

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 18th August, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire);
Aldermen Convery, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Graham,
Hutchinson, Long, McCabe, McDonough-Brown,
McVeigh, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also Attended: Councillor Heading.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Attwood and Craig.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd June were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd July.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Howard declared an interest in respect of Item 3(a) Addressing Inequalities through Lifelong Learning in that she was a member of the Belfast Strategic Partnership Lifelong Learning Group. Alderman Rodgers declared an interest in the same item insofar as he was on the Board of GEMS NI. Both Members remained in the meeting whilst the item was under discussion.

The Information contained in the following four reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of these items as, due to the nature of the items, that there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42 (4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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**Development of the Council's Medium Term
Financial Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 and the Rate
Setting Process for 2018/19**

The Council considered a report which provided an update on the assessment of the key financial factors which would influence the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2018/19 – 2020/21 and the timetable for the Rate Setting Process for 2018/19.

The report highlighted the current financial position and the financial pressures arising, the main uncontrollable costs risks and other external uncontrollable costs.

The Committee noted the update on the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan and timetable for the rates setting process for 2018/19.

**Proposed restructuring/transfer
of the Fleet Management Unit**

The Committee was reminded that the Fleet Management Unit was part of the Facilities Management Section, which currently formed part of the Property and Projects Department. The Fleet Unit procured, managed, maintained, repaired and disposed of all the vehicles comprising the Council's fleet which was currently 379 assets, valued at nearly £12 million.

The Fleet Unit provided an in-house workforce to carry out the servicing, maintenance and repair of the Council's fleet assets and was based in the Duncrue Complex. All HGV and LGV maintenance was carried out in-house, although the unit made regular use of the private sector for specific types of work, most notably warranty or specialist work, and also used the private sector on an occasional basis at times of peak service demand due to pressure of work arising in respect of important and high-profile public services such as domestic refuse collection and street cleansing where work was often time-critical.

The Director of Property and Projects submitted a report on the proposed restructuring/transfer of the new unit which had been prepared following the Update on Organisational Design paper which had been adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 19th May. He reminded the Members that the Committee had already committed to a substantial efficiency programme in respect of rate-borne revenue expenditure for the next two financial years in order to assist in resourcing other Council priorities. The report sought to assist in the delivery of those overall efficiency targets, while at the same time providing necessary operational and service improvements within the Fleet Unit, prior to its transfer to the City and Neighbourhood Services Department.

Accordingly, it was recommended that the Committee

- (a) approve the transfer of the Fleet Management Unit to the City and Neighbourhood Services Department on the basis of an effective date no later than 1st April, 2018;

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- (b) approve the revised Fleet staffing structure as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, together with the necessary changes as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report, and authorise the Director of Property and Projects to proceed to implementation; and
- (c) agree to receive a further report by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services later in the year in respect of the proposed integration of the Fleet Management Unit into the City and Neighbourhood Services Departmental structure.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Happy Christmas and Nollaig Shona Signage – City Hall

The Committee was reminded that, in 2012, it had approved the erection of an Irish language Christmas sign on the East façade of the City Hall. The original sign had been made available to the Council at no cost and had served its purpose to date. However, it was becoming difficult to use given its overall poor condition. The sign was in need of replacing as soon as possible and in 2015 it had been necessary to fit new rope-lights to the sign to keep it operational at a cost of over £1000.

A new sign of this size/type would cost approximately £12,000 till £15,000 and, in addition to the associated costs of a sign, the issue of the optimal placement of any new sign had been raised. Accordingly, officers had been asked to assess the feasibility of erecting any new sign on the front façade rather than in the East area.

The Property Maintenance Unit had therefore reviewed the site and available options were as follows:

- **Option 1** - Procure a replacement '*Nollaig Shona*' sign of the same dimensions as the existing one and erect it on the existing location on the East façade (using existing fixing points and power connections) – approximate cost £12,000 - £15,000);
- **Option 2** - retain the existing large 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign and complement it with one sign on each end column of the front façade east and west, i.e. one 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign and one '*Nollaig Shona*' sign – cost per sign would be approximately £12,000 - £15,000 each (that is, £24K-£30K in total);
- **Option 3** - commission a completely new sign incorporating both English and Irish text on a single large sign and use it to replace the existing 'Happy Christmas Belfast' sign – approximate cost £25,000 - £30,000.
- **Option 4** – similar to option 2, except having Nollaig Shona on one end column and Blythe Yuletide on the other.

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The Committee agreed to adopt Option 4.

The Committee agreed also that officers investigate for Christmas 2018 the potential of installing a screen to display “Happy Christmas” in multiple languages.

Asset Management

The Committee considered a report in relation to the possible disposal of an area of green space extending to 0.715 acres at Cregagh Park, Belfast. The land had been transferred to the Council from Castlereagh Borough Council as part of Local Government Reform in 2015.

The Committee agreed to declare the area of land surplus to requirements and that it subsequently be placed on the open market for sale, with any such sale being subject to obtaining planning permission.

Strategic Issues/Belfast Agenda

**Addressing Inequalities through Lifelong Learning –
Belfast Strategic Partnership Application to
UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Update members on work undertaken to date to support the development of Belfast as a Learning City;
- Provide background information on the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities; and
- Seek endorsement to submit a proposal, for Belfast to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, as part of the city’s efforts to grow the economy, reduce inequalities and create opportunities for all.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the information provided; and
- Agree to Belfast joining the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. An application to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities will require the signature of the Lord Mayor.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

Across the city health, education and economic inequalities continue to impact and restrict the potential of many people and communities. Notably this is most evident in life expectancy levels with those who are most deprived expected to have a lower life expectancy of up to 10 years. Action to address such inequalities requires collaborative approaches across a range of determinants including education, employment, community living and access to services and opportunities.

