

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 24th November, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

Also attended: Councillor Mullan.

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;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. D. Durkan, Director of Development and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Reynolds.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th October were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st November.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the following eight 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, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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District Rate and Revenue Estimates 2018/2019

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development of the revenue estimates for 2018/19 and the key issues which Members needed to consider as part of the rates settlement process.

The Committee noted:

1. The update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate; and
2. That party group briefings had been arranged for the week beginning 27th November, 2017, with a further report on the setting of the district rate being submitted to the Committee at its meeting of 15th December, 2017.

Finance Reporting – Quarter 2 2017/18

The Committee agreed that the Quarter 2 Finance report be considered in conjunction with the following reports insofar as it related to the financial implications and proposed reallocations contained therein:

- 2c European Capital of Culture 2023 – Phase 2
- 2g The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Update
- 5a City Region Growth Deal – Update
- 5b Update on the Smart Belfast Programme
- 5c Corporate Approach to Customer Focus

The Committee was advised that the year-end forecast was a net year end underspend of £662k which represented a variance of 0.5% of the annual net expenditure budget. The District Rate forecast by Land and Property Services (LPS) was a favourable outturn of £1,139k, which was a slight increase on the Quarter 1 forecast. Slippage in the capital programme meant that the capital finance budget was forecast to be underspent by £2,090k.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, given that the year-end department underspend was within 0.5% of the approved budget, it was not proposed that that should be considered for re-allocation. However, the forecast rates finalisation of £1,139k and the forecast capital financing underspend of £2,090k might be considered for re-allocation to non-recurrent expenditure by the Committee. After discussion the Committee:

- Agreed the forecast departmental underspend should not be considered for re-allocation given that that represented only 0.5% of net expenditure;
- Noted that the previously approved re-allocation for the Decade of Centenaries (£16,000) and The Mac (£40,000) would be funded from the half year re-allocations; and
- Agreed the following re-allocation from the forecast positive rates finalisation and capital financing underspend:

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Items Referred from the City and Growth Committee:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| • Féile | £180,000 |
| • Other Voices | £40,000 |
| • Gradam Caoil | £50,000 |
| • Eastside Arts Festival | £40,000 |
| • CS Lewis Festival | £40,000 |
| • Belfast Tattoo | £25,000 |
| • First World War Centenary Event | £35,000 |
| • Every Day Remembered | £138,840 |

Additional Funding Request:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| • The Mac (2017/18 and 2018/19) | £75,000 |
|---------------------------------|---------|

Corporate Plan Priorities

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| • Corporate Customer Focus Project | £500,000 |
| • General Data Protection Regulations | £51,000 |

Belfast Agenda Priorities

- | | |
|---|----------|
| • European Capital of Culture Bid (Stage 2) | £797,790 |
| • Smart Cities | £455,000 |
| • City Deal | £500,000 |

European Capital of Culture 2023 – Phase 2

The Chief Executive submitted a report providing an update on the development of the bid for UK designated city for European Culture in 2023 (ECoC 2023), which outlined the key focus of activity in stage two and associated resource considerations.

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that she would address, later in the meeting, the announcement by the European Commission on the eligibility of the UK as a host region after it leaves the EU and requested the Committee to consider the report outside of that process.

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After discussion, the Committee

- noted that it had agreed earlier in the meeting that £797,790 be allocated on a non-recurring basis to support the development of the stage two programme as part of the half year finance report, and, following the announcement by the European Commission which shed doubt on the eligibility of the UK as a host region after it leaves the EU, agreed that, if the second stage of the process does not proceed as originally planned, a further report be submitted to a future meeting to consider the application of these finances; and
- noted that the Committee would consider, as part of the 2018/19 rate setting process, a potential growth proposal of 0.25% for the European Capital of Culture 2023.

Announcement by the European Commission

The Chief Executive referred to the announcement by the European Commission in relation to the eligibility of the UK as a host region after it leaves the EU. She outlined what actions had been taken since the announcement and a proposed series of next steps.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, following the Commission's announcement, to approve the next steps, that is, to engage with Northern Ireland's three MEPs and the four Belfast MPs; to seek a meeting with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; and seek a meeting with the European Commission.

Enhanced Security Precautions

The Committee considered a report which provided details of the findings of a recent threat and risk assessment which had been carried out under the auspices of the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy Office (NaCTSO) in respect of the City Hall and other principle city centre Council buildings.

The Committee:

- (a) Endorsed the findings of the recent NaCTSO review as set out at paragraph 3.3 of the report and agreed that Party briefings be held on the details of the review;
- (b) Approved the series of recommended actions as set out at paragraph 3.6, and the creation of a capital fund to defray the costs of doing so; and
- (c) Endorsed the application of the general principles set out in Appendix 1 to the report for all council event organisers.

Changes to Current Catering Arrangements

The Committee deferred again for a period of one month consideration of a report in relation to changes to the current catering arrangements.

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Update on City Hall Exhibition

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to create a new Reception area on the main marble area of the City Hall entrance hall. The Committee was reminded that a report had been tabled at the Committee's meeting on 20th October, 2017. However, the report had been deferred in order to permit the various Parties to receive briefings on the issues raised. Those briefings had occurred during late October, 2017 for those who had requested them and a report was being presented for the Committee's final decision.

The Committee:

- (a) agreed to proceed with the creation of a new Reception facility on the main marble floor area in the same location as previously proposed;
- (b) agreed that such a facility would be a single, integrated facility; and
- (c) granted approval to begin a consultative dialogue with affected staff.

The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) Update Report

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current situation with regards to The MAC and advised of a further funding proposal which had been received from the The MAC in order to support that organisation's short-term sustainability.

The Committee:

- noted the current position of The MAC
- noted that a contribution of £75,000 towards The MAC's operating budget for 2017 – 18/2018 -19, subject to The Arts Council for Northern Ireland/Department for Communities confirming their financial contribution, in line with the detailed business case, had been considered and approved earlier in the meeting; and
- agreed that an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Communities and the Arts Council NI be held with Party Group Leaders.

Freedom of the City - Sir Kenneth Brannagh

The Committee approved the arrangements to celebrate the conferment of the Freedom of the City on Sir Kenneth Brannagh and the budget of to up to £30,000.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion - Belfast Energy Transition Strategy

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed to defer consideration of the matter until the Commissioner for Resilience had been appointed.

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Notice of Motion - Party Leaders' Forum

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 4th September, had considered the following notice of motion which had been proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

"This Council calls upon the Chief Executive to submit a report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on how to ensure openness and transparency with regard to decisions taken by the Party Leaders' Forum."

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred to the Committee for consideration.

In order to assist the Committee considered the matter, the following information in relation to the background to the establishment of the Party Leaders' Forum was submitted:

- In the previous Council, prior to the local elections in 2014, the Council had agreed to establish a Party Leaders' Forum to allow space for Party leaders to discuss difficult or contentious issues without Council officers routinely being present. As such, those meetings were facilitated by Jonathon Huish and officers were asked to attend parts of the meeting when specific issues pertinent to their remit were to be discussed. A short note of those meetings was reported to the Committee for information.
- The Committee, at its meeting on 22nd August, 2014, had agreed to re-establish a number of Working Groups for the new Council and these included the Party Leaders' Forum and the Budget and Transformation Panel. The rationale for appointing the two Groups was that the Budget and Transformation Panel was exclusively a business meeting when Chief Officers would bring draft reports to the Panel's attention prior to them being submitted to the Committee, whereas the Party Leaders Forum was to provide a space for Party leaders to discuss more contentious matters and seek to come to accommodations where there was disagreement.
- It was always understood, as with all Working Groups, that neither the Budget and Transformation Panel nor the Party Leaders' Forum were decision-making bodies and all decisions were required to be taken by a Standing Committee and (except where the Committee had full delegated authority) ratified by full Council.

Currently, there were officers present at meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel and a minute was taken of the meeting and presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Since Jonathon Huish no longer provided the administrative support to the Party Leaders' Forum, there was not any officer tasked with attending those meetings and taking a minute of the discussions. Therefore, there was not any report of those discussions included on the agenda of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

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The Committee was advised that it would appear that there were essentially two options open to it in deciding how best to proceed:

1. Accept that the Party Leaders' Forum was primarily established to allow Party Leaders' to discuss issues in confidence without any officers present. The meetings would therefore continue without a minute being taken and there would not be any report on the discussions submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; or
2. Agree that an officer would be present at the meetings of the Party Leaders' Forum for the purpose of producing a short note or minute of the discussions which would then be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in the same way that the meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel are treated.

The Committee agreed that a minute of the proceedings of the Party Leaders' Forum be recorded only for those items which resulted in a recommendation going forward to a Standing Committee for decision and that an officer be in attendance for that purpose.

Notice of Motion - Response re; Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd October, had passed the following motion on the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Councillor Boyle:

"This Council opposes the proposed ending of the Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme by the Department of Education, from 31st October 2017, and expresses deep concern at the impact which the potential loss of this award winning cross community programme will have for primary school pupils, primary schools and the sporting coaches involved. The Council notes with great concern the cut made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut of £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school.

The Council agrees to write to and seek an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education to highlight this concern."

The Committee was advised that a response had now been received from Mr. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education. The Permanent Secretary had confirmed that, in July, the Department of Education had informed the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Irish Football Association that funding for the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme would cease on 31st October. He pointed out that the Department had since secured an additional £10 million in the latest Monitoring Round, which would allow the programme to be delivered until the end of 2017/2018 financial year. However, he stressed that due to budgetary pressure, it might not be in a position to fund the initiative in future years.

He had highlighted the fact that a key objective of the Curriculum Sports Programme was to provide support to primary school teachers in delivering Physical Education.

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Those schools which had participated in the initiative had been allocated coaches, on the understanding that the class teacher would be present, primarily to assist in delivering the sessions and to support their own knowledge and development. Overall, teachers had benefited from their involvement in the programme over ten years and their skills and confidence should have improved significantly.

The Permanent Secretary had concluded by suggesting that, since the funding from the Curriculum Sports Programme had been restored for the current financial year, the rationale for holding the meeting, as requested with the motion, no longer existed and he sought the Council's view in that regard.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Mullan, in whose name the motion had been submitted, addressed the Committee. She pointed out that the Permanent Secretary had not addressed the second part of the motion in relation to concern about the cut being made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut off £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school and requested that the Committee proceed with seeking a meeting with the Permanent Secretary.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Notice of Motion - Tourism Offer in Belfast

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of The Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on a Notice of Motion, moved by Councillor McVeigh, regarding the importance of tourism to the City's economy and the need to modernise the current licensing regimes.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the contents of the draft consultation document which outlines the purpose of the engagement exercise and a proposed questionnaire.**
- Provide approval for officers to carry out an engagement exercise with representatives from the local tourism and hospitality sector, licensing industry, statutory bodies and the general public over the twelve-week period on the basis set out in Appendix 2.**

2.2 Feedback from this engagement exercise will be used to inform and finalise a corporate position on the potential development of an entertainment complex (including a casino) in Belfast and extended opening hours for pubs and clubs in the city.

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3.0 Background

3.1 Councillor McVeigh moved this Motion at Council on 1 November 2016. After discussion at the City Growth and Regeneration committee on 9 November 2016 it was agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting to include information on:

- **the proposal of undertaking a public consultation to ascertain whether the citizens of Belfast wish to see the modernisation of licensing laws and opening hours in Northern Ireland, and the development of an Entertainment and Casino Complex within Belfast, with associated costings;**
- **the suggested parameters and mechanisms which would be used for such a public consultation; and**
- **related issues which have already been subject to public consultation by other government departments, including timescales and any conclusions arising from them.**

3.2 In the Motion Councillor McVeigh suggests a modernised licensing system and the development of an Entertainment and Casino Complex would provide stimulus and support to the tourism sector and City's economy, with a potential investment of £150 million and the creation of 900 new jobs.

