

# City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 11th April, 2018

## MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Howard;  
Aldermen Haire, Kingston and McGimpsey; and  
Councillors Beattie, Dorrian, Dudgeon,  
Graham, Hargey, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle,  
Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;  
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Regeneration  
and Development; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Boyle, Mullan and Walsh.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 7th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 9th April.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. John Greer to his first meeting of the Committee following his recent appointment as the Director of Economic Development.

### **Presentations**

#### **Oxford Innovation Limited and Performance Update**

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Ms. Anna McDonnell, Centre Manager at the Innovation Factory, and Dr. Majella Barkley, Innovation Director at Oxford Innovation, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

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Ms. McDonnell explained to the Committee that the Innovation Factory (IF) was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland, and that it was a £9.1million investment by the Council, Invest NI and the European Regional Development Fund. She outlined the outcomes for the Innovation Factory, which included accelerating business innovation and growth, attracting inward investment from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and stimulating further development.

The Members were advised that the IF provided small businesses and start-ups with a flexible space to work and grow. She explained that a one size fits all approach did not work and that they therefore offered shared and private offices, virtual office packages, co-working membership, a business lounge, meeting and conference space and business innovation and growth services.

She stated that Oxford Innovation had been managing Innovation Centres for thirty years and managed a network of 24 centres throughout England. In relation to the sector mix of customers in the Belfast IF, she outlined that the majority were from the creative/digital and the financial/professional services sectors.

The Committee was advised that they had achieved a higher occupancy rate than they had targeted and that they were on target to reach 55% occupancy by the end of 2018. Ms. McDonnell also highlighted that the Innovation Factory's income was 7% ahead of the end of year target.

Dr. Barkley provided the Committee with an overview of the Innovation Factory's performance during 2017/2018, where it had exceeded all targets, and also of its targets for 2018/2019. She also provided the Members with examples of successful customers which had grown their business ideas with the help of the Innovation Factory.

A number of Members stated that they had visited the Innovation Factory and that they were very impressed with the building and with the Factory's performance so far.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the performance of the Innovation Factory since its opening in September 2016 and agreed the direction of travel for the 2018/2019 business plan which was presented by Oxford Innovation.

**Restricted Item**

**City Animation and Meanwhile Projects**

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development provided the Committee with an overview of proposals to animate the city centre, and the intention to proceed with a procurement process for organisations to deliver projects at locations in Castle Street and its environs and in North Street. She outlined that the Council would also seek to coordinate with other similar projects at Hope Street and the Titanic Quarter

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During discussion, a number of Members suggested ideas which the officers could consider.

The Committee:

1. noted the ongoing activity to deliver city animation projects in the city centre by the Council and other bodies; and
2. agreed the approach set out in the report, and that officers would proceed with the procurement of organisations to deliver city animation projects at Castle Street and its environs and North Street.

**Request to Present**

**Project Hope and Transport Hub Alternatives Group**

The Committee acceded to requests from Project Hope and the Transport Hub Alternatives Group to present at a future meeting.

**Growing Businesses and the Economy**

**Working and Learning – Update**

(Mrs. L. Toland, Head of Economic and International Development, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed programme of work to be delivered in the current financial year as part of the Committee’s ambitions to support delivery of the targets under two of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda: Working and Learning and Growing the Economy. The work programme is in line with the direction of travel which was presented to and approved by this Committee on 7 March 2018, as well as input from Members into the Employability and Skills proposals as part of the Committee workshop on 21 February 2018. If all targets are met, this activity will support the creation of 1664 jobs.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Approve the 2018/19 Work Plan to support the delivery of the Working and Learning and Growing the Economy strands of the Belfast Agenda, as set out in sections**

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3.4-3.10 and detailed in Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov)

- Approve applications to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for new programme activity including the Kick Start Programme, Digital Transformation Programme, Go Social Programme and Procurement Support Programme as detailed on modern.gov
- Agree to the development of partnership structures within the Working and Learning work streams for Employability & Skills to facilitate the delivery of priority actions where there is alignment of purpose and where there is an opportunity to share resources, therefore increasing ability to achieve outcomes more cost-efficiently.

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1** Members will recall that, on 7 March 2018, a paper was presented to this Committee identifying the priority activities to be delivered in 2018/2019 as part of the Committee's ambitions to support the delivery of the targets under two of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda: Working and Learning and Growing the Economy. At that Committee, it was agreed that a follow-up paper would be presented to the April 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee outlining specific details of activities. This report contains a series of more detailed propositions to secure Member approval for the work programme for the coming financial year. A summary of the key work streams, along with associated programmes, outcomes and assigned budgets for the 2018/19 financial year is available to view on modern.gov.