3.2 The Belfast Agenda recognises that ‘working and *learning*’ is vital to economic, social and environmental well-being by supporting the economy, building good relations, empowering people to reach their potential and developing a more inclusive society. The principles of learning are fundamental to tackling some of Belfast’s persistent societal-inequalities such as health, educational attainment and well-being. The inclusive growth focus of the Belfast Agenda is about improving the economy and ensuring the benefits of this are felt by everyone across the city, leaving no one behind. To tackle inequalities and ensure individuals can reap the benefits of economic growth, a joined up approach will be required across a range of stakeholders. Learning is one mechanism through which inequalities can be addressed and individual’s life prospects can be improved. It can help improve well-being by developing emotional resilience, create access to more and better jobs through skills development and support educational attainment across all ages. Reflecting the importance of learning it has a key role in the four priority themes of the Belfast Agenda: Growing the Economy, Living Here, Working and Learning and City Development. Targets and key work streams focused upon the importance of learning have been reflected across the Belfast Agenda.

3.3 Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) have identified Lifelong Learning as one of its five strategic priorities to address life inequalities, recognising the connection between educational attainment, learning opportunities and life inequalities, and the extent to which family, community and environmental influences impact learning opportunities, particularly within population groups facing the highest level of deprivation.

3.4 To take this strategic priority forward, BSP established a Lifelong Learning group, which includes representation from

a range of statutory and community stakeholders including Council, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Education Authority, Catholic Controlled Maintained Schools, Queen's University Belfast, Ashton Community Trust, Belfast Metropolitan College, GEMS NI, Department for the Economy and Department for Communities. The focus for this group is to:

- advocate for strategic approaches which maximise the role and potential of lifelong learning in addressing life inequalities in Belfast;
- encourage innovation in lifelong learning practice through developing flagship examples and using BSP to influence change.

3.5 In February 2015, BSP launched the 'Belfast a Learning City' strategic document, including a Learning Charter for Belfast, (see appendix 1) which sets out a vision of Belfast where learning is used as a positive force to expand and enhance life chances for all citizens in Belfast. The aim of the publication was to ensure that all Belfast citizens have equal access to learning opportunities, creating conditions for a better quality of life for everyone in the city.

3.6 'Belfast a Learning City' is based on the EU definition of learning, recognising the breadth of learning activity across personal, social, civic and employment related reasons for learning. The Lifelong Learning Group also developed the following four key messages to promote a broader understanding and awareness of the wider benefits of learning:

- Learning through education: Learning is the foundation for life. Education and training give us opportunities to shape our future.
- Learning for and in work: Learning creates routes to work. It generates opportunities, develops our careers and strengthens our communities and city.
- Learning for life: Learning changes our lives for the better. Everyday there is the chance to learn something new.
- Learning to live together: Learning brings us together. It develops respect and understanding about and within our communities.

3.7 The BSP has identified an opportunity to further the work of the Life Long Learning Group and to develop Belfast's status as a Learning City by becoming a member of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC). UIL is a non-profit international institute, it undertakes research, capacity building, networking

and publication of lifelong learning with a focus on adult and continuing education, literacy and non formal basic education.

3.8 Developed to promote lifelong learning in urban communities UIL sets out six areas of focus which reflect the major building blocks of a learning city. It includes key features for each of these areas and possible indicators on progress. The six areas of focus are:

- Inclusive learning in the education system;
- Revitalised learning in families and communities
- Effective learning for and in the workplace
- Extended use of modern learning technologies
- Enhances quality and excellence in learning
- A vibrant culture of learning throughout life

3.9 The benefits associated with being a member of the GNLC include:

- *Being part of a dynamic network* - Connecting with other learning cities with common interests, tackling similar issues and envisioning similar development agendas and links to a network of experts and professionals specializing in the field of lifelong learning for sustainable development;
- *Receiving guidance and support* - Accessing tools and strategies for developing learning cities, insights into best practice from the latest research and practice;
- *City recognition* – Belfast would enjoy global recognition of its efforts to create a learning city and showcase the good practice that exists in the city. In addition Belfast would have the opportunity to apply for the biennial UNESCO Learning City Award in 2018.

3.10 Cities which have embraced the concept of *Lifelong Learning for All* have seen significant improvements in terms of public health, economic growth, reduction in crime and increases in democratic participation. Current membership includes only 2 cities in Great Britain (Bristol and Swansea) and 2 in Republic of Ireland (Cork and Limerick); therefore Belfast would be the first city in the region to become a member.

3.11 An application to join the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC) cannot proceed without the support of Council. Once the Council confirms its support for the application, the following steps will be undertaken by BSP:

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- Complete the application form for submission to Council to be signed by the Lord Mayor; (appendix 2)
- Join the UNESCO GNLC; there are no fees for joining nor obligations on length of membership.
- Refocus the role and remit of the Lifelong Learning Group in the context of a revised action plan for developing a learning city;
- Develop a Learning City Plan to create a framework for collective action incorporating existing initiatives and key actions to use learning to address inequalities.

3.12 It is a requirement of UNESCO that the Learning City Plan must align to the following themes:

- Individual empowerment and social cohesion
- Economic development and cultural prosperity
- Sustainable development

Currently many organisations in the city contribute to these outcomes, it is therefore expected that rather than create a suite of new initiatives the plan will encompass existing activity of BSP co-sponsors and its stakeholders. The creation of a Learning City Plan will provide a means through which to better connect this work up and facilitate more collaboration and cooperation in the city. The Learning City Plan will also align to the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda and key city priorities, including employment, inclusive growth and enhanced collaborative synergies across partners, including links to 'Making Life Better – 10 year Public Health Strategy' and the new Draft Programme for Government.

3.13 The BSP through its relevant structures including the Executive Programme Group (EPG) and the Lifelong Learning Group will lead the completion of the UNESCO application, development of the Learning City Plan and its management. BSP's co-sponsors Belfast City Council, Public Health Agency (PHA) and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) will be required to contribute towards the development of the Learning City Plan through existing activities. Examples of the work currently being undertaken by BSP's co-sponsors to be featured in the Learning Plan are included within Appendix 3.