3.3 This work is being taken forward in partnership between the Development Department, Planning and Place and Legal Services with informative reports to be taken to the City Growth and Regeneration and Licensing committees, once the engagement exercise has taken place.

3.4 The outcome of the public consultation will be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration to determine a corporate position in relation to the development of an entertainment and casino complex and extended licensing hours in Belfast. Any outcome may then be provided to the Department for Communities (DfC) for consideration.

Key Issues

Modernising Licensing Legislation

3.5 The current legislation relating to gambling, entertainment and liquor licensing is the responsibility of the DfC.

3.6 In recent years, the DfC has conducted several reviews in relation to the need for modernisation of the law in areas such as gambling, liquor licensing and entertainments licensing. However, these reviews have not yet resulted in new primary legislation in any of these areas. The current licensing system in Northern Ireland is governed by:

- **Gambling – The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**
- **(NB Current gambling legislation does not allow for Casinos)**
- **Entertainments Licensing – The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**
- **Liquor Licensing – The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996**

3.7 In relation to these reviews the Council has generally responded on the basis that the current licensing systems need modernised.

3.8 Consultation on the Future Regulation of Gambling in Northern Ireland was carried out in 2011. This consultation was wide ranging in its scope and lacked detailed proposals which the Council could comment upon. Our response made it clear that the Council was mindful of its responsibilities in contributing to a vibrant City and that the gambling industry has a role to play within the leisure Industry in Northern Ireland but that this was balanced with a need to ensure that proper safeguards are in place to keep crime out of gambling and to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm.

The most recent consultation on liquor licensing was contained in the Licensing Bill 2016 and the Council response was broadly supportive of proposals for additional opening hours and noted the importance of restaurants, pubs and clubs to the vibrancy and tourism offer and night-time economy of Belfast.

3.9 A comprehensive review of Entertainments Licensing legislation was undertaken in 2015 and we await publication of detailed proposals from DfC which will be the subject of a public consultation in due course.

Consultation Next Steps

Citizen Engagement

3.10 A key facet of this Motion includes the direct engagement with the citizens of Belfast to determine if there is support for

modernising licensing laws and for the development of an Entertainment and Casino complex in Belfast.

- 3.11 The results of the engagement exercise will provide useful feedback for the Council and the exercise can also be used to ascertain if our citizens wish the Council to lobby for devolved decision-making powers in relation to opening hours for restaurants, pubs and clubs within Belfast.

Engagement Exercise

- 3.12 Subject to approval by Members, officers intend to launch a twelve-week public engagement exercise, with particular focus on representatives from within the city's tourism and hospitality sector and licensing community. This engagement exercise will be conducted on our Citizen Space engagement platform.
- 3.13 Council officers will also engage directly with a range of organisations including BCCM, FRLT, Visit Belfast, Belfast Chamber, Translink, PSNI and Tourism NI.
- 3.14 All responses will be collated and analysed by officers with a subsequent report brought back to the B&TP and other relevant committees for consideration. Based on the summary analysis members can then determine how best the Council presents its findings to the DfC and the Assembly.

The draft consultation document provided at Appendix 2 outlines the purpose of the engagement exercise and a proposed questionnaire.

3.15 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no Financial and Human Resource implications attached to this report.

3.16 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

As with any other policy development, any such proposals which results in the modernisation of the current licensing system will require formal Equality Screening. However, this will be conducted by the DfC as the department responsible for developing new policy and legislation in this area.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Governance

Schedule of Meetings 2018

The Committee approved the following schedule of meetings for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee during 2018 at a commencement time of 9.30am:

Friday, 5th January * and Friday 19th January

*Please note: That the first meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 5th January is to discuss the District Rate for 2017/18

Friday, 16th February
Friday, 23rd March
Friday, 20th April
Friday, 18th May
Friday, 22nd June
No meeting in July
Friday, 17th August
Friday, 21st September
Friday, 19th October
Friday, 16th November
Friday, 14th December

Council Meeting Dates in January and April 2018

The Committee agreed, due to the Christmas and Easter holiday periods, that:

- The date of the January meeting of the Council move from Tuesday, 2nd January to Wednesday, 3rd January; and
- The date of the April meeting of the Council move from Wednesday, 4th April to Monday, 9th April.

Appointment of Members to South Belfast Partnership Board

The Committee was reminded that, in May, 2015, the Council had appointed eight representatives from the Balmoral and Botanic District Electoral Areas using the Quota Greatest Remainder method of proportionality to the South Belfast Partnership Board. That had resulted in a representation of 2 Sinn Fein, 2 DUP, 2 Alliance, 1 SDLP and 1 UUP representative.

Correspondence had been received from the South Belfast Partnership Board indicating that it has recently reviewed its Strategic Plan resulting in a decision to reduce the number of Board members from the current level of 20 (8 Community, 8 Political and 4 Private Sector) to 15 (5 Community, 5 Political and 5 Private Sector). Accordingly, the Board had requested that the Council reduce its current representation from 8 to 5.

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In accordance with the agreed mechanism established in 2015 of using the Quota Greatest Remainder method for appointment to the Board, this would give the following representation:

Party	Number of Members Balmoral/Botanic DEAs	Representation
SF	2	(1.0) 1
DUP	2	(1.0) 1
ALL	2	(1.0) 1
SDLP	2	(1.0) 1
UUP	2	(1.0) 1
	10	5

The Committee agreed to appoint the five Members to the Board as set out above.

**Nominations for Consideration for Appointment
to the Position of High Sheriff**

The Committee considered a report which sought authority for the establishment of a deadline by which the Nominating Officer of the Political Party entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff must make the nomination.

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting in September, it had adopted a policy to apply the D'hondt proportionality method in order to identify the Parties that would be entitled to nominate a person to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for consideration for appointment to the office of High Sheriff.

The D'hondt methodology was simply a mathematical formula used to allocate places between Parties based upon their strength on an organisation. One of the features of the D'hondt system was that a deadline was established by which a Party entitled to a place must nominate or else a choice falls to the Party with the next highest score on the D'hondt table. The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 at part 1 of Schedule 1 deals with the allocation of Positions of Responsibility using the D'Hondt method. At sub-paragraph 3 of that Part of the Schedule it states that:

"If –

- (a) The nominated officer does not exercise any function conferred by sub-paragraph (1) or (2) within a period specified in Standing Orders; or*
- (b) The person nominated under sub-paragraph (2) does not take up the selected position of responsibility with that period;*

That function becomes exercisable by the nominating officer of the party for which the formula in paragraph 3 gives the next highest total"

The Council's Standing Orders, at Standing Order 34, does establish time limits for Nominating Officers to nominate a Member of their Party when allocating Positions of Responsibility at the first annual Council meeting following a local election. That limit is 15 minutes.

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The office of High Sheriff is not a Position of responsibility and therefore the provisions set out above do not automatically apply. However, it was considered that it would be necessary for the Committee to establish its own deadline in order for the D'hondt process to operate properly.

The Committee was advised that the Council was normally written to by the Northern Ireland Office in October asking it to submit the names of the persons for consideration for appointment. Therefore, in order to allow Parties sufficient time to consider who they wished to nominate when it was their turn under the D'Hondt system, it was recommended that the deadline be set at 6.00pm on the day of the November Council meeting. For this year, given that the Committee decision would not be ratified until the Council meeting on 4th December, it was recommended that the deadline be set at 6.00pm on 5th December.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**National Association of Councillors –
Attendance at National Executive Meetings**

The Committee was reminded that it had eight Members on the National Association of Councillors – Northern Ireland Region. Alderman Sandford had been appointed to represent the Northern Ireland Region on the National Executive, which would require attendance at a number of meetings in 2018. The meetings were scheduled to be held on 15th January, 21st May and 10th September in London and 24th November in a venue to be confirmed.

The Committee approved the attendance of Alderman Sandford at the meetings of the National Executive of the National Association of Councillors and authorised the payment of the appropriate travel and subsistence allowances.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

City Region Growth Deal – update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on next steps on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal including the allocation of resources and a proposed visit from Sajid Javid Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the next steps in the development of the Belfast City Region Deal**

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- note that committee will consider as part of the revenue estimates report for 2018-19 a growth proposal of £1,000,000 of capital financing to support the delivery of BCC city region deal projects.
- Recommend that £500,000 is allocated on a non recurrent basis to support the development of the city region deal and considered as part of the half year finance report 2017 -18.
- Agree to the attendance of Party Group Leaders and the chair of SP&R at the meeting with SoS for Communities and Local Government on 7th December 2017.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

At its meeting in September, members the proposed geography for the Belfast City Region Deal, the overall objective of 'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'; and the key themes of Infrastructure, Innovation and Skills.

- 3.2** The other five councils that make up the city region have also received approval for the above and work is continuing on the development of an overall programme of work to ensure the region has the evidence base, information and emerging projects to make the best possible case for an overall programme that will support the city region's economy. Given the ambition for the deal is to secure between £700 k - £1b it is important that the overall ask is comprehensive and has sufficient level of detail to demonstrate the economic benefits. Learning from other councils has shown that this will build confidence with both central and regional government and secure a better overall deal. All the city region councils will therefore need to allocate a budget to help develop the proposition and in particular to support the areas outlined below.

3.3 Policy Context

Through the community planning process each council has developed a wealth of evidence for their own areas and the plans themselves outline key projects and programmes that focus on their specific needs. It is important that this evidence base is built up at a city region level so that we can identify those areas that will benefit most from collaborative working and will have the greatest impact on delivering the city region deal objective. It is also important to identify the regions contribution to the Programme for Government and the UK

and NI Industrial Strategies and as a first step towards this the City Region has commissioned the development of an Industrial Strategy. The out workings of this strategy will help focus on our emerging growth sectors and may lead to more specific detailed research. It will also complement work already ongoing in relation to Infrastructure and Digital / Smart Belfast.

- 3.4 A further key evidence piece is the requirement to access employability and skills intelligence to shape priorities and targeting of interventions. It is proposed the initial stage in the creation of this intelligence is to develop a localised skills barometer for the Belfast Region area. This will help to better inform, target and measure employability and skills interventions in the future. Further work on identifying programmes and specific interventions will also be required once the evidence base is developed.

3.5 Project Development

Through the Belfast Agenda the council has already identified an ambitious plan for the city and it is envisaged that the city deal will be one mechanism to help deliver the plan. As the evidence from the Industrial Strategy emerges it will be important to align and develop specific projects which could form part of the city deal proposition. Clearly only projects that demonstrate economic benefit and inclusive growth will be considered and therefore work will need to be undertaken to develop business cases on a project by project basis. It is envisaged that some projects such as Employability and Skills will be done on a regional basis, and therefore funding for its development will be done across the region, but others for example the Belfast Story will need to be done on an individual council basis and funded at a local level. The council will also be working with its partners, eg the universities on a number of innovation projects which again will require joint funding.

3.6 Programme Management

The development of a city deal requires us to not only work up individual projects and priorities but to develop a comprehensive 10 year programme of investment for the city region that ensures a geographic spread of benefits and supports ongoing partnership working across the region. To facilitate this appropriate governance and programme management structures need to be put in place.

- 3.7 As a first step a senior officials group has been set up with the 6 council Chief Executives and senior officials from DCLG,

HMT, NI Executive and NIO as well as programme management support from BCC including the Deputy Chief Executive who has been designated SRO for the overall deal. Senior Officers from BCC have been agreed as the key contacts with central government are now working on an ongoing basis with officials from DCLG on the development of the programme and it is anticipated that this will be a full time resource requirement going forward.