**3.2** As detailed in the March 2018 Committee Report, our investments continue to be driven by the principle of Inclusive Growth and underpinned by a series of guiding principles. In terms of Inclusive Growth, in practice this means:

- Building linkages with employers that are committed to providing opportunities for long-term unemployed/economically inactive and supporting career progression
- Providing up-skilling support for those already in work – especially those in entry-level roles
- Ensuring that regeneration activity benefits local communities in terms of job creation, improvement in public realm and training opportunities
- Addressing barriers to employment such as transport, access and childcare

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- Supporting business development and growth for local companies – helping them grow and improve their productivity.

**3.3 The guiding principles that direct how and where we focus our resources include:**

- **Employment/enterprise-led:** focusing upon identified employment/ enterprise opportunities and gaps in provision;
- **Needs-led:** in order to deliver against the principles of Inclusive Growth, targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or under-represented groups while being accessible and open to all;
- **Ambitious:** to increase visibility and awareness of Council’s role within this environment and strategically build our position in this area;
- **Intelligence-led and evidence-based:** ensuring that our investment is based on a sound rationale;
- **Adding value:** ensuring we do not duplicate existing provision;
- **Flexible:** allowing for interventions to be developed around emerging market needs/opportunities; and
- **Scalable:** delivered seamlessly across the City, in line with need and opportunity – trying out new solutions on a pilot basis and increasing their coverage, if they have a positive impact.

**3.4 Work Plan 2018/19: Working and Learning**

The detailed work plan is included in Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov). It includes information on the range of activities to be supported in the course of the year, in line with the paper presented to the Committee in March 2018. Against each activity, details of participant numbers, job outcomes and other relevant outcomes are set out. Financial information for the proposed expenditure in 2018/19 is also detailed. Please note that the figures in the appendix may vary from those set out below as the figures below are for the whole programme of activity, which may run more than one financial year, while the figures in Appendix 1 detail outcome and expenditure for the 2018/19 financial year only. Some of the highlights under the ‘Working and Learning’ theme include:

- **Employment Academies:** These employer-led programmes focus on supporting those furthest from the labour market. The Academies work by adding value to existing training provision. In addition to the Hotel, Construction and Hospitality Employment

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**Academies which were delivered in 2017/18, a series of new sectors being explored and developed include Tourism, Transport, Public Sector, Retail, Childminding, Domiciliary Care, Advanced Manufacturing and Creative and Digital Industries. Work is under way at present to establish strategic partnerships with employers in these sectors to understand their recruitment requirements and put in place programmes to meet their needs. While the focus will continue to be on the economically inactive, the interventions may evolve to consider upskilling support – helping individuals to move into higher-level jobs. Critically, the higher level Academies will be informed by the intelligence gathered within our Graduate Research, which is due to complete in April 2018. This is likely to include bespoke Academies for both unemployed graduates as well as upskilling Academies for graduates who are under-employed to facilitate career progression. The Academies delivered by the Council in the coming year will support at least 350 new jobs**

- In keeping with the Belfast Agenda commitment to ensure that ‘every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential’, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee last year approved the commissioning of research to look at the employability and skills requirements to enable the Council and its partners to meet this commitment – under the heading of the ‘City Youth Pledge’. The research will be complete in April 2018. The research has identified a number of challenges and gaps that are acting as barriers to ensuring that young people have access to the guidance and information to make informed choices regarding their education, training and employment options. These gaps include the lack of meaningful work experience, inconsistent quality of careers advice and guidance, disjoints between different statutory stakeholders, competition for young people amongst schools and further education providers etc. It is therefore expected that activities informed by this research will include improving access to work experience and intensive careers interventions in schools and alternative education providers. Activities going forward will also include the development of strategic relationships with statutory stakeholders to improve access to good quality and independent careers guidance on the full range of options available to young people (from school-based**

curriculum offer to vocational training and apprenticeship/higher level apprenticeships opportunities to employment options). It is likely that the research will also identify innovative early interventions for those young people who are at risk of dropping out of the education system as well as those who are not in education, training or employment. The development, implementation and delivery costs of this activity are expected to be £130,000 in 2018/19. It is estimated that 600 young people will be engaged and provided with opportunities to enhance their employability, skills levels and educational attainment under the auspices of the City Youth Pledge