3.14 All partners within BSP's Lifelong Learning group have indicated their willingness to contribute relevant organisational actions to the Learning City Plan. An example of this is the Department of the Economy's development of the Unique Learner Number which will allow tracking of learners across different providers and across their lifespan.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.15 There are no financial or resource implications attached to this report. The application process, development of the Learning City Plan including its management will be led by staff within the Belfast Health Development Unit. Under current working arrangements for BSP, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust continue to provide staff resource (1 FTE Project Development Officer) which currently supports this area of work. Further support is also provided by the PHA to support the activities of the Lifelong Learning Group.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.16 There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report. Any future Learning City Plan would be developed in consultation with the Equality & Diversity Officers.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

**Capital Programme Update –
Proposed movements/additions**

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Council’s Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report outlines for Members proposed movements on the programme and proposed additions.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to –

Capital Programme - Project Movements

- agree that the following projects are moved to Stage 3- Committed –Schemes at tender preparation stage and agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically

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advantageous tender received and full commitment to deliver –

- City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph – Upgrade and Enhancements (see 3.4) – with a maximum budget of £200,000 to be allocated to ensure easier access for disabled and elderly veterans - the Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are advised that an investment decision on this project must be taken in August 2017 in order to allow for the works to be started after the 2017 Remembrance Sunday and completed in time for the Somme Commemoration in July 2018. Upgrading the cenotaph has special significance next year to marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I**
- IT Programme - Bereavement Services System (see 3.6) - with a maximum budget of £50,000 to be allocated - the Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.**
- agree that the following projects are added as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects**
 - **Relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot (see 3.9) – following the decision to acquire Commission House in January 2017 this will allow the options for the wider Dunbar site to be worked up including the options for the relocation of the current cleansing depot. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision nor a decision to close the depot at the current time and that Members will be kept up to date on the options**
 - **Hammer Development Playground (see 3.11) - In May Committee approved a negotiated financial settlement of £250,000 from the NIHE in relation to the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and it is recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme to be funded by the ring-fenced financial settlement from the NIHE**

Capital Programme – Project Updates

- note the update in respect of the Belfast Streets Ahead 3 project as outlined in 3.12 below which has implications for the Council’s Cathedral Gardens project which is currently at Stage 2- Uncommitted on the programme**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

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3.3 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements as summarised below

Project	Overview	Stage
City Hall Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens	Upgrade and Enhancements to facilitate access to the site Maximum of £200,000 to be allocated	Move to Stage 3-Committed
IT Programme – Bereavement Services System	Purchase of a new Bereavement Services System to replace the current 3 systems Maximum of £50,000 to be allocated	Move to Stage 3-Committed
Dunbar Link Depot Relocation	To examine the options in relation to the proposed relocation of Dunbar Link	Add as an Emerging Project
Hammer Development Playground	Upgrade and development of a new playground at the Hammer (to be funded from the ringfenced settlement from the NIHE in respect of Tudor Place)	Add as an Emerging Project

Move to Stage 3 – Committed

3.4 City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – Upgrade and Enhancements –The project involves the enhancement and refurbishment of the existing Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens in the West area of the City Hall to help facilitate greater access for disabled and less mobile clients/visitors. There are two major events held during each year at the Cenotaph - the Somme Commemoration and Remembrance Sunday. These events take place in July and November respectively and are well attended by Elected Members and other VIPs and there is significant media coverage around these. Over the years veterans who participate in these services are becoming older and access is proving to become more difficult given the difference in site levels currently in existence within the Cenotaph area and Members will be aware that a number of complaints have been received by the Council in respect of lack of accessibility. The proposed upgrade works are therefore focused on enhancing accessibility to the site together with overall upgrades and include:

- **Provision of two permanent ramps allowing better access to the Memorial Garden and the Cenotaph**
- **Maintenance and upgrade works including additional lighting, repainting of railings, specialist cleaning to the Cenotaph Memorial and repointing to all paving**

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- **Provision of accessible access to Korean War Memorial directly from Memorial Gardens**

Members are asked to note that 2018 sees a number of significant commemorative events in the 'Decade of Centenaries' one of which being the 100th anniversary of the end of the World War I. A date which has particular significance and will attract considerable media coverage. Members are asked to note that if the works on this project are to be completed in time for the Somme Commemoration in July 2018 then an investment decision on this project must be taken at the August Committee as works must begin in January 2018.

3.5 It is now recommended that this project is progressed to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme and the Director of Finance and Resources has recommended that a maximum of £200,000 be allocated to this project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

3.6 IT Programme – Bereavement Services System – The Bereavement Services, Cemeteries and Crematorium Central Office is responsible for the booking of all burials and cremations in the Council. At the moment the Service uses three separate systems to manage the processes around Cemeteries Management which are no longer fit for purpose and do not provide an effective or efficient way of managing the service. It has therefore been identified that there is a requirement for an effective information management system which will –

- **Provide an accurate and efficient booking system, decreasing the risk of double booking, and safeguarding the Council's reputation;**
- **Provide a link to corporate financial systems, to ensure effective financial governance;**
- **Produce statistical information to departmental and corporate KPI's;**
- **Reduce reliance on manual processes and documentation, freeing officer time for the wider Bereavement Strategy;**
- **Provide the potential to develop service enhancements in relation to activities including online opportunities, memorial safety, tree burials etc. emerging from the Bereavement Strategy**

The proposed new system will provide one integrated solution which would deliver the above functionality with the addition of online functionality to deliver service enhancement opportunities.