- 3.8 In addition, work streams across all the priorities are now being set up and will be co-ordinated by BCC through the overall programme. The council will also have to have appropriate officer representation on each group.

3.9 **Governance**

Decisions on the content of the emerging deal will be considered and agreed by the city region councils. However ongoing joint engagement across the six councils, the NI government departments, central government and city deal partners will also be critical and require officer support from all councils but again with a degree of co-ordination through BCC. As the detail of the deal emerges proposals for governance and programme management arrangements for the delivery of the deal will also need to be developed.

3.10 **Financing the Delivery of the City Deal**

Council is also working up a suite of proposed projects for inclusion in the overall city region deal. All city deals to date have required councils to make a financial contribution to the delivery of their own capital projects. At this stage there is no provision in the current capital financing budget for this and the council will need over the next few years to build a city deal fund. It is therefore recommended for 2018 -19 that an allocation of £1,000,000 is considered as part of the rate setting process.

3.11 **Visit of SoS for Communities and Local Government**

As highlighted the key central government partner in the development of city deals is DCLG and the SoS for Communities and Local Government would like to meet with politicians and partners to receive an update on progress. We are liaising with the NIO on the logistics and agenda for this visit but a date of 7th December 2017 has been agreed. As all of the six councils will be represented at the meeting it is recommended that, as at the previous joint city deal councillors meeting, Party Group Leaders and the Chair of SP&R represent Belfast City Council at the event.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

Exact costs for the development of specific areas of the city deal are still being developed but it is recommended that £500,000 is allocated to the development of the programme to cover strategy develop and research, provision of business cases for individual projects, financial and economic modelling, additional staff resources for programme and project management. In addition £1,000,000 of capital financing from 2018 -19 budget will be required to support the delivery of BCC city region deal projects.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

To be considered in preparation of Belfast City Region Deal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that it had agreed earlier in the meeting that £500,000 be allocated on a non-recurrent basis to support the development of the city region deal as part of the half year finance report 2017 – 18.

Update on the Smart Belfast Programme

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 The first year of the Smart Belfast programme focused on successfully demonstrating the benefits of ‘smart’ technologies for both the Council and the wider city. The work resulted in a jointly agreed framework for urban innovation with our business and university partners; and the delivery of scalable projects that applied the concepts of the framework to real-world problems (one of which – the Business Rates Identification tool – has already generated substantial new recurring income for the Council).

1.2 This paper sets out recommendations for Members that aim to embed the Smart Belfast approach into mainstream programmes in order to generate innovative solutions to economic growth, city planning, and the Council’s commitment to service transformation.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- 1. Approve the proposed Smart Belfast programme for 2018/2019 and the associated costs.**

2. To note the update on the current work of 2017/2018 including the following individual items:
3. The closing of the Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge and the plan to bring an update on successful applications to Members in December 2017.
4. Note the opportunity to contribute to service or city challenge proposals for the LPWAN project. A draft challenge programme will be presented to Members in early 2018.
5. Note the planned opening date for the Immersive Tech hub of 28 November.
6. Agree that Belfast sign TM Forum's 'City as a Platform' manifesto
7. Note the development work on an all-island SBRI fund for 2018/2019 and to agree in principle to a £30,000 contribution from Belfast City Council. Proposals will be presented to Members for approval.
8. To agree to Council participation in the DIT trade mission to Dublin
9. Agree to the acceptance of a Maynooth University Phd placement with the Smart Belfast team.
10. Agree to the development of a proposal with BT on a local air quality monitoring pilot.
11. Agree to the development of Smart Belfast infrastructure pilot(s).

3.0 Main report

The Council's decision to invest in a Smart Cities programme is driven by three imperatives:

- Rapid technological change: Very low-cost cloud computing; ubiquitous mobile phone use; high speed internet; WiFi and Internet of Things networks; and advances in data modelling, analytics and artificial intelligence systems – together offer vastly different ways to effectively address the city's problems and the efficiently manage its services. However, to make the most of these advances the Council needs to co-opt the knowledge and creativity of our universities and local digital sector.
- City Growth Deal ambition: The economic growth and the productivity challenge at the heart of the City Region Deal, the emerging sub-regional industrial strategy and the Belfast Agenda, are all predicated on Belfast's ability to inculcate an innovation culture and to exploit data science and technologies. This will be true not only in terms of attracting inward investment and growing the indigenous digital SME sector, but for the success of the wider economy and public sector

service transformation. The Smart Belfast foundations are important elements in building the city's capacity in this regard.

- **Public sector service transformation challenge:** The Council is undergoing significant organisational re-design and is committed to citizen-centric services. The adoption of scalable, agile technologies – and an environment that can harness the wider innovation in our universities and SMEs - can assist the Council and wider public sector to design and deliver much more effective services, programmes and interventions. In order to do this the city needs to foster a creative partnership eco-system and a much stronger culture of public sector innovation.

Proposed Smart Belfast programme 2018/2019

3.2 Following extensive engagement with global digital partners, the local digital SME sector, universities and the public sector, the Smart Belfast framework was launched to 300 business representatives on 26 September 2017 at City Hall. The framework aims to marry the city's ambition to support its high-growth digital sector with a desire to bring commercial innovation to bear on urban challenges and public service transformation at three levels:

- **City and regional** – By, for example, informing the innovation and infrastructure elements of the City Region Deal; the Belfast Agenda; and Place Positioning particularly in supporting foreign direct investment, local entrepreneurs and high growth SME development under the 'Smart Belfast' rubric.
- **Organisational transformation** – informing Council service transformation by supporting the adoption of agile, user-centric design methodologies; innovative procurement (such as SBRI); and the application of data science and new technologies in service re-design.
- **Building the core foundations** – working with partners to put in place the underpinning foundations necessary for a Smart Belfast to operate over the longer term (including, for example, developing a city data platform, building skills in agile design).

3.3 The Smart Belfast team have identified a substantial programme of work for 2018/19 that is required to achieve this ambition. This includes:

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- **Establishing a scalable city data platform and data development and assurance programme.** This resource is required to managed the substantial data being generated as part of the Smart Belfast work – and ensuring that it is available for appropriate re-use by services, businesses and universities. This will include ensuring GDPR privacy compliance.

- **An integrated Smart Belfast Challenge programme** that will include putting in place the management and resource requirements to deliver the following:
 - LPWAN city and regional challenge programme
 - 5G trails and testbeds
 - Full Fibre use cases
 - All-Ireland SBRI challenge programme
 - Immersive tech challenge programme
 - ‘In-house’ challenge fund for innovative service re-design

- **Promoting Smart Belfast:** The idea of a ‘Smart City’ is a hugely attractive proposition for investors, SMEs and individual entrepreneurs – and has been adopted by many places worldwide to articulate a shared ambition for innovation, growth and economic development. Belfast is well-placed to use its ‘Smart Belfast’ approach as part of its wider place positioning work to attract inward investment and also to showcase the best of the city’s SMEs and the cutting R&D work of our universities. It is proposed that the Smart Belfast presence is developed on the web and social media and a shared story in designed that can be adopted for investment opportunities (such as SXSW, MIPIM, China, Sister Cities, Smart Cities World Congress, etc.)

- **Develop the Belfast Digital strategy** – To work with city stakeholders to determine the long term infrastructure and skills investments required to support a twenty-first century knowledge economy.

- **Developing Smart Districts:** The development of ‘smart infrastructure’ is an important strand of work for any smart city. This is about ensuring that capital investments are future-proofed for new sensor and data technologies. Many building, open space and civil engineering projects now seek to embed low-cost sensor and data gathering technologies into their design in order to support better integrated whole-life management of infrastructure. This is often developed

at a 'smart district' level initially before being deployed across an entire city.

- As initial pilots for this concept, the Smart Belfast team are proposing to work with colleagues from City Centre Regeneration, City and Neighbourhood Services, and the Planning & Projects department to scope a number of opportunities in the city.
- These pilots would explore how smart city approaches could be incorporated into the design of projects to support successful outcomes. The learning from this pilot would then be transferable to future projects. There are a number large multi-national companies interested in the idea of a Smart Belfast district and the team will engage with them on potential co-investment opportunities.

3.4 Update on the current Smart Belfast programme 2017/2018

Alongside planning for the next financial year, the programme has a number of current and emerging opportunities:

3.5 Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund

Sixty-eight SMEs have submitted seventeen scoping proposals to the Smart Belfast Challenge Fund. Up to £25,000 will be available from Invest NI to support up to eight of these proposals which seek to explore innovation in tourism, public transport, active living, circular economy and managing the public estate. Successful SMEs will be notified by end November and their projects will commence as soon as they have signed contracts with Invest NI. Council officers will work with companies to understand and support the development of each proposal during an initial 6 to 9 months scoping phase. At the end of this phase, proposals which demonstrate strong business development propositions can apply for up to a further £170,000 from Invest NI. A future SPR report will provide information on the successful challenge proposals.

3.6 'Internet of Things' network (LPWAN)

Digital Catapult UK has now confirmed that the £100,000 Northern Ireland consortium bid to the Things Connected competition has been successful. The consortium, made up of Smart Belfast, Ulster University, Invest NI, Tourism NI and a number of other NI local councils, will provide a regional free-to-use LPWAN network. (This is a state-of-the-art wireless network that can control a vast range of low-cost sensors and smart devices. Such networks are an important building block for the Internet of Things - a recognised future growth area for

the digital and manufacturing sectors and for the future smart management urban infrastructure.)

- 3.7 The Catapult will fund the deployment of the network by February 2018. Partners, including Belfast City Council and Tourism NI, have agreed to contribute to a 'Things Connected' Challenge programme which would provide competition funding to local SMEs and communities to exploit the network to tackle local and regional challenges and to improve public sector services. (For example, such networks have been used elsewhere for such things as: asset tracking, fleet management, tracking tourist and shoppers' behaviours, interactive signage, building management, commuter and freight transport analysis, etc.)
- 3.8 The Smart Belfast team will work with private and public sector and including colleagues from across Council to determine a series of challenge and use-cases for which SMEs could use the network to develop solutions. Once agreed a draft challenge programme will be presented to Members.

Immersive Tech hub at Bel Tel

- 3.9 Following approval at the September SPR Committee, work is now underway to complete the fit-out of the Immersive Tech hub at the Bel Tel building. Once complete the Digital Catapult NI team will move into the hub as part of a wider plan to create a collaborative working environment that will also act as a showcase for cutting edge technologies developed in the city. The hub will also receive £70,000 of immersive tech equipment from Digital Catapult UK while the Department for the Economy are funding the appointment a full time hub and programme manager. The Lord Mayor will officially open the new hub on 28 November, the launch event will also be attended by Professor Sir Mark Walport, the Chief Executive Designate of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
- 3.10 The Smart Belfast team are now working with the Department for the Economy, the Council's own Economic Development Unit and the Digital Catapult to develop joint programmes of work on immersive technology. The first of these will be a £25,000 eight-week immersive technology challenge to encourage local SMEs to develop Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality proto-types to demonstrate the value of the technology to tourism, culture and arts in the city. This challenge is currently in development with our Tourism Unit and due to go live in November. It is expected that successful proto-types from the challenge will be used at SXSW in Austin in March 2018.

3.11 TM Forum

Belfast has been invited by TM Forum to become a co-signatory to their 'City as a Platform' manifesto that sets out ten symbolic principles for private and public sectors to adopt when deploying digital city platforms. Other signatories include 40 cities, government bodies, telecoms operators, technology firms and associations. (These include Dublin, Chicago, Leeds, Liverpool, Medellin, and the Future Cities Catapult.)

