

**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
20 November 2014**

1. Attendance

Members:

Councillor Lee Reynolds (Chair)
Deidre Hargey (for Councillor Jim McVeigh)
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Maire Hendron
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Laura McNamee (for Councillor Michael Long)
Councillor Brain Kingston (for Alderman Gavin Robinson)

Apologies:

Alderman Gavin Robinson
Councillor Michael Long

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
John McGrillen, Director of Development
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager

2. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee - Ulster Orchestra and other funding requests

The Panel discussed the funding requests that were being presented to SP&R at its November meeting and also noted that the Ulster Orchestra would be in attendance at the meeting to present its position.

It was noted that the requests needed to be considered in line with the half year finance report which would also be considered at the same meeting.

The Chief Executive also outlined the updated options in relation to the Lord Mayors car.

3. Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy

The Director of Development provided an update on the final Belfast City Centre Regeneration Strategy which would be presented to committee for adoption. The Panel discussed the need for ongoing discussion with central government on the strategy and the development of detailed action plans to support delivery.

4. Governance

Update from Party Group Briefings

The Chief Executive outlined the proposals in relation to the new committee structures that would be presented to Shadow SP&R at the end of November, following the recent party group briefings. The panel noted that work was continuing on various elements of the governance workstream and further detail on the operation of the committees and options on the area working groups would be progressed during December.

Skills and Capacity Building

The Chief Executive highlighted the report on member capacity building which included a number of study trips, training on planning, a commitment to ongoing PDPs with members

and the leadership academy. It was acknowledged that the scheduling of training should be mindful of members' time commitments.

5. Rates Update.

The Director of Finance and Resources provided an update on the rate setting process for 2015 / 16. It was noted that there was still a degree of uncertainty particularly in relation to the money transferring from central government and therefore firm proposals on the rate would not be brought for consideration until January 2015.

6. LGR Update

The Chief Executive updated the panel on issues in relation to LGR in connection with Neighbourhood Renewal and off street car parks. A briefing for members on the car parks would be developed. The panel also noted that an announcement on the rates convergence scheme was imminent.

7. Date of next meeting

To be advised