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- 3.7** It is now recommended that this project is progressed to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme and the Director of Finance and Resources has recommended that a maximum of £50,000 be allocated to this project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- 3.8** Committee is further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) for the two projects above be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Project

- 3.9** Proposed relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot – Members will recall that in January 2017 they agreed the purchase of Commission House and that this is currently progressing. At the time Members were advised that Commission House was located in close proximity to the Council's Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot and Council public car park located opposite the depot. The depot and car park sites and the adjoining lands in private ownership, together with the Commission House site, could potentially provide a key city centre regeneration opportunity in this part of the city, subject to the satisfactory relocation of the cleansing depot site. In addition Members were further advised that between the car park and the depot is Dunbar Street, an adopted road, which primarily serves only the car park and the block of properties (4 no. buildings) within which the cleansing depot is located, but that consideration could be giving to the abandonment of this small stretch of road in order to provide a larger regeneration site. Some initial discussions have taken place with the owner of the 2 adjoining sites with a view to potential redevelopment of the combined lands comprising the Council's depot and car park sites and the privately owned sites.
- 3.10** It is therefore recommended that the proposed relocation of the Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot is added to the Capital Programme which will allow the options in relation to the future of the site to be worked up. This would include the car park site. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision or a decision to close and re-locate either Dunbar Link or the car-park and that Members will be kept up to date in respect of the proposed options which emerge. It is recognised that Dunbar Link is still a working location and the car-park is in operation as a parking facility. Therefore the Property & Projects Department will also work closely with the City &

Neighbourhoods Department and the City Centre Team in progressing options for the site.

- 3.11 Hammer Development Playground – In May Committee approved a negotiated financial settlement of £250,000 from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to an Agreement dated 7th August, 2000 for the replacement of Tudor Place Playground and approved proposals for this capital receipt to be ring-fenced for the provision of a new playground at the Hammer. It is recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme to be funded by the ring-fenced financial settlement from the NIHE.

Project Updates

- 3.12 Cathedral Gardens – In January 2016 the SP&R Committee endorsed their commitment to the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens as part of Phase 3 of the Streets Ahead project (BSA3) and agree in principle to ringfence an allocation (up to a maximum of £5m) as part of this subject to final confirmation of the costs and a commitment from DfC for the delivery of Streets Ahead 3. This project is currently a Stage 2- Uncommitted scheme on the capital programme pending confirmation from DfC on the project. Members are asked to note that the Council has recently received notification from DfC that given the continued uncertainty in respect of budgets in central government that the current procurement process for BSA3 is being terminated and that a new process will not commence until there is certainty around the budget position. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee this month expressed real concern about this decision by the Department for Communities and agreed to write to them asking that they reconsider this position. If they do not reconsider it is recommended that the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens is held as a Stage 2 project pending confirmation of BSA3 being taken forward. Members will recall that it had been agreed that the Buoys would be relocated as part of the redevelopment and it is recommended that this still progresses.

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

Financial –The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that the City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – Upgrade and Enhancements and the IT Programme – Bereavement Services System projects which are recommended to move to Stage 3 (see 3.5 and 3.7) are within the affordability limits

Costs for the other projects will be worked up as part of the Stage Approval process and brought back to Committee for further discussion before any decision to invest.

Resources – Resources from Property and Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

City Hall West Wing - Outdoor Space including the Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens – Upgrade and Enhancements – this project has been equality screened and has been screened out.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

- Programme level budget – Avoniel and Templemore – note the update in respect of the current project estimates for Avoniel and Templemore as at 3.4-3.6 below and approve the reallocation of £4m from Avoniel project towards the Templemore project providing an overall budget of £12m for Templemore and £8m for Avoniel (the previous agreed budgets being Templemore £8m and Avoniel £12m). Members are asked to note that this has no implications for the overall leisure budget which remains within the overall limit of £105m
- Templemore – approve the acquisition of the adjacent former hospital site from the Department for Communities at a nominal sum and on such other terms as agreed by the Director of Property and Projects and Town Solicitor in order to facilitate the development of the new Templemore (see 3.10 below)

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- **Andersonstown – note that the planning application for Andersonstown is due to be considered at the Planning Committee on 15th August and Members will be verbally updated at the meeting on 18th August**

3.0 Main report

Programme level

Design cost budgets – Templemore and Avoniel

- 3.1 Members will also be aware that an overall affordability limit of £105m has been agreed for the Leisure Transformation Programme and in April 2015 Committee agreed the notional cost design limits for each of the projects under the Programme as below. It was also agreed that these projects would be phased as laid out in below.**

CENTRE	DESIGN COST LIMIT	PHASE
Olympia	£19m	Phase 1A
Andersonstown	£25m	Phase 1B
Robinson	£20m	Phase 1B
Brook	£15m	Phase 1B
Avoniel	£12m	Phase 2
Templemore	£8m	Phase 2
Girdwood	£6m	Phase 2

- 3.2 A set of principles underpinning the leisure transformation programme has previously been agreed by Committee (see Appendix 1). As part of this Members agreed the need to develop a city wide strategy with a USP per centre that will encourage people to travel to centres from across the city and further afield. Given this Committee, in April 2016, agreed a USP strategy for the Programme as outlined below which was designed to ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. It was noted by Committee at this stage that further work was to be carried out in respect of the USP for Girdwood and this work is continuing.**

CENTRE	USP
Olympia	Sports Village
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence
Robinson	Aquatic Centre

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CENTRE	USP
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence
Templemore	Spa and heritage

3.3 In terms of the Phase 2 projects (Avoniel and Templemore) officers have continued to work these up since this time on the basis of the agreed USPs and the high level facilities mixes as agreed.

CENTRE	Facilities Mix
Templemore Spa and heritage USP	Heritage Lottery Funding sought Renovation of the existing building and new extension to include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23m existing pool • 25m 6 lane pool with partial moveable floor • 150 pool spectator seating capacity • Extensive spa • Heritage & Interpretation offering • 80 station fitness suite
Avoniel Outdoor centre of excellence USP	Proposed to become a dry facility only with wet provision to be focused at Robinson and Templemore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 covered 5-a-side pitches • 3 outdoor 5-a-side pitches • 3G football pitch • 4 team and 2 official changing • Multi-purpose and function room • Studios

3.4 Members will be aware that Templemore Baths is a listed building which is in a generally poor state of repair. The project is also proposing an extension to the existing centre on lands adjacent to the current site. Since the initial cost design limit was set in April 2015 officers have been progressing discussions with HLF in relation to securing funding to help renovate the existing building and in October 2016 Members were advised that the Council had been successful in its Round 1 application under HLF's Enterprise scheme and had received a development grant of £380,000 to work up detailed proposal for the project. This has now been progressed and the estimated project costs, which have been agreed with HLF, for Templemore are £17m with a contribution of £5m from HLF. This is primarily due to the costs in relation to restoring and conserving the current listed building. Therefore, this

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assumes a Council contribution of £12m. Based on the agreed design cost limit as above of £8m this leaves a deficit of £4m.