3.12 The principles are aligned with the ambitions of the Smart Belfast framework and Members are asked to agree that Belfast sign the manifesto (see <https://www.tmforum.org/smart-city-forum/city-platform-manifesto/>)

3.13 As part of Belfast's membership of the Forum, the city is entitled to consultancy support from a number of international platform partners as part of the Forum's 'Catalyst' programme. The Smart Belfast team have begun engaging with TM Forum's global lead, Carl Piva, on this, with initial suggestions that the focus might be on Belfast's future smart infrastructure requirements. A draft proposal will be brought to Members in early 2018.

3.14 Irish Cities SBRI challenge

Through the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, and working with the NI Department for Economy and Enterprise Ireland, the team are developing the content for a joint all-island SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) challenge fund. This will provide pre-commercial procurement R&D funding to innovative SMEs to address challenges common to cities across the island.

3.15 Following a workshop on 18 October, Dublin, Derry & Strabane, Cork, Limerick and Belfast all expressed interest in funding such a challenge. Enterprise Ireland have informally indicated they would provide support funding with the possibility of €200,000 for an SBRI challenge addressing issues of common concern for three to four cities.

3.16 The process of identifying common challenge areas with other cities is underway and cities have been requested to make a financial contribution. Smart Dublin is planning to invest €200,000 and Members are asked to agree in principle that Belfast City Council would provide £30,000 to a joint programme. Once agreed with the other cities, proposals for

the programme will be presented to Members for consideration.

3.17 British Embassy Smart City Trade Mission

The Department for International Trade's unit in the British Embassy in Dublin are co-ordinating a UK trade mission for London Smart Cities companies to showcase their products and services at the Mansion House in Dublin on 30 November.

3.18 The Smart Belfast Portfolio manager has been asked to present on the Smart Belfast framework, an outline of the SBRI process and take part in a panel discussion. A Belfast SME has also been asked to take part in the event. Travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by DIT. Members are asked to agree to Council participation in the event.

3.19 Financial & Resource Implications

1. Establish Scalable city Data Platform to support SMEs and range of projects underway Including independent assurance on Data Protection, Privacy and Security aspects.

£95,000

2. Integrated Smart Belfast Challenge fund **£195,000**

- LPWAN city and regional challenges
- 5G trails and testbeds
- Full Fibre use cases
- All-Ireland SBRI challenge programme
- Immersive tech challenge programme
- 'In-house' challenge fund for innovative service re-design
- SBRI competition for Rates Forecasting
- Competition programme for Immersive Tech Hub
- Catalyst for change programme with TM Forum

3. Promoting Smart Belfast and Engagement tools/programme for collaborative working with Public Sector SMEs and academia **£30,000**

4. Scoping exercise for Smart District(s) **£30,000**

5. Commission and Deploy Rates Maximisation product **£40,000**

6. Further development of the Growth Mapper – infrastructure tool **£10,000**

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- 7. **University programme to support a data scientist to work with the team** £5,000
- 8. **Commission Belfast Digital Strategy** £50.00

Proposed budget for 2018/2019 **£455,000**

Through collaborative working the programme will leverage in funding from Enterprise Ireland and Invest NI as well as income from the deployment from the rates maximisation project in the region of £400,000 together with a high level of in-kind support.

3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that the budget of £455,000 as set out in paragraph 3.21 of the report had been approved earlier in the meeting as part of the half year finance report 2017 – 18.

Corporate Approach to Customer Focus

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The City and Neighbourhood Services Department working alongside Corporate Organisational Development (OD) and Digital Services, have been working with Deloitte to develop an outline business case (OBC) to provide recommendations on implementing a new approach to customer focus.

1.2 This report outlines some of the critical challenges and key benefits of adopting a corporate customer focussed business strategy and summarises the key recommendations contained within the Deloitte OBC.

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to agree the following recommendations:

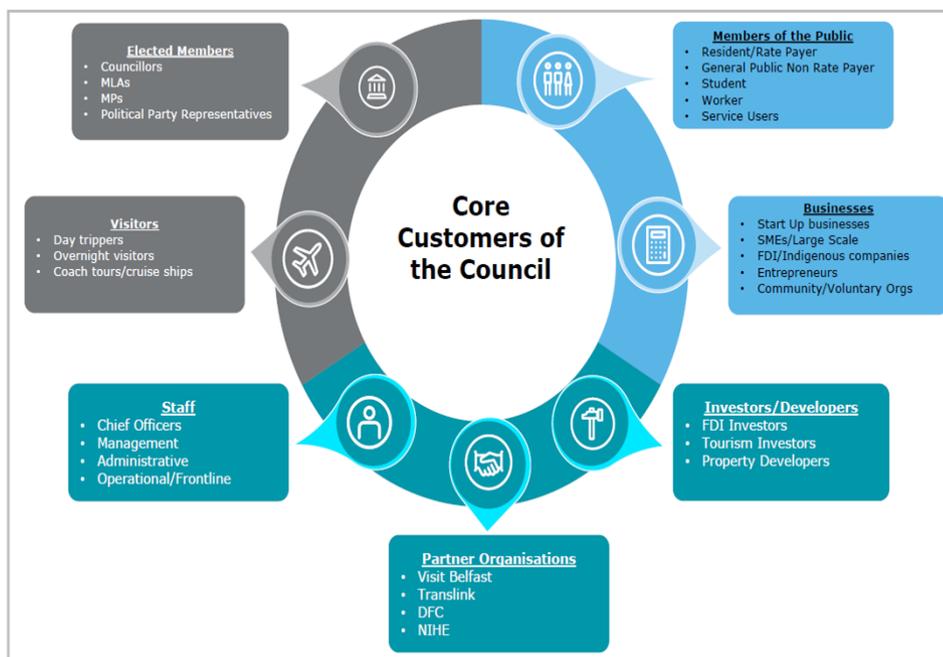
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- 1. That a corporate approach to customer management should be a key driver for on-going organisational change.**
- 2. A new blueprint for customer services should be based on the following principles outlined in the Deloitte OBC (See Appendix 1):**
 - a. Corporate approach, consistent and joined up and underpinned by standards,**
 - b. Deliver greater insight and analysis on customer behaviour,**
 - c. Improve the efficiency of processes,**
 - d. Ensure inclusivity and channel choice (digital first where possible),**
 - e. Improved customer experience (customer first),**
 - f. Provide access to the right information at the right time and from anywhere.**
- 3. A Customer Focus delivery team should be resourced to design and implement the best approach for the Council to deliver the recommendations contained in the Deloitte OBC.**
- 4. A discovery/design exercise should be procured to determine the key tasks, costs and resources that will be required to deliver a corporate approach to Customer Focus.**
- 5. On-going engagement with Trade Unions should continue due to the corporate nature of the customer focus programme.**
- 6. Agree to allocate £500,000 to support the further development and implementation of this work.**

3.0 Main report

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- 3.1 One of the key ambitions of the Belfast Agenda is, ‘to deliver services differently, in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of people.’ However, the current approach to customer management does not avail of the latest technologies which can drive better customer service and



improve service delivery for the variety of customers which the council serve. These are listed below.

- 3.2 The OBC has shown that our current approach is inefficient as outlined below:

- 130 different numbers are returned in a search for ‘Belfast City Council’ from www.ukphonebook.com,
- We support over 700 Direct Dial-in (DDI) telephone numbers,
- Multiple customer contact options (email and phone) are available on our website. See <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/A-Z/AtoZListing.aspx?atoz=A>,
- We have 12 core CRM systems installed across the council and we have recently implemented an additional interim CRM for Planning,
- We support an ICT inventory of over 90 different applications with customer information recorded across a significant number of these applications.

- 3.3 Also, given the scale of customer contact received by BCC (see Appendix 2), it is obvious that a customer focussed business strategy has the potential to significantly improve

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the quality of the services we provide, while substantially reducing the costs of service delivery. This will help us to:

- Enhance our customer focus,
- Join up the fragmented nature of our service delivery,
- Better understand the cost of service delivery,
- Improve officer productivity,
- Realise efficiency savings for the organisation,
- Provide services that are optimised and provide VFM,
- Integrate our front and back office functions,
- Provide customer insight to improve decision making,
- Ensure services are delivered over the most cost effective channels,
- And streamline and reduce the resources required to deliver our services.

3.4 To deliver the Deloitte customer focussed blueprint Members are asked to consider these key emerging challenges:

1. The creation of a corporate Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to deliver the centralisation of all customer interactions across the council which will enable analytics that covers the end-to-end customer journey.
2. The creation of a Corporate contact Centre implementing and working towards a single email account and telephone number for all customer contact.
3. Building a consistent multichannel experience based on customer insight.
4. Redesigning all customer-facing processes to integrate front and back office processes, beginning with services that represent the bulk of interactions and the greatest amount of current pain points for citizens, to:
 - a. Deliver customer centric processes
 - b. Maximise first contact resolution and reduce avoidable contact.
5. Managing the development of all council staff to handle all contacts, across all channels, in a consistent and professional manner.
6. Undertaking a website review and redesign to:
 - c. Deliver a simpler and clearer layout
 - d. Cleaner navigation
 - e. Rationalise web content
 - f. Implement consistent and usable responsive online services.

3.5 The significance of changing our current customer services operating model and implementing a corporate customer focussed business strategy should not be underestimated, and successful delivery of a customer strategy in BCC will present challenges which include ensuring political and chief officer support, managing change and user adoption, and improving service standards while capturing and delivering efficiencies. For this reason, one of the key recommendations from the Customer Focus OBC is to initiate and to deliver a Discovery/Design Exercise that will determine how the new approach to customer focus will be delivered by building:

- A vision for Customer Focus
- Benefits Management
- Marketing, communications and engagement
- Technology change
 - Corporate CRM
 - ICT system rationalisation
 - Customer Contact Website
 - New Digital Services

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

The total resources required are £500,000 which will be considered by the committee as a reallocation as part of the Quarter 2 finance report.

Customer Focus Delivery

Customer Focus Discovery and Design exercise	£200,000
Temporary Delivery Team	£300,000
	<u>Total £500,000</u>

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that it had agreed earlier in the meeting, as part of the half year finance report 2017 – 18, to allocate £500,000 to support the further development and implementation of this work.

LPS Contract – Provision of Property Surveys

The Committee was reminded that the Building Control Service had been working in partnership with Land and Property Services (LPS) in a number of areas for over

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15 years. Since April 2005, the Service had been providing Property Surveys for LPS under a contract signed at that time.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that, as Building Control Surveyors were on site during construction, they could carry out their survey at the time the properties were ready for occupation without the need for LPS staff to visit the site, to gather the information and allowing them to value the properties from the desktop. That ensured an efficient method of timely and equitable maintenance of the valuation list. He reported that LPS had been reviewing the contractual arrangement and, in consultation with officers from the Council, had amended the previous contract to reflect changes that had been made to working practices. LPS had made the request for the Council to enter into this new contact.

The main changes to the contract from the current arrangements were:

- The rate LPS would pay per survey be reduced from £65 to £55 from 1st April, 2018. That reflected the changes in the process which reduced the amount of time surveyors would spend on site gathering the information and increased the use of AutoCAD technicians;
- Full survey provision of extensions to commercial properties were now included;
- With the priority of getting new build properties on to the valuation list, the target to provide a survey within 20 working days from the date the property was fit for occupation had been retained. The target time to provide extended domestic surveys and extended commercial surveys had been set at 30 days.

The Legal Services Section had been consulted with regard to the contract and were satisfied with the content.

The Committee agreed to enter into the new contract which would run until 31st March, 2019.

