well in their new roles.

2. Inclusive Growth

The Director of City & Organisational Strategy outlined the continuing work on the development of an Inclusive Growth Framework, which would be discussed at the Special SP&R Committee on 7th December 2018. At this meeting, members would be asked on their views on the direction of travel including priority areas to focus on.

3. Finance

a. Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019 / 20

Members of the panel were updated on the current position with revenue estimates for 2019/2020 following the Party Group Briefings. The estimates will now be taken to SP&R Committee for consideration in December. The panel also discussed the allocation of funding to area festivals and it was agreed a report on this would also be brought to SP&R in December.

b. Review of Finance

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the recommendations from the recent review of finance which outlined the need to focus on the finance function for the future. This report would be considered by SP&R at its December meeting

4. Catering Review

The City Solicitor outlined options for proposed changes to the Catering arrangements in the Council. Discussions had been ongoing with staff and trade unions and there was general agreement on the preferred option. A report would be brought to a future SP&R meeting with recommendations.

5. Planning Update *(Asst Director Planning and Building Control in attendance for this Item)*

The Chief Executive updated the panel on recent media reports on developments in the city. As previously discussed, it was also agreed that members of the Senior Planning team would attend the Budget Panel in January 2019.

6. AOB

a. City Hall Grounds *(Director of Property and Projects in attendance for this item)*

Party Group Leaders had agreed to have a further meeting in December to consider the developments on City Hall grounds and bring back their proposals to the January Budget Panel for discussion.

b. Irish Language Festival

The City Solicitor outlined a request to the Council to support Seachtain na Gaeilge, the yearly Irish-language festival held all over Ireland between the 1st and 17th of March. This request would be considered at the December SP&R meeting.

c. Events and Festivals

The Chief Executive outlined the ongoing work to develop a Cultural Strategy which was presented to the December City Growth and Regeneration Committee. It highlighted the need to invest in a number of large-scale signature events and that work should begin on this now to test themes and develop capacity with a possible year of pilot projects and requested a report on funding this should be brought to SP&R.