- 3.5** Also in April 2015, Members agreed a budget of £12 million for Avoniel. However, based on the current stage 2 designs for Avoniel, the total cost is estimated to be £8m, which leaves an excess of £4m.
- 3.6** The SP&R Committee is therefore asked to approve the reallocation of £4m from Avoniel towards the Templemore project. This would provide a budget of £12m for Templemore and £8m for Avoniel. Members are asked to note that this has no implications for the overall leisure budget which remains within the overall limit of £105m.
- 3.7** Members are asked to note that is proposed to undertake consultation on both the Templemore and Avoniel projects in tandem later in the Autumn and that updates on the design and proposed consultation dates will be taken into the East AWG prior to this.

Programme Level – Social and Community Benefit Clauses

- 3.8** Members have previously been advised that there is a significant opportunity with the scale of the leisure investment to leverage additional benefits by procuring this as an overarching programme of work and that Heron Bros Ltd. have been appointed as the contractor for the delivery of the facilities at Andersonstown, Robinson and Brook. In line with the Council's 'Social Clause Policy' Heron Brothers are required to deliver the contract in such a way so as to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits for Belfast through training and employment opportunities and, where practical, using local suppliers.
- 3.9** As part of this Members will be aware that a 'Supply Chain Event' Event took place on 26th June in the City Hall to inform companies, suppliers and contractors (small, medium and large) of the process Heron Brothers will undertake to assess and select their suppliers as part of their contract and the various opportunities this will present to local businesses. This was followed up by another event on 10th August which took place in the new Olympia. Members are asked to note that there was extremely high levels of interest in both of these events with over 100 participants at the event in June and 150 participants from 105 companies demonstrating the significance of this contract for suppliers. These contacts will be followed up as the contract progresses.

Project level

Templemore

- 3.10** As outlined above the proposals for the development of new leisure facilities at Templemore Baths incorporate adjacent land owned by Department for Communities (DfC). This former hospital site lies to the south of Templemore Baths and comprises a cleared site extending to approximately 0.8 acres. The site had been expected to transfer to the Council under the transfer of regeneration as part of Local Government Reorganisation. As this did not occur, officers have been in discussions with DfC regarding acquisition of the site. Under Stormont Regulation and Government Property Act (Northern Ireland), 1933, DfC may transfer land to a local authority at a nominal price if it will result in its development, improvement or general benefit. Members are accordingly asked to approve the acquisition of this site at a nominal sum and on such other terms as agreed by the Director of Property and Projects and Town Solicitor.

Andersonstown

- 3.11** Members are asked to note that the application for the new Andersonstown is due to be considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 15th August and that the Committee will be verbally updated on the recommendation of the Planning Committee at the meeting on 18th. The SP&R Committee is asked to note that any changes to the design after planning approval is recommended will have both a cost implication and a programme implication. It is therefore recommended that 'design freeze' is now implemented for all the Phase 1B projects.

3.12 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m – there is no additional money available for leisure. The recommendation in relation to the Templemore/Avoniel budgets is a reallocation within this agreed £105m.

3.13 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no direct equality implications.”

During discussion, the Director of Property and Projects provided information on the construction schedule of the three centres and the associated programme and indicated that further details could be provided at the Area Working Groups as requested.

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The Committee noted also that the planning application for Andersonstown had been approved at the Planning Committee meeting on 15th August and accordingly adopted the recommendations.

Area Working Update

The Committee considered an update report on the Area Working and:

Area Working Group minutes

Approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups (AWG) as follows:

West AWG 26th June;
North AWG 29th June; and
East AWG 27th June and 3rd August.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendations from the East Area Working Group as set out below in respect of the ring-fenced Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) allocation for Outer East (£2 million):

Project Ringfenced	BIF amount
TAGIT Boxing Club	£434,000
Braniel Church	£390,000
Hanwood Centre	£396,000
Lisnasharragh Community Schools project	£398,000
Castlereagh Presbyterian Church	£382,000

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2017/18

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report presents the Quarter 1 financial position for the Council including a forecast of the year end outturn. It includes a reporting pack which contains a summary of the financial

indicators and an executive summary (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.

- 1.2 The Departmental year end forecast is a net year end under spend of £1.15m which represents a variance of 0.8% of the annual net expenditure budget. The District Rate forecast by the Land and Property Service (LPS) is a favourable outturn of £893k. It should be noted that this forecast is provided at a very early stage in the financial year and Council Officers will be working with LPS to scrutinise the rate forecast before an updated position is presented to Committee at Quarter 2.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the report and, given that the forecast outturn is based at an early stage in the financial year, agree that no in year budget reallocations should be considered until the Quarter 2 position is presented to the Committee in November 2017.

3.0 Main report

Current and Forecast Financial Position 2017/18

- 3.1 The financial position for Quarter 1 is a net departmental under-spend of £1.23m (3.4%). The forecast year-end departmental position is an under-spend of £1.15m (0.8%), which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.
- 3.2 The departmental underspend arises mainly from below budget employee and supplies expenditure due to staff vacancies, staff turnover and additional income. This has helped offset budgetary pressures within Waste Management and Facilities Management.

Rates Finalisation

- 3.3 The Quarter 1 forecast from LPS is a favourable overall outturn of £893k. As noted above this is an early stage forecast and officers will be meeting with LPS to review the income and losses and to scrutinise the drivers to the year-end forecast prior to the Quarter 2 reporting period.