Contracts for Award

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- **Seek approval from Members to the allow advancement and award of tenders as outlined in Appendix 1 (Tables 1-3) in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.**
- **Inform Members that procurement is undergoing a review of the current operating model with the potential of restructuring.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

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- **Approve the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1 -Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system and grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to the most economically advantageous tender**
- **Allow month by month extensions where contracts are under review as outlined in Appendix 1 - Table 2**
- **Agree to accede to Standing Orders 55(a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendations of a Chief officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts as laid out in 3.7 below and Appendix 1 – Table 3 (ICT projects)**
- **Note the contracts which have been awarded in the last quarter as listed in Appendix 1 -Table 4**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Section 2.5 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation outlines that under Standing Order 60(a) any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) needs to be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.**
- 3.2 The tenders submitted for approval in Appendix 1 - Table 1, have been forwarded by Departments for approval. Departments have been required to provide assurance that provision for the expenditure has either been made within their departmental budgets or approval has been sought from the Director of Finance and Resources that this expenditure has been provided for within a corporate budget.**
- 3.3 Members should note that they are being asked to approve tenders in principal, after which the internal governance process demonstrating strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda, will be applied. As part of this process, Departments have also provided assurance that appropriate resources are available within their departments in order to effectively administer and management any contract(s).**
- 3.4 In accordance with Standing Orders these tenders shall comply with the relevant requirements of national legislation**

and European directives and be overseen by Corporate Procurement Services.

3.5 This report relates to corporate as well as departmental supplies and services only. The procurement of services and works contracts relating to the capital procurement is dealt with under the Capital Programme reports in accordance with the approved stage approval process.

3.6 **Direct Award Contracts**

Members are asked to note that Corporate Procurement Services is currently under resourced and awaiting a report on the current procurement operating model. This position has resulted in an increase in the number of single tender actions and the requirement to accede to Standing Order 55(a). It should be understood this is a temporary situation which will be rectified once the Procurement Team is fully resourced.

3.7 Members are asked to accede to Standing Order 55(a) exceptions in relation to contract by direction of the council acting on a recommendation of a Chief officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the following:

- Appointment of 'Ulster University Economic Policy Centre' to develop a localised Skills Barometer & Labour Market Accounts for the Belfast and City Region Area on the basis that the Skills Barometer is the existing regional intelligence tool, developed to monitor skills demand and supply and time restraints. This will be associated with the development of the City Growth Deal which requires access to intelligence to inform priorities and programmes of work as a matter of urgency. The value of this contract is £52k.
- A number of ICT contracts can only be provided by individual suppliers see Appendix 1, Table 3. There are two main reasons for proprietary purchases of ICT contracts:
 - The ICT system or service is proprietary and cannot be provided by another supplier;
 - Legacy Technology Procurements involved the purchase of perpetual use rights alongside annual maintenance and support. Subsequent on-going maintenance and support can only be provided directly by the supplier.

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- **Appointment of ‘Reed Midem’ to provide stands for MIPIM. ‘Reed Midem’ are the event organiser for MIPIM and as such are the sole provider of stands at this event. The value of this contract is £50,290**

- **Appointment of ‘Below the Radar’ to develop video and visuals to support the formal presentation for the Capital of Culture presentation. The appointment is based on their ability to commit to delivery of video and visual content in a short timescale as well as the nature of their experience and quality of work which is in keeping with the emerging book content. The value of this contract is £30k**

- **Appointment of ‘Mattijs Maussen’ as adviser to support the delivery of the European Capital of Culture bid project. Mattijs Maussen has worked on fourteen capital-of-culture bids around Europe and acts as adviser and organiser in the fields of culture, education, urban and regional development across Europe. In addition, he has extensive experience with politicians, artists, researchers and the media, in the region, in Europe and internationally. The value of this contract is £80k**

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

- **The financial resources for these contracts will be met within the current departmental budgets and the proposed departmental estimates process which are taken forward through the rate setting process with the exception of the contract as outlined in 3.7 in respect of the appointment of ‘Ulster University Economic Policy Centre’. Members are asked to note that the financial resources for this contract will be met from income generated from Councils within the City Deal region and through Development Departments’ existing resources. Each of the other five Councils forming the City Deal region have agreed to contribute £10k each to be held within a central funding pot, the work to be delivered by UUEPC will be one of the research pieces funded from this source.**

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

No specific equality or good relations implications.”

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Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
European Capital of Culture Strategic European Adviser	Donal Durkan	One year

Table 2 – Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Supply and erection of street nameplates	Phil Williams	Month by month

Table 3 – ICT Single Tender Action

System/Product	Supplier	Reason	Annual estimate
Housing Benefits Software and support	Northgate	Maintenance & Support renewal	£230,000
Mapping Agreement LPS	LPS - Ordnance Survey	Proprietary	£75,000
Premier Support (Gold)	Microsoft	Proprietary	£52,000
Oracle Site Licence	Oracle	Proprietary	£38,000
COBOL Server Support	Micro Focus	Proprietary	£4,000
Oracle Database Processor Licenses	Oracle	Proprietary	£11,500
modern.gov	Modern Mindset Ltd	Maintenance & Support renewal	£7,500
Dimension S/W - Zoo, Cregagh, outdoor pitches	XN Leisure	Maintenance & Support renewal	£14,000
City Stats	Fluent Technology	Maintenance & Support renewal	£5,000
Heimdall Security Agent	Managed Security Solutions	Maintenance & Support renewal	£10,000
Media Core	Aetopia Limited	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
Cascade 3d Reporting Tool	Cascade	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,500
Kinetics	Kinetics Solutions	Maintenance & Support	£4,000

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		renewal	
Oracle Processor Perpetual (for DMZ)	ORACLE CORPORATION (U K)	Proprietary	£5,000
Chip & Pin - Daisy Chain Rental	XN Leisure	Maintenance & Support renewal	£5,000
UPS	Continu	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
SPSS	IBM	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
ODEX Enterprise AS2 Component	Data Interchange PLC	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
Jigsaw Fuel Management	Blenheim System Ltd (Jigsaw)	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,500
Visual COBOL for Visual Studio Support	Micro Focus	Proprietary	£4,000
Adobe VIP Agreement (Value Incentive Plan)	Specialist Computer Centre	Proprietary	£7,000
Browsealoud	Texthelp Business Systems	Maintenance & Support renewal	£3,000
ECDL licence - Annual Subscription	British Computer Society	Proprietary	£3,000
Hevacomp	Bentley Hevacomp	Proprietary	£3,000
Joint Venture - Apple Business support	Apple	Proprietary	£3,000

Table 4 – Contracts awarded August

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Framework for Supply and Delivery of Fruit and Vegetables for Belfast Zoological Gardens	R Crozier	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	2 companies awarded: Arnotts Fruit Ltd, 16/20 Dunbar Street, Belfast First4fruit, Unit 3 Loguestown Industrial Estate, Coleraine
Supply and Delivery of Various Panel Vans	G Millar	N/A	Charles Hurst Peugeot, 62 Boucher Road, Belfast
Supply and Delivery of Precinct Sweepers	G Millar	N/A	Aebi Schmidt UK Ltd, Southgate Way, Orton Peterborough Cambridgeshire, England
Cleaning Services at St George's Market	D Durkin	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	GON Cleaning Services, 10 Cairnmore Drive Lisburn Antrim

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Table 4 - Contracts awarded September

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Provision of Mobile Video Screens and associated services	D Durkin	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	ADI TV Unit 10, Pittman Court Preston, Lancashire
Supply of General Uniforms	G Millar	1 year with option to renew annually for further 3 years	3 companies awarded; Antrim Supplies (Workwear) Ltd, 24 Mallusk Rd, Newtownabbey Prosafe Products Ltd, 53 The Longshot, Ballyclare Tailored Image Ltd, 8A The Linen Green, Dungannon BT71 7HB
Delivery of Export Development Support for High Growth Sectors	D Durkin	2 years with option to renew annually for further 1 year	Core Consulting, 39A Main Street, Bangor, Co Down BT20 5AF

Table 4 – Contracts awarded October

Title	Director	Duration	Successful Contractor
Provision of Goods for Resale in Belfast Zoo Souvenir Shop	N Grimshaw	1 year with option to renew annually for further 2 years	Keel Toys Barrey Road, Ashford KENT TN24 OSG Ravensden Plc Bedford Road Rushden Northamptonshire NN10 0SQ Kilbarrack Industrial Estate DUBLIN 5
Delivery of City Start-	D Durkin	1 year with option to	Enterprise NI Ltd

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up Programme		renew for further 6 months	Aghanloo Road Limavady BT49 0HE
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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Application of Standing Order 55(a)

The Committee endorsed the application of Standing Order 55(a) – exemptions from Standing Orders relating to contracts by direction of the Council acting on a recommendation of the Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances – for the replacement of the current heating system as part of the 2017/18 planned maintenance programme at Smithfield Market.

Innovation Factory – Contractual Amendment and Delegated Authority

The Director of Development submitted for the Committees consideration the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Oxford Innovation is the appointed Service Provider in respect of the management and operation of Innovation Factory (IF) in accordance with the contract agreed between Oxford Innovation (OI) and Belfast City Council dated 27 April 2017.**
- 1.2 In light of the first contractual Annual Performance Review this Committee Report recommends a proposed legal amendment to the contract. The proposed amendment has been agreed in principle between both contract representatives and the Project Board.**
- 1.3 The report also seeks Delegated Authority to be granted to the Director of Development who is Senior Responsible Officer for the project. Delegated Authority is for the approval of incentives at the centre which can help to attract more investment to the Innovation Factory and contribute towards the Council’s job creation and skills development objectives.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Approve the contract amendment to the OI and BCC contract for the Annual Performance Review Methodology for the Innovation Factory;**

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- **Agree to assign Delegated Authority to the Director of Development for the approval of incentives to tenants for locating at the centre. Performance of incentives will be reported back to Committee via the Annual Service Plan and Performance Review.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 *Contract Amendment:*

3.2 The Innovation Factory (IF) is located at Forthriver Business Park and offers Grade A-standard workspace for small businesses. The building is 55,000 sq. ft. and is the first development on the wider 14-acre business park site which was previously the site of James Mackie and Sons Engineering Works. The project is part funded by Belfast City Council, Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland.

3.3 The Centre will accommodate 382 workstations across 111 business units when at full capacity. It will support at least 145 jobs by December 2018 and 187 by December 2020. It will provide support annually to over 100 businesses and create 5 collaborative networks. It will promote and encourage social and economic regeneration, encourage local and foreign direct investment and act as a catalyst for further development of Forthriver Business Park.

3.4 The Innovation Factory has been performing well to date. Current occupancy stands at 22% and is expected to increase to 24% over the next month. IF currently supports 85 jobs with 5 support staff. The centre has facilitated 26 work placements to date, engaged with 4 local schools and engaged 18 students in research projects. 11 IF clients have been referred to Invest NI (INI) and are now full INI clients.

3.5 The Annual Performance Review 16/17 was carried out in close dialogue with both the service provider as well as a wider Council multi-disciplinary team and professional advisors KPMG. During this dialogue the service provider requested reconsideration of clause 5.2.2 of Schedule 6 Part 2 of the contract which relates to the annual performance and payment mechanism. The clause stipulates how the Council will award a final score for each of the four categories of Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) (namely 1. Outputs, 2. Outcomes, 3. Service Performance and 4. Financial Performance). If the service provider falls short in any of the individual elements within the KPI category, it is reflected in the overall KPI score.

