

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 17 January 2018

Attendance

Members:

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

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Councillor Beattie

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Development (for item 2)
Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Alistair Reid, Director of Planning and Place
Aidan Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. Finance

Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2019 / 20

The Director of Finance and Resources updated the members on the current rate setting process with the final recommendations being presented to SP&R committee in January. He also highlighted risks to the rate base including rating appeals.

2. Structures/Improvement

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy outlined to the panel the upcoming recruitment for a number of senior vacant posts. Timelines and proposals for panel members would be brought to the January SP&R committee.

3. City Recovery – Phase 2

The Director of Planning and Place provided a summary of the ongoing progress in relation to the City Recovery Programme, including what has been undertaken to date in phase 1 and plans for phase 2 which are now being developed. Members recorded their thanks to

all the officers and partners who had worked on this and suggest that a possible event could be organised to recognise their efforts.

4. Leisure Transformation Update – Citywide Consultation

It was agreed that the consultation process for the naming of the Leisure Centre would be discussed at Party Group Leaders Forum.

5. Peace IV

Councillor Hutchinson declared an interest in this item as he was a member of Black Mountain Shared Space but was not required to leave the meeting.

The Director of Property and Projects outlined the current status of two projects, Shankill Women's Centre (SWC) and Black Mountain Shared Space (BMSS), under Peace IV, for which the Council had previously agreed to act as lead partner. Work was ongoing to source additional information and a decision on both applications would be requested at the March meeting of the SP&R Committee.

6. Sprucefield

The Director of Planning and Building Control provided members with an update on the retail planning application for Sprucefield which was recently submitted to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. A report with further information on the proposed retail impact would be brought to January SP&R for consideration.

7. Planning Update

The Director of Planning and Building Control updated the panel on the live planning applications and informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month.

8. Planning Improvement Plan

The members received a short presentation on progress against key actions in the Planning Improvement Plan together with plans for future improvements to the service. The panel welcomed the update and requested a members workshop to discuss the actions and issues in more detail.

9. AOB

(i) Draft Protocol for Use of City Hall

A draft protocol for Use of City Hall was circulated and it was agreed that it would be discussed at the Party Group Leaders Forum.

(ii) Freedom of the City

It was agreed that a request in relation to awarding the Freedom of the City would be considered following the local government elections.

(iii) Conflicts of Interest

The City Solicitor would present a report on Conflicts of Interest to the January meeting of the SP&R Committee.

(iv) Review of Catering

A report on the review of the Catering Service will be considered by SP&R this month.