Capital Projects

- 3.4 Planned capital expenditure for 2017/18 approved as part of the capital programme is £36.5m with forecast expenditure for the year of £36.81m.
- 3.5 The Summary Dashboard on Page 2 of the attached performance report summarises forecast expenditure on other capital programme including Non-Recurring Projects (£730k), Feasibility Fund (£34k) and projects in the new boundary areas (£685k).
- 3.6 Committed expenditure approved by the Committee on Belfast Investment Fund projects is £17.02m, with a further £4.96m committed on LIF 1 projects and £3.90m on LIF 2 projects.

Capital Financing

- 3.7 The summary dashboard has also been updated to provide analysis of the annual capital financing budget. Actual capital financing expenditure is forecast to be on budget by the year end.

Forecast Reserves Position

- 3.8 The balance of general reserves is forecast to increase from £13.35m to £15.39m at the year end. This increase is based on the forecast departmental underspend and the favourable settlement forecast from LPS. An updated position will be brought to Committee in Quarter 2.
- 3.9 The planned expenditure from specified reserves is forecast to reduce the specified reserve balances to £1.35m at the year end.

3.10 **Finance and Resource Implications**

The Departmental position at Quarter 1 together with the forecast year end Council position is detailed within the report. It is recommended that no budget reallocations are considered until Quarter 2 given that the current forecast is based at an early stage in the financial year.

3.11 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None.”

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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Efficiency Programme 2018/19 – 2019/20

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update on the Efficiency Programme and agreed to include this as an agenda item as part of the Party Group Briefings in August.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (1) Approved in principle, the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1 – Table 1, through the Council's electronic procurement systems and noted that the tenders would only be advertised when they had gone through the Council's internal governance process, which included demonstrating a strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda;
- (2) Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economical advantageous tender, allow extensions where contracts were under review as per Appendix 1 – Table 2;
- (3) Approved the award of the contract outlined in Appendix 1 – Table 3, which had been carried out by Arc21 on behalf of the Council;
- (4) Noted the contracts which had been awarded in the previous quarter, as listed in Appendix 1 – Table 4; and
- (5) Approved the procurement of Executive Search via the quotation process to assist the Council in the recruitment and selection of its new Operational Director posts in the newly created Place and Economy Department.

TABLE 1 - SCHEDULE OF TENDERS FOR CONSIDERATION

NEW TENDERS

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and Erection of street nameplates	Phil Williams	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Framework for hire of ancillary equipment	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Strengthening the Cultural Sector: Resilience Building Investment Programme	Donal Durkan	1 year with option to renew for a further 1 year
Resourceful procurement support	Donal Durkan	3 years

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Employability Outreach Activity Project	Donal Durkan	3 years with option for further 1 year
Business/Education Partnership	Donal Durkan	3 years with option for further 1 year
Sector specific Strategy Development	Donal Durkan	1 year
Developing Local Tourism Infrastructure	Donal Durkan	1 year
Digitisation of Building Control Records	Phil Williams	1 year with option to renew for a further 3 years
Older Persons Home Safety and Repair Service	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Communicating Community Safety 'Where is your child tonight'	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Supply and Delivery of Child Home Safety Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Youth Services to address Antisocial Behaviour	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services to address Substance mis-use	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services to address Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime;	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services to address Domestic Violence	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Community Safety Services for Safeguarding Vulnerable People	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Safer Belfast Programme Equipment and Promotional works	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew
Staging of Funfair at Boucher Road	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option for a further 2 years
Provision of Fun Day entertainments call-off framework	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option for a further 2 years
Mobile Catering in Parks sites	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with option for a further 2 years
Maintenance and removal of hanging baskets (Belfast in Bloom)	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of forcing and bedding bulbs	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply and delivery of Parks seats (including memorialisation)	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply and Delivery of Padlocks and Keys	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Service to control invasive species	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply, Erection and Dismantling of Marquees for Council Events	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply Delivery & Installation of signage for City & Neighbourhood Department	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply & delivery of Timber	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 2 years

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply & Delivery Grounds Maintenance Plant & Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Maintenance & repair of grounds Maintenance Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Administration and Delivery of First-Aid Training	Ronan Cregan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply & Delivery of Promotional Items	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Provision of medical and first-aid requirements for Council Events	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Food concession supplier	Donal Durkan	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Provision of Young Tree Maintenance Services	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 4 years
Hire of grounds maintenance equipment with and without operator	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Maintenance and Repair of Grounds Maintenance Equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 4 years
Supply and Delivery of Sand, Topsoil and Sand Soil mix	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Supply and Delivery of quality Fertilisers, Pesticides, Grass Seed and Line Marking	Nigel Grimshaw	1 year with option for a further 2 years
Enterprise Support	Donal Durkan	3 years with option for a further 1 year
Fleet Oils, Lubricants and Coolant.	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
General fleet maintenance, fabrication and welding services	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Fleet Stores Consumable Products	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 3 years
Supply & delivery of 2. No Excavators	Gerry Millar	1 year with option for a further 2 years
IT Security Services	Ronan Cregan	1 year with option for further 2 years
Provision of Route Optimisation Consultancy & associated Software	Ronan Cregan	3 years
CCIF - Evaluation of Supplier	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Belfast Story Site Acquisition Strategy	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Belfast Story: Economic Appraisal and Design	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Blackstaff Square - planning and design	Nuala Gallagher	1 year with option for further 1 year
City Centre Living – Consumer Advice	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Inner North-West - Planning and Design	Nuala Gallagher	18 months
Infrastructure Strategy – Consultancy Advice	Nuala Gallagher	1 year

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Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Car Park and Assets Strategy	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Provision of City Animation	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Delivery of Marketing Support	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Regeneration Engagement - Technical Support	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Masterplan – Bankmore Link	Nuala Gallagher	1 year
Masterplan – Corporation Street	Nuala Gallagher	1 year

TABLE 2 - CONTRACTS FOR EXTENSION

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Tender for supply of Bottled / Mains Fed Water	Gerry Millar	Month to month extension until new contract in place

TABLE 3 - TENDERS AWARDED BY ARC21 ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Caddy Liners	Nigel Grimshaw	12 months with the option to renew up to a further 12 months