- 3.6** A revised clause has been developed and agreed by Council and Oxford Innovation. Both parties feel that the revised clause ultimately provides a fairer performance review process. It includes the following aspects:
- The score awarded shall be based on a balanced, holistic view of the performance of the Service Provider;
 - The score awarded shall take account of the severity of any low scores; and
 - Scores awarded shall take account of the Service Provider’s performance in respect of each Key Performance Indicator in the prior Contract Year and the Council’s requirement, as set out in the Contract, for the Service Provider to deliver continuous improvement.
- 3.7** This amendment also provides Council with a mechanism to prioritise certain elements of the contract i.e. those linked to ERDF funding targets and areas that would pose a higher risk to the Council i.e. Health & Safety considerations. The change means that scores can be assessed more broadly rather than being dictated by the lowest scoring factor. It also means that scoring can reflect repeated instances of under-performance from one year to the next.
- 3.8** *Delegated Authority to Senior Responsible Officer:*
- 3.9** In partnership with Invest Northern Ireland, the contract representatives have developed a soft landing, (‘plug and play’) workspace option at IF. The benefit of being able to offer the ‘plug and play’ option is that it can be used as an incentive to attract new tenants. It creates a competitive offer to attract investment clients to Belfast over other locations. Potential users would be offered competitive, no cost, or discount options for a pre-agreed period. The incentive will be based on individual investor circumstances and the economic and social opportunities that the investment proposal may generate. Tenants will remain liable for their own rates. IF has furnished a 1852sq ft area to be used for the ‘Plug and Play’ suite. The scale of space needed for this service will be kept under review.
- 3.10** This approach is required due to the nature of investors’ decision making. Investors do not always initially commit to a permanent investment location at an early stage. This option enables Council, in conjunction with Invest NI, to offer the investor an opportunity to assess Belfast as a suitable investment location. The incentive provides an added value

proposition alongside the Council's proposed Business Concierge Service. This service will provide further wrap-around support to secure investment on a more permanent basis. Any incentive offer will be agreed in collaboration with Invest Northern Ireland. It is recommended that any incentive offers such as the Plug and Play option detailed above will be presented to the Director of Development for delegated approval against a set of pre-agreed criteria.

3.11 Financial and Resource Implications

There are no resource implications arising from the amendment to the contract. Any incentives agreed by the Senior Responsible Officer relating to Innovation Factory will be factored into the Financial Model for the centre agreed as part of the Annual Service Plan for the next three year period.

3.12 Equality and Good Relations Implications

The Innovation Factory Project has been successfully equality screened and the Social Regeneration Activities detailed within the Year 2 Annual Service plan will further develop equality and good relations impacts of the centre.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

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 – note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1-3.7 below:

Project level

- Whiterock – note the proposed closure of the pool during the month of December in order to facilitate

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urgent repair works and that a full continuity plan is underway (see 3.8-3.10)

- Church Lane – note that the new state of the art city centre gym at Church Lane is due to officially open on 12th December 2017 and that all Members have been invited to a pre-opening event on Wednesday 29th November (see 3.11-3.12)

3.0 Main report

Programme level

- 3.1 Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council’s £105m leisure programme which will 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. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below –**

CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre completed. Works underway on outside phases. Due for completion May 2018
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Demolition works underway.
Robinson	Aquatic Centre	£20	Site works underway
Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£15m	Works to commence in January
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Stage 2 consultation to be undertaken (see 3.3 below)
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Stage 2 consultation to be undertaken (see 3.3 below)
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

3.2 Andersonstown and Robinson

Members are asked to note that demolition works are continuing at Andersonstown and are due to be completed early next year while site preparation works are currently

underway at Robinson. ‘Cutting the sod’ ceremonies for both sites were held in early November and were extensively picked up by local media. Photos of both projects are attached at Appendix 1.

Members are asked to note that the temporary car park at Andersonstown is due for completion by the end of November.

3.3 Templemore and Avoniel – Stage 2 consultation

Regular communication and engagement is central to the success of the leisure programme. In June 2015 Members agreed that a three stage approach to consultation and engagement would be used for the capital redevelopment element of the LTP. In keeping with the approach to date it is now proposed that the Stage 2 consultation for Avoniel and Templemore is undertaken. Given the interdependencies between these projects it is proposed that this consultation is undertaken in tandem.

3.4 Members are asked to note that a series of consultation events, as detailed below, have now been arranged as part of this Stage 2 consultation. The costs for this will be met from the £2m leisure mobilisation budget which was previously agreed by Committee.

- **East AWG** - A special East AWG on leisure, at which the Stage 2 designs will be presented, has been scheduled for 22nd November
- **Public information sessions** – a number of public information sessions on the plans for Avoniel and Templemore have been scheduled from 5th-6th December. During these sessions the concept designs for the two new facilities will be displayed and attendees will be given the opportunity to provide feedback. Details of these events have been published in advance including advertisements in local newspapers, posters and leaflets, social media and the Council website. See Appendix 2 for details.

3.5 Other key stakeholders in each of the areas (i.e. East Belfast Partnership) alongside key user groups such as schools, clubs and community organisations will also be proactively targeted. The consultation plan has previously been presented to the Council’s Equality Forum and it is intended to continue to use this group to identify groups who may require specific workshops or alternative arrangements

3.6 In addition the concept designs will also be presented on the new ‘Citizen Space’ online consultation platform. This will

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ensure that those people who are unable or unwilling to attend one of the information sessions will still have the opportunity to provide feedback.

- 3.7** It is important however for Members to understand that there is very limited opportunity to amend the Stage 2 designs without having a significant impact on the budget and/or programme.

Project level

Whiterock

- 3.8** Members are asked to note that earlier this year a series of leaks from the pool at Whiterock were detected and an invasive structural report was undertaken to determine the cause of the leaks. This report has now been submitted to the Council and has identified that there is corrosion of the pool reinforcement as well as a number of identified leaks linked to the pool drainage channels that is contributing to the corrosion. The report recommended urgent remedial action is undertaken in order to mitigate against the risk of further damage and recommended that the following works are undertaken –

- Minor concrete repairs to the underside of the pool
- Relining of the entire pool drainage channel around the perimeter of the pool including 300mm of the pool bank and pool wall.

- 3.9** The report also recommended that the works are undertaken as quickly as possible to prevent the damage to the pool getting worse. Members are asked to note that it is proposed that these works are undertaken in December. However Members are asked to note that the scope of the works means that there is no alternative but to close the pool in order to facilitate the works and this will require the closure of the pool at Whiterock during the month of December.

- 3.10** It is appreciated that with any closure there will be an inconvenience for users however Members are asked to note that a full business continuity plan is in place for these works and all users have been communicated with since the end of October including swim schools, schools and clubs. Members are also asked to note that the seasonal drop off in usage in December will minimise the impact on users. During the closure period staff will be offered the chance to take leave or work shifts at alternative centres where suitable. Staffing levels will remain compliant with evacuations and operational requirements.

Church Lane

3.11 Members will be aware that works have been progressing on the new state of the art city centre gym at Church Lane and are asked to note that these are due for completion at the end of the month. All Councillors and Active Belfast Board members have been invited to take a first look at the new facility on Wednesday 29th November (5pm-7pm) in advance of the official opening on Tuesday 12th December

3.12 Members are asked to note that this centre will be a best in class facility combining cutting edge technology and state of the art equipment including an innovative functional area using the Prama product which is the first in Northern Ireland and second in U.K. The functional area has interactive floor and walls accompanied by co-ordinated music, lighting and timing to create an immersive experience for users. The centre has cutting edge technology with facial recognition access and will be a cashless operation. In addition in support of cycle to work schemes and the Council's objectives under sustainable transport a safe cycle storage area will provide secure space for 40 bikes at the rear of the building

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.

Stage 2 consultation Avoniel and Templemore – will be covered from the £2m leisure mobilisation budget
Whiterock – to be taken forward under in-year non-recurrent

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Capital Programme Update

The Committee considered 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 Council facilities. This report outlines highlights

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of current status of projects under the Programme; projects recommended to be moved/added to the Capital Programme and a number of project updates.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

General

- Note the update in relation to the Capital Programme as outlined in 3.1 and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital project (section 3.1)

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- Agree that the HLF – City Cemetery project is moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of £620,000 to be allocated (see section 3.3-3.5) – the Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. It is recommended that this is held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending confirmation of funding from the HLF. Members are further asked to 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 advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
- Agree that the following projects are added as Stage 1 – Emerging Projects –
 - Destination Hub/Belfast Story – further detail to be brought back to Committee (section 3.6)
 - Waste Plan – New citywide kerbside collection system – SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.7)
 - Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade - SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.8)
 - Waterfront – New PA system – SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.9)

Project Updates

- Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2018/2019 – note the Fleet Programme for 18/19 (Appendix 1) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects (see 3.10)
- BIF – Colin Glen Trust – approval the submission of the second stage application for a Rural Tourism Project under the Rural Development programme 2014-2020 for an Alpine Coaster in the Colin Glen Forest Park. This follows a successful initial Expression of Interest which was previously agreed by Committee in March 2016. £2.5m has been ringfenced under BIF for the Colin Glen project (see 3.11)

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Council's rolling Capital Programme is a significant programme with over £185m of projects recently completed or currently underway. Members are asked to note the updates under the Capital Programme since the last update report.

Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion

- the £3.7m upgrade of the Tropical Ravine which has been handed over to the C&NS Department – the official opening for this project will take place
- the new £700k Sally Gardens Changing Pavilion which was officially handed over earlier this month – this received match funding from DfC
- New playgrounds at Colin Valley and Blacks Road

Projects currently on the ground

- New 3G pitches and pavilions at Falls Park and Cherryvale as part of the Pitches Strategy
- Works on the new leisure facilities at Andersonstown and Robinson and Phase 2 of works at Olympia
- Environmental upgrades at Falls Park and Skegoneil
- Phase 4 of the citywide alleygating programme

Projects at tender preparation stage

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including the works at the West Wing

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including upgrades at the Cenotaph at the City Hall, Clarendon mini 3G pitch, the baby plot memorial at the City Cemetery and a range of IT projects including a new HR/payroll system

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

3.2 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 on the Capital Programme

Project	Overview	Stage
HLF – City Cemetery	This project, to be delivered in association with the HLF, is designed to maximise the heritage potential of Belfast City Cemetery. The project involves a mixture of capital, restorative, interpretive and promotional works. Funding of £1,687,070 from HLF is being sought Maximum of £620,000 to be allocated - The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending confirmation of funding from HLF
Destination Hub /Belfast Story	The development of a new world class visitor attraction within the city centre Identified within the Belfast Agenda	Add as an Emerging Project
Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system	The implementation of a new city wide kerbside collection scheme for dry recyclables and food waste. Required to help the Council met its challenging recycling targets Identified in the 10 Year Waste Plan agreed by the People and Communities Committee in June 2017	Add as an Emerging Project
Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station	Construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station at the North Foreshore, to accept segregated dry recyclables and food waste from a kerbside sort	Add as an Emerging Project

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upgrade	collection scheme, as well as other associated recyclables. Required to help the Council met its challenging recycling targets Identified in the 10 Year Waste Plan agreed by the People and Communities Committee in June 2017	
Waterfront – Replacement PA system	Replacement Stage PA system Identified as a service need given the age of current PA system	Add as an Emerging Project

Move to Stage 3 – Committed

3.3 HLF – City Cemetery project – Members will recall that in October 2015 they agreed that the HLF – City Cemetery restoration project would be moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted under the Capital Programme. At this stage Members were updated that the Council had been successful in its Stage 1 application for the project under the HLF’s ‘Parks for People’ programme and had been awarded a development grant of £165,000 to work up a Stage 2 proposal. Members are asked to note that since this time officers have been progressing work on the proposal and are now required to submit this by 15th December to meet HLF funding deadlines. This project is designed to maximise the heritage potential of Belfast City Cemetery and protect and preserve it for future generations. To achieve this goal the proposed project has five main elements:

- **Capital - Development of improved visitor/community amenities including a new visitor centre**
- **Restoration - restoration of the key heritage assets (many of which are listed) within the cemetery including the fountains and the steps**
- **Interpretation - Enhancements of the site’s interpretive potential to ensure users are able to gain a fuller understanding of its history and heritage.**
- **Biodiversity - Enhancement of the natural heritage located within the site through various biodiversity related initiatives**
- **Promotion - Maximise footfall through the site by various methods such as the creation and formalisation of a range of cemetery tours, website development, promotional literature, tie in with local tourism/education and community organisations, links with bus and taxi tours etc.**