TABLE 4 - CONTRACTS AWARDED MAY –JULY 2017

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Hire of Vehicles up to and including 7.5 GVW	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1year)	Lot 1: Corrigan's Vehicles Hire Ltd, Blackstaff Way, Kennedy Way Industrial Estate, Belfast BT11 9AP
Hire of Vehicles up to and including 7.5 GVW	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1year)	Lot 2 R D Mechanical Services Ltd, 7 McKinney Rd, Newtownabbey BT36 4PE
Hire of Vehicles up to and including 7.5 GVW	Gerry Millar	2 years (+1year)	Lot 3 Stewart Commercials, 11 Springfarm Industrial Estate, Antrim BT41 4NZ

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Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Provision of Minibus/Coach Service	Gerry Millar	1year (+3years)	Belfast Bus Company Unit 1, Bayview Industrial Estate Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT3 9JP
Supply and Delivery of Plastic Sacks	Gerry Millar	1year (+2year)	Cromwell Polythene Ltd Orion Building, Seafox Court, Sherburn Enterprise Park, Leeds LS25 6PL
Supply, Fitting and Maintenance Fire Extinguishers	Gerry Millar	Aug 2017- July 2020	1 st Klass Fire Protection 49 Chippendale Avenue Bangor BT20 4PX
Provision of Porterage Service	Gerry Millar	3years (+2 years)	Delivery Services Westlink Enterprise Centre, Distillery St, Belfast BT12 5BG
Provision of Occupational Health Physician	Ronan Cregan	1year (+1year)	Mr. Tony McGread OHRD Ltd, Princes House, 44-46 Princes Street, Belfast , Antrim BT1 3FP
Provision of Employee Counselling Service	Ronan Cregan	1year (+1year)	Apheideo Associates Ltd Premier Business Centre 20 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GD
Instillation of Metal Fencing	Gerry Millar	1 year (+2years)	NK Fencing Ltd 40 Trailcock Rd, Carrickfergus BT38 7NU

City Deal Workshop

The Committee agreed to the holding of a workshop to discuss the City Deal.

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership held on 8th August, 2017, including the following recommendations:

- noted the contents of the update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme, including the recommendation that the NIHE Shared City Partnership member should sit on the Programme Review Panel;

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- noted that the Executive Office funding for the Good Relations Programme and Planned Intervention Programme had now been received from the Executive Office and approved the recommended reallocation of £10,000 to grant aid funding;
- approved the recommendation that support of up to £1,300 be allocated to Clifton House to assist with the delivery of the four events linked to key dates and themes in the Decade of Centenaries;
- noted the update on the response to the Council's 2017/18 bid for funding through T:BUC/Shared Future funds for an interfaces programme and the change to the stretch goal in the Belfast Agenda in relation to interfaces;
- noted the proposed event to be held on 21st September to mark the 2017 International Day of Peace and approved the recommendation to provide £1,200 to install the "Everyday Objects Transformed by the Conflict" exhibition in the foyer of the Girdwood Community Hub during community relations and cultural diversity week.

The Committee agreed also that the report on the investigation in relation to Bonfires as per the agreed Terms of Reference be submitted to the October meeting rather than the September meeting of the Committee as previously agreed.

Operational Issues

**European Local Democracy Week –
EurVoice 2017**

The Committee was reminded that European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) was an annual event held each October. The overarching purpose of ELDW was to promote a better involvement of citizens in public life, enhance transparency of local government mechanisms and improve social cohesion, in particular among young people and disadvantaged groups.

For the past five years, the Council had organised and delivered "EurVoice" events which had allowed pupils from secondary schools, members of the Council's Youth Forum, representatives of the European Youth Parliament and participants from Community Groups in the City to interact with their local Councillors on issues affecting the youth of today. Following the success of the event to date, it was felt that it would be worth organising another engagement event for 2017, where both young people and Councillors could meet to discuss the relevant issues which faced the young citizens of the City.

The Committee was advised that if it were minded to approve the EurVoice 2017 event, it was proposed that it would take place in the Great Hall in October from 11.30 am to 3.30 pm and would target Belfast City Council schools and youth organisations. A series of activities were planned including:

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- participating in a mock voting exercise;
- facilitated workshop on issues affecting young people, including decision-making skills, debate preparation and presenting their ideas to the Members for feedback; and
- finishing with a panel Question and Answer session with Members of the Council.

The Committee agreed to the hosting of the EurVoice 2017 event as outlined.

Minutes of meeting of Historic Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 3rd August.

Minutes of meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 10th August.

Minutes of Active Belfast Board Limited

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Board Limited of 7th August.

Requests for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality

The Committee approved the recommendations in relation to the requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality as set out below

AUGUST 2017 FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2017 EVENTS						
Wandsworth Community Association	18 Sept 2017	Reception followed by Awards Ceremony and dinner. Queens Awards for Voluntary Service being presented by Lord Lieutenant. Attending – Approx. 80	Yes – C & D	No charge (charity)	Yes Wine reception up to £500 max (community group evening event)	Allow No charge Wine reception
Homecoming Event	6 Oct 2017	4 course dinner followed by entertainment	Yes – A & B	Yes £300 (not £825 as dinner linked to	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max	Allow Charge £300 Wine reception

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		Attending – 250		<i>BCC Sister Cities</i>	(international guests linked with EDU/BCC)	
Family Nurse Partnership	9 Oct 2017	2 hour event with buffet and speeches welcoming International Family Nurses who are in the City for training on Domestic Violence Attending - 45	Yes – A & B	Yes £115	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests)	Allow Charge £115 Wine reception
Belfast Recovery College	16 Oct 2017	Formal launch of Belfast Trust Recovery College Attending – 150-200	Yes – A & D	No charge (voluntary)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum	13 Nov 2017	Launch of Anti-Bullying Week and Awards Ceremony Attending - 100	Yes – C & D	No charge (charity)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
Polish Educational and Cultural Organisation	19 Nov 2017	Cultural event to celebrate Polish Independence Day Attending 100-150	Yes – C & D	No charge (charity)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
2018 EVENTS						
Helplines Network Northern Ireland	6 Feb 2018	Information Day with speeches and presentations to mark NI Helplines Day 2018, Attending 150	Yes – C & D	No charge (voluntary)	Yes – Tea/Coffee reception £2 per head	Allow No charge Tea/ coffee reception
Ulster University Science Festival	22 February 2018	Turing Lecture and exhibition as part of the city wide Science Festival. Attending 500	Yes – A & B 1 in 3 rule to be applied	Yes £300	No	Allow 1 in 3 rule to be applied Charge £300 No hospitality
Queen's University Belfast Women's Leadership TEDx	21 May 2018	A talk exploring Women and Leadership followed by dinner Attending 150-	Yes – A & B	Yes £300	No	Allow Charge £300 No hospitality

Comment [JT1]:

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		200				
Queen's University Belfast School of Medicine	24 May 2018	Reception to welcome delegates who are attending symposium on Diabetic Eye Disease Attending 150	Yes – A & B	Yes £300	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow Charge £300 Wine reception
Conference Partners International – Belfast Summit	28 May 2018	Welcome Reception For Belfast Summit on Global Food Integrity Attending 700	Yes – A & B	Yes £300	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow Charge £300 Wine reception
Driver and Vehicle Agency CIECEA General Assembly	30 May 2018	50 th CIECEA General Assembly 2018 being held in Belfast – Reception, Dinner, Entertainment Attending 200-250	Yes – A, B & C	No charge Conference supported by Visit Belfast	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow No Charge Wine reception
ADRC NI Centre for Public Health, QUB	21 June 2018	Welcome reception, dinner and ceili for delegates attending this 2 day conference in Belfast Attending – 250	Yes – A & B	£825.00 (university not a charity)	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow Charge £825 Wine reception
2019 EVENTS						
Instonians Rugby Club	17 May 2019	Dinner, Speeches and Dance to celebrate centenary of the Club Attending 375	Yes – C & D	No charge (community)	Yes – Wine reception up to £500 max (international guests large conference)	Allow No Charge Wine reception

Belfast Rapid Transit Vehicle Launch

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) reference group inviting the Lord Mayor to attend the unveiling of the new Belfast Rapid Transit vehicle at the “Busworld Europe” conference in Kortrijk, Belgium on 19th October, 2017.

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The conference was the biggest bus and coach exhibition in Europe and was attended by around 35,000 visitors. The Belgian-based company Van Hool, which was awarded the BRT contract in November 2015, was using the conference to launch and showcase the new vehicle on an European platform.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Lord Mayor and an officer at the unveiling of the new Belfast Rapid transit vehicle at the “Busworld Europe” conference and authorised the payment of the appropriate travel and subsistence allowances associated with the trip.

**Fifth Annual Irish Networks
USA National Conference 2017**

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th August, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had approved the attendance of the Lord Mayor and two officers at the launch of the Belfast International Arts Festival in New York on 18th September. She advised the Members that, subsequently an invitation had been received from Irish Networks USA organisation inviting the Lord Mayor to attend the Fifth Annual INUSA National Conference 2017 in Chicago from 14th till 17th September, which was the day before the New York visit. Accordingly, she sought authority from the Committee to approve the invitation and indicated that both visits would be combined.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Lord Mayor and two officers at the Fifth Annual Irish Networks National Conference 2017 in Chicago from 14th till 17th September. The Committee noted that this would be arranged in conjunction with the visit of the Lord Mayor to the launch of the Belfast International Arts Festival in New York on 18th September which had been approved by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Council Photograph – Alderman Browne to raise

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this item to allow Alderman Browne who had raised the matter to be in attendance.

Notice of Motion – Cladding on Flats and High Rise Buildings

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, had passed the following motion on Cladding on Flats and High Rise Buildings which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Lyons:

“This Council:

- expresses its deepest sympathy to the victims and families of the Kensington fire tragedy;
- notes with concern that the cladding used in the refurbishment contributed to the disaster; and
- notes that it has a statutory duty to enforce the Building Regulations standards, which includes requirements on health, structural stability and fire safety.

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Accordingly, the Council calls upon the Department of Finance to undertake an immediate review of all fire safety requirements and guidance issued under the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 to ensure that they are based upon the most recent developments in fire safety design and construction.

The Council will provide advice to government, NIHE, housing providers and industry on any changes to the Regulations designed to protect the safety of residents in flats or other high rise buildings and will ensure that any changes to Building Regulations to protect the safety of residents in flats or other high rise buildings are enforced on all new developments or refurbishments across the City.”

The Committee was advised that a response had now been received from Mr. P. Wickens, Chief Executive of the Department of Finance’s Enterprise Shared Services Section, which was responsible for administering the Buildings Regulations legislation in Northern Ireland.

Mr. Wickens had confirmed that the Department of Finance was fully aware of the issues arising from the Grenfell Tower tragedy, had highlighted the Department’s input into a number of guidance letters promoting the appropriate testing of Aluminium Composite Materials and had thanked Councils for their co-operation and support in reporting on those tests.

He had pointed out that the Department of Finance fully recognised its role in ensuring that all aspects of Building Regulations specified the minimum requirements which could be reasonably attained and that it had, since the introduction in 1972 of those Regulations, developed proposals to reflect research carried out on the Government’s behalf by, for example, the Building Research Establishment. He explained that Part E (Fire Safety) of the Building Regulations, which had been updated in 2012, would, following the investigation into the Grenfell Tower tragedy, require further consideration and that the Departmental officials had, in the interim, initiated a review of the Technical Booklet which provided guidance on that element of the legislation, with a view to quickly addressing any straightforward amendments to that guidance.

Mr. Wickens had then highlighted the extent of the support which the Department of Finance received from the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee and concluded by pointing out that officials had met with their counterparts within the Building Control Service and by acknowledging the ongoing goodwill and the expertise which had been shared to date.

The Committee noted the response and agreed that a report on this matter, together with evacuation procedures which had been prepared by the Council’s Building Control Section be circulated to all Members of the Council.

Chairperson