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- 3.4 Match funding of £1,687,070 from the HLF is being sought towards the project. Members are asked to note that the Council is required to demonstrate its commitment to this project as part of the Stage 2 application to HLF which is due to be submitted by mid- December. It is therefore recommended that the HLF City Cemetery project is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme but that this is recommended to be moved to Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending confirmation of funding from the HLF (likely to be April 2018 before this is known) with a maximum budget of £620,000 to be allocated to the project – this includes £515k of capital costs and £105k of revenue costs. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.**
- 3.5 In addition, Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required.**

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging

- 3.6 Destination Hub/Belfast Story – Members will be aware that the Belfast Agenda sets out the ambition to deliver a second world class visitor attraction to generate additional tourist spend and footfall in the city centre. This was also set out in the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015. In addition, a number of agencies (Arts Council NI, Tourism NI, NI Screen, National Museums NI) have identified the need for additional facilities to support the growth of the cultural and tourism offer in Belfast and NI as a whole. The new Destination Hub/Belfast Story is also an integral underpinning component of the ‘We are 2023’ European Capital of Culture bid. The Destination Hub proposal is for a single site in the city centre incorporating a range of facilities including the ‘Belfast Story’ visitor destination, a Northern Ireland film centre, gallery and exhibition space and a digital media/skills training facility.**

Members will be aware that work has already been undertaken to SOC stage on the Destination Hub proposal and that work is continuing including looking at the identification of potential capital funding sources as well as possible commercial operating models. Members are asked to note that wider discussions around funding are currently being progressed with other government departments and also through the Belfast Region City Deal however given that a

Council capital contribution may ultimately be required it is recommended that this project is added onto the Capital Programme as a Stage 1- Emerging Project.

- 3.7 **Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system** – Members will be aware of that the Council has significant waste targets to meet and as part of this in June 2017 the People and Communities Committee agreed the Council’s 10 Year Waste Framework. This Framework set out the challenging targets which the Council is required to meet in terms of recycling levels including the statutory obligations under the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) aimed at reducing the tonnage of waste disposed of at landfill and achieving a 50% recycling rate by 2020 as well as aiming towards a 65% recycling target by 2030. In addition other legislation such as the Food Waste Regulations (2015) has shifted the dynamics on how waste will be collected and treated. Given this there will be a requirement for capital investment in order to ensure that the Council can meet these challenging targets and one of the options proposed under the Waste Framework is the implementation of a new citywide multi-sort, kerbside collection of dry recyclables and food waste.

Members are asked to note that DAERA is seeking to drive improved recycling performance in order to attain the 50% recycling rate for NI by 2020 as required under the EU Waste Framework Directive. It is supportive of the above proposed new kerbside system and is in the process of determining the level of financial support available to Councils which embrace segregated waste collection arrangements. It should be noted that the window of opportunity in terms of the funding arrangements with DAERA is likely to be extremely tight and **it is therefore recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme as an Emerging Project with further detail to be worked up and brought back to Committee in due course for consideration.**

- 3.8 **Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade** – The Council currently relies heavily upon the private waste management sector to store, treat and dispose of its waste and the Waste Plan therefore identified as a priority the need for increased self-sufficiency for the Council. Related to the above proposed project Members are asked to note that the challenging recycling targets and the proposed implementation of a new city-wide kerbside collection system will have an impact on the Council’s current waste infrastructure. The Waste Plan therefore identified a potential expansion and improvement to the waste facilities at the North Foreshore involving the construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station (WTS) for segregated materials arising from the proposed change to

kerbside collection schemes and any associated recyclables which may arise from further segregation of the residual waste stream. Members are asked to note that the development of a new Waste Transfer Station will also provide additional capacity and contingency arrangements in the event of an unplanned closure of one of the bays in the existing WTS. It is therefore recommended that this project is now added to the Capital Programme as an Emerging Project with further detail to be worked up and brought back to Committee in due course for consideration. Members are asked to note that it is recommended that the Waste Plan replaces the proposed Recycling Centre No.5 project which is currently on the capital programme as the overall waste infrastructure requirements will emanate from the Waste Framework.

- 3.9 Waterfront and Ulster Hall – Replacement PA System – Members are asked to note that the current Stage PA system within the Waterfront is 19 years old having been in place since the Waterfront was originally opened. Members will be aware of the significant investment which has been undertaken in the Waterfront, in both the new conference facilities and in upgrading the existing facility to be on an equal par with the new extension which has helped to underpin the stated ambition for the Waterfront to be one of the world's leading conference and exhibition facilities. However, there have been a range of technological advances since the original PA system was installed and as a result the system is no longer 'fit for purpose' and no longer meets the required specification for a large number of promoters and has no appeal to promoters who choose to tour with alternative equipment. In addition, the sound quality has deteriorated over the years and some seating areas are not adequately covered by the system and when in use require augmentation by an additional PA system which has an associated cost. It should be highlighted that complaints have been received from members of the public and from promoters due to the quality of the sound and the existing system. Members should note that the ageing nature of the system means that there is a greater risk of failure and that maintenance costs are also high. It is therefore recommended that options for a replacement PA system are investigated and that this project is placed as an Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme with further details to be brought back to Members in due course.

Project Updates

- 3.10 Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2018-2019 – Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. In March 2013

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SP&R agreed to allocate £1.9m towards the Fleet Programme for 2018-2019. Members are asked to note that the Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation. Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2018/2019 (see Appendix 1) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated with the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects.

- 3.11 **BIF – Colin Glen Forest Park – Rural Development Programme application** – Members will recall that £2.5m has been ringfenced under BIF for a project in the Colin Glen Forest Park. In March 2016 Members approved the submission of an Expression of Interest application for a Rural Tourism Project under the Rural Development programme 2014-2020 to fund an Alpine Coaster in the Colin Glen Forest Park. Members are asked to note that this initial application has been successful and that a second stage application is now required. Members are asked to agree that the Council, on behalf of the Colin Glen Trust, take this application forward.

3.12 **Financial & Resource Implications**

Financial –The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that the HLF City Cemetery project which is recommended to move to Stage 3 (as outlined in 3.3) is within the affordability limits of the Council – given that this is subject to external funding it is recommended that this is held as a Scheme at Risk.

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 & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.

3.13 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations set out in the report.

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Area Working Update

Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the South Area Working Group of 25th October; the West Area Working Group of 26th October; the North Area Working Group of 31st October; and the East Area Working Group of 15th November.

Local Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendations from the South Area Working Group as set out below in respect of the £20,000 underspend of the previous SLIF2 – 12 project:

Project	LIF Allocation	Notes
SLIF2-04 – SOLAS	Additional £10,000	Previous allocation - £100,000 Total new allocation - £110,000
SLIF2-05 - Sandy Row Orange Hall	Additional £10,000	Previous allocation - £100,000 Total new allocation - £110,000

The Committee agreed to the recommendation from the East Area working Group in respect of the previous ELIF2 – 10, that is, that the award to Dundela F.C. of £135,000 towards the development of a new 3G pitch, including floodlighting and spectator stand, be used for the floodlighting element of the project.

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee approved the recommendation from the North Area Working Group as set out below:

Project	Current Stage	New Stage
BIF34 - Old Grove – Basement Youth Club	Stage 1 – Emerging	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted Further detail to be brought back to the AWG in due course

Asset Management

Clarendon Development Association - Licence

The Committee approved the recommendation of the People and Communities Committee of 9th May, 2017 to the Council entering into a 10 year licence agreement with Clarendon Development Association to permit the locating of a modular building on Council land adjacent to the existing pitches and include with it access and key holding arrangements.

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**Proposed Surrender of Lease and Sub Lease at
19 Greenway, Cregagh Road**

The Committee approved:

- (i) The surrender of the 99 year lease from NIHE to the council for premises at No. 19 Greenway, Cregagh Road; and
- (ii) Approved the termination of the 15 year sub-lease from the Council to the Greenway Women's Group for the premises at No. 19 Greenway, Cregagh Road.

Belfast Transport Hub – Transfer of Lands

The Committee approved:

- (i) The grant of a licence on lands as outlined in the report for periods between one and three years, subject to a fee of £22,000 per annum. These lands would be used for builder's compounds for the duration of the works; and
- (ii) The transfer of lands, as outlined at Appendix 2 to the report, to NITHCo, subject to a consideration of £10,000 to facilitate the construction of a 3rd railway line.

**Radius Housing Association – Grant of Licence
and Easement Agreement**

The Committee agreed that the Council enter into a Licence and Easement Agreement with Radius House Association to facilitate the installation and subsequent maintenance of a mains water pipe supplying the new sports pavilion adjoining the Sally Gardens Community Centre.

Park and Ride, Dargan Road

The Committee approved the request from the Department for Infrastructure to construct and operate a temporary Park and Ride facility on Council-owned land at Dargan Road; and consented to further discussion with the Department for a short-term Lease. The Committee noted that any discussions with the Department would be on a without prejudice basis and the terms of any proposed lease would be brought back to the Committee for approval. This would include the suspension of the current site marketing exercise to facilitate the Department for Infrastructure requirement.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 6th November, 2017:

- To note the update on Peace IV.
- To note the list of 42 organisations as outlined, which had been approved for funding totalling £22,647.50 through the St Patrick's Day Celebration

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Grants Scheme under the delegated authority of the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.

- To endorse the funding allocations and additional work under the Expression of Interest exercise regarding developing shared space at the local level and approve the cost outlined for the additional work in relation to the relocation of an artwork to the shared community space at the ABC Health and Leisure Trust (Ardoyne).
- To invite the International Fund for Ireland to present its findings on the Peace Walls Programme Attitudinal Survey to a future meeting; and
- That the relevant Council officers be asked to do an update presentation in respect of the Local Development Plan within the context of Good Relations to a future meeting.
- To note the update on the Decade of Centenaries Programme as agreed by Council in November 2017.
- To approve the commissioning of research on the experience of the Muslim community in Belfast.
- To approve the hosting of two events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day as part of the Good Relations Unit's Diversecity Programme and note that the Good Relations Unit had developed a small Holocaust Memorial Display which would be located in the City Hall.
- To invite representatives from East Belfast Community Development Association and NICRAS to a future meeting of the Partnership to present on their work.
- Through the Good Relations Action Plan, approve funding of up to £5,000.00 to reimage a mural at Bradbury Place (the men heading to the shipyard); and up to £2000.00 be allocated to the erection of a mental health mural on the upper Springfield Road at Whiterock to counter local graffiti.

City Hall Exhibition Refresh Policy

The City Solicitor reminded the Committee that, at the time agreements had been made by Members in respect of the City Hall Exhibition, a paper had been tabled seeking agreement in terms of a process for future revisions to the exhibition. He reported that the draft agreement as set out below reflected the principles shared between the parties in reaching agreement on establishing the exhibition and those principles were extended in respect of any proposals for any future changes. The proposed arrangements for revision included proposals for mediation in respect of any revision to the exhibition which might be politically contentious. It was pointed out that the agreement applied also to the East Lobby, a flexible exhibition space:

Appendix

Memorabilia Refresh Policy

The parties agree to the following principles on the display of memorabilia in the dedicated exhibition space and further agree that any decision on revising or amending the content of any display or narratives associated with the exhibition for the future will respect the principles so agreed-

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- 1. The display will reflect a fair balance of the traditions and history of the two predominant communities in N Ireland. This is without prejudice to any proposals to include material that might not have such an association or is otherwise uncontroversial.**
- 2. The display of material will have an association with the Citizens, City or district of Belfast.**
- 3. Material removed from any part of the exhibition with an association with a community must be replaced with material having the same community association, unless otherwise agreed between the parties.**
- 4. Narratives will be neutral reflecting a factual position and will not seek to promote or criticise any political party, view or tradition.**
- 5. Material relocated from the Rotunda and placed on display in the exhibition space will not be removed from the exhibition space unless otherwise agreed by the parties.**

Without prejudice to the above principles, the parties agree to the following default arrangement with regard to decisions on revision and future content of the exhibition-

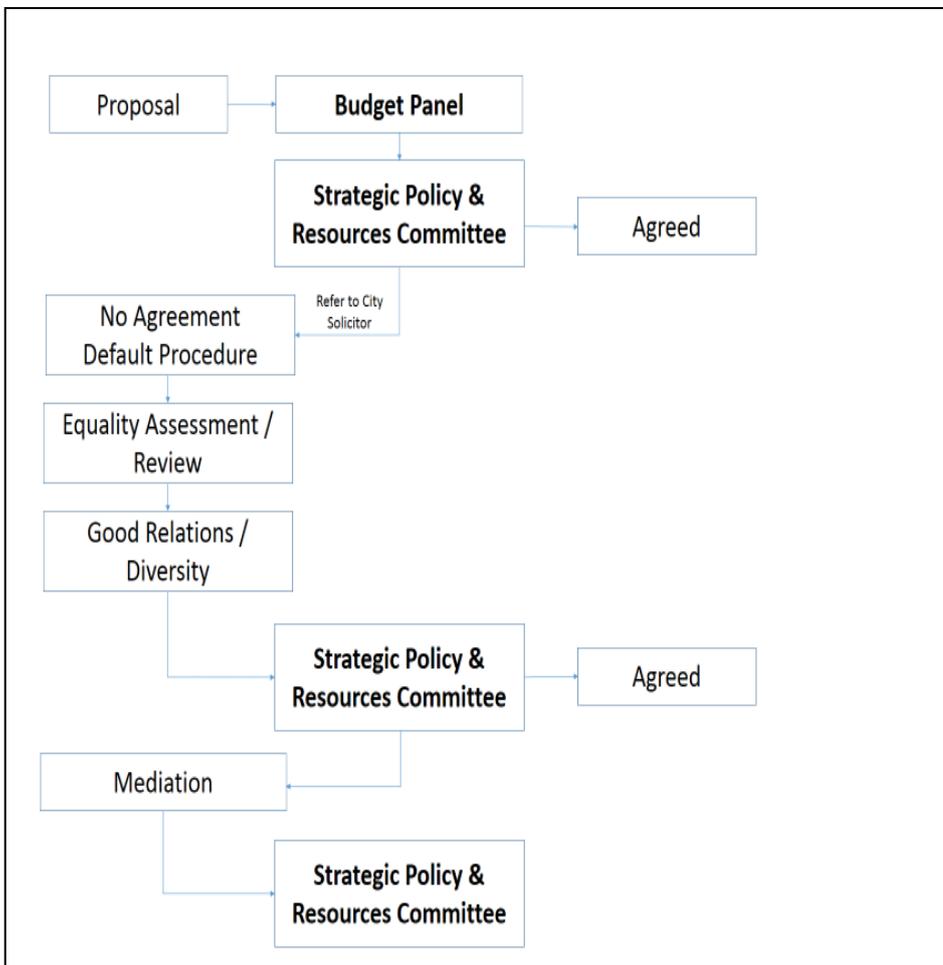
- A. Any proposals will be referred to the City Solicitor who will commission an assessment of the impact of such proposals in terms of equality and good relations impact.**
- B. The proposals and report dealing with the impacts will be referred to the Shared City Partnership for comment.**
- C. The matter will then be reported to SP&R. The parties agree to address issues within the spirit of this agreement and to work toward reformulating such proposals, if required, to take account of any identified impacts and the views expressed by the Shared City Partnership.**
- D. In default of agreement the parties agree that the proposals will be subject to mediation.**

Mediation will take place facilitated by an independent senior legally qualified member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Service. Mediation will take no longer than 4 weeks. In the event that mediation has not been successful in formulating a proposal with which the parties agree, the proposal will be referred back to SP&R for consideration and decision.

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The parties concur that this agreement creates a legitimate expectation that each will respect the principles upon which it is based and that they will work to resolve issues generally and in the manner set out. The parties accept that a failure to work and produce outcomes within the spirit and principles of this agreement may form the basis of a call-in in the context of Section 41 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and that this agreement will be material to consideration of such issues and/or in relation to any complaint made to the Equality Commission alleging breach of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (NI) 1998.

Summary of Memorabilia Refresh Process



The Committee approved the refresh policy, subject to point 5 being replaced with the following

“Material relocated from elsewhere in the City Hall for display in the exhibition space is defined as part of the permanent exhibition.”

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Operational Issues

Lord Mayor – Strong Cities Network, Washington January 2018

The Committee was advised that the Lord Mayor had received an invitation, via the US Consul General, from the US Department of State and the British Embassy in London, to attend a Strong Cities Network international mayoral workshop on 24th January, 2018 in Washington.

The Committee was advised that the international mayoral workshop, hosted by the US Department of State, would be held on the margins of the US Conference of Mayors' 86th Winter Meeting. Other attendees would include a high powered delegation of British mayors/city executives, potentially including London, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Glasgow.

Since 2015, the Strong Cities Network had united city and community leaders in a global network with the mission of building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms. It was hoped that further engagement between American and UK mayors, municipal level policy makers, practitioners and Strong Cities Network counterparts would enhance the common efforts to make cities safer, become a more secure and more prosperous.

The Committee authorised the attendance of the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive (or nominee), at the Strong Cities Network International mayoral workshop in Washington DC on 24th January, 2018 and the expenditure in connection with the visit.

Minutes of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board but requested that it consider deferring implementing the new pricing structure until Parties had been made aware of the proposed changes.

Minutes of the Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 17th November.

Minutes of the Meeting of Historic Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Historic Working Group of 2nd November.

Request for the Use of the Banqueting Hall

The Committee was advised that, last month, the Lord Mayor had hosted a Parent and Toddler event in the Reception Room, City Hall. In light of its success, she was proposing to hold further meetings during the remainder of her term in Office and was suggesting that they could be held in the Banqueting Hall, to allow for increased participation from across the city. It was proposed that an event be held each month from

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December, 2017 until May, 2018, with the exact dates being dependent upon the availability of the room. Each event would last for approximately 3 hours and would include time to set up and dismantle any equipment used.

The Committee authorised the use by the Lord Mayor of the Banqueting Hall to hold a monthly Parent and Toddler event, with any hire fees of the hall to be waived and any additional expenditure for the event to be met from the Lord Mayor's Entertainment Allowance.

Requests for 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 for the provision of hospitality as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
Moment Health	30 November 2107	Lean in Belfast all Together Reception with speakers and food for guests from technology industry from France, Germany and USA. Numbers Attending - 200	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	No	Already approved under Director Delegated authority
Royal Mail	Jan – May 2018 TBC	Pride Postbox and Drinks Reception – helping to promote diversity in Belfast and linking in with other Pride events. Multi-coloured post box in city hall for staff and public use. Numbers Attending – 100 /300 tbc	Yes D	No – linked to Belfast Agenda	No as commercial company	Approve No charge No hospitality
SANDS – Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Charity	January 2018	Still Parents Remembrance service and reception for bereaved parents to celebrate the lives of the children and mourn their	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and coffee reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		deaths. Numbers Attending – 100				
Justice and Peace Europe	10 February 2018	European Conference of Justice and Peace Commissions – reception and dinner to promote Belfast and coordinate the role in societal and human right Numbers Attending – 30 / 40	Yes A, B & D	No (Charity)	No – small reception	Approve No charge No hospitality
Queens University Belfast	19 February 2018	Recomposing the City reception – launch with canapés and wine for a guide for urban planners in Belfast and NI. Numbers Attending - 100	Yes A & B	Yes Charge £300	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve £300 Wine Reception
Association of Talking Newspapers	16 April 2018	Launch of Talking Newspapers Video – celebrating and promoting this service to those who struggle to physically read newspapers themselves. Numbers Attending - 150	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast County Guides	3 May 2018	Girl Guiding Awards – Annual event to celebrate the achievements of local children and adults involved in the organization.	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
		Numbers Attending - 250				
Chartered Accountants Ireland	17 May 2018	Chartered Accountants Ireland Past Presidents Dinner and drinks reception for Past Presidents and members. Numbers Attending - 150	Yes A & B 1 in 3 rule	Yes Charge £300	No	Approve 1 in 3 year rule applied Charge £300 No Hospitality
Belfast HSC Trust	5 June 2018	Belfast Trust Volunteer Recognition Reception – refreshments, speeches and presentation to volunteers of the Trust. Numbers Attending - 140	Yes C & D	Yes Charge £300	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve Charge £300 Tea and Coffee Reception
Queens University Belfast Centre for Secure Technologies	29 August 2018	International Privacy, Security and Trust Conference 2018 – Reception, Tour and dinner for delegates of 3-day conference. Numbers Attending - 150	Yes A	Yes Charge £300	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve £300 Wine Reception
Royal College of Midwives	30 November 2018	Royal College of Midwives Gala Dinner – Centenary celebration celebrating the Midwives (Ireland) Act 1918 Numbers Attending – 200	Yes C	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
European Political Science Association	21 st June 2019	Annual Conference Welcome Reception – Networking event for the 3-day conference being held at QUB exploring the teaching of Politics. Numbers Attending – 600	Yes A & B	No – bid supported by Visit Belfast	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception

Minutes of the Meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group of 20th November.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Cash Flow for Events - Councillor McVeigh

Councillor McVeigh referred to a previous decision of the Committee at its meeting on 20th October when it had rejected a request from Féile an Phobail for the Council to cash flow a proportion of up-front costs for its 30th anniversary birthday event. He requested that the Committee rescind its previous decision in relation to the establishment of a cash flow facility for events and proposed the following:

- (1) The Council agrees to set up a pilot cash flow facility of up to £600k to support the delivery of one-off arts and festival events across the city with arts and cultural organisations the Council already funds through other grants schemes. The facility will be published on the Council's website. Each request will be subject to appropriate due diligence including an assessment of the contribution, of the event to the artistic and cultural life of the city. The facility will be managed in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.
- (2) At any one time the total commitment of any such facilities will not exceed £600K.
- (3) The pilot scheme will be reviewed to see how it has impacted on artistic and cultural development, economic and tourist development in Belfast.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Beattie.

The Director of Finance and Resources and the City Solicitor then answered a number of questions in relation to the proposal.

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Amendment

Moved by Councillor Craig,
Seconded by Alderman Spence,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter to enable a report to be submitted setting out, in particular, the legal and financial issues, and the objective criteria on which any decision on whether the Council would give such a facility to a particular organisation would be based.

On a recorded vote eight Members voted for the amendment and ten against and it was declared lost.

<u>For 8</u>	<u>Against 10</u>
The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire), Aldermen Browne, Convery, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Graham, Craig and Hutchinson	Councillors Hargey, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Long, McDonough- Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill and Walsh

The original proposer standing in the name of Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Beattie was put to the meeting.

On a recorded vote, ten members voted for the proposal, seven against, with one no vote and the proposal was accordingly declared carried.

<u>For 10</u>	<u>Against 7</u>	<u>No Vote 1</u>
Councillors Hargey, Attwood, Beattie, Campbell, Corr, Long, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, O'Neill and Walsh	The High Sheriff (Alderman Haire); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Rodgers and Spence; and Councillors Graham and Craig	Councillor Hutchinson

Chairperson