- Match funding support for five European Social Fund (ESF) projects (Springboard, Workforce Learning, USEL, Specialisterne and LEMIS + consortium), as agreed at the 7 March 2018 Council meeting. The council's match funding is £240,000 each year for four years (subject to satisfactory performance) and Urban Villages (UV) have also provided £75,518 towards a number of those projects that are delivering activity in UV areas. In total, these projects will attract £5.4 million of funding over each year of operation. They will support 2,664 people who are unemployed or economically inactive by removing barriers to employment and enhance their employability and skills levels. Of these 2,664 participants each year, 616 people will find a job and a further 219 will progress to further education at Level 2 or above. Collectively, these participants will achieve 1,825 accreditations. In order to ensure that these projects are focused on areas of most need, Officers will gather participant and employment information at postcode level and will overlay that information with other information including deprivation levels, skills levels, poverty levels etc.
- Supporting and facilitating Jobs Fairs and career development events including Skills NI Careers Fair, aimed at young people aged 15-19, and The Belfast Jobs Fair in partnership with Department for Communities. The costs associated with these events will not exceed £20,000.
- Targeted support to ensure that under-represented groups including those in areas of highest deprivation and economically inactive are engaged and barriers to participation are removed (lone parents, those with

disabilities and health conditions, economically inactive, ethnic minorities, older people etc.). The development, implementation and delivery costs of this activity are expected to be £45,000 within 2018/19. It is estimated that 300 people furthest from the labour market will be engaged and provided with opportunities to remove barriers to participation on Council's Employability & Skills activities, such as financial support for childcare/care to enable those with caring responsibilities to access Employment Academies and other employability interventions, interpretation services and support for ethnic minorities etc.

- Establishment of an Employability Forum: this will bring together the key statutory partners including Department for Communities (DfC), Department for the Economy (DfE), Department of Education/Education Authority and private sector employers. The purpose of the forum is to improve the integration of current interventions to improve skills levels and address economic inactivity challenges in Belfast. There may also be an opportunity to pilot localised approaches to mainstream programme delivery. In the medium-term, there will be an opportunity to consider joint approaches to future delivery, potentially including co-commissioning of flagship Employability and Skills programmes such as Steps to Success, Apprenticeship NI etc.
- In collaboration with partners from the five neighbouring councils, support the development of the Employability & Skills strand of the Belfast Region City Deal. This activity has the potential to lever an additional £25million over the next 10 years. Work is under way to identify priority areas of activity and associated employment and skills development targets and potential outcomes.
- Working with the Council's Planning and Building Control Team to explore the potential for using Developer Contributions to lever resources and private sector buy-in to the Working and Learning activity.
- Undertake research, gather intelligence and scope innovative approaches to address gaps within Employability & Skills provision within the city with a view to piloting during 2018/19 such as:

- **Apprentice+ which would enable those over 25 years old to access an apprenticeship programme**
- **Training for Success+ which would enable those over 18 years old who could not access Training for Success to avail of the supports available with this programme, for example those who were in prison at 16-18 years old and missed out on the supports provided**
- **A Shared Apprenticeships Scheme for Belfast which ensures that skilled trade apprentices are assured of continuous employment to enable the completion of their Apprenticeship NI training**
- **Paid Internships for economically inactive who might consider to start their own business and become self-employed.**

**3.5 Work Plan 2018/19: Growing the Economy Starting a Business**

- **Enterprise Awareness and exploring enterprise support: promoting entrepreneurship to individuals from under-represented groups to help them understand and overcome the barriers to starting a business or finding work as well as working with individuals who are unemployed who want to find out about self-employment, explore or research a business idea. Activity will commence in May 2018, and will be aligned with the Employability and Skills work to support underrepresented groups and those experiencing specific barriers. Up to £101,000 will be allocated to this work this year;**
- **Graduate Enterprise Initiative: providing flexible support to student entrepreneurs in local academic institutions. Up to 80 students will have the opportunity to receive support through the programme. 10 graduates will receive financial support in the form of a salary grant to pursue and start their business. This initiative will commence in September 2018 with an annual cost of £200,000, £150,000 of which will be leveraged from Invest NI. Each participant will qualify for £15,000 to support them during the first 12 months of starting their business;**
- **Kick Start: aims to increase business survival rates by adding value to the Northern Ireland Business Start-up Programme (NIBSUP) through practical support and aftercare mentoring. A funding application to lever ERDF resources to support this programme will be submitted and if successful, the programme will**

commence in early 2019. The programme will be delivered over a four year period costing £60,000 per year (ERDF/Invest NI £48,000, Belfast City Council £12,000). A total of 300 businesses will be supported over 4 years through this programme with 240 jobs created;

- **Go Social: programme to support the development of new social enterprises and co-operatives in the city to build upon the success of the current Go Social programme, which is due to complete in June 2019. This programme is currently undergoing the ERDF application process and is expected to commence in early 2019 to be delivered over four years at an annual cost of £90,000 (ERDF/Invest NI £72,000, Belfast City Council £18,000) – A total of 240 social enterprises/cooperatives will be supported over 4 years with 255 jobs created;**
- **The Northern Ireland Female Enterprise Challenge - A collaborative programme between the 11 Local Councils, Invest NI, and Women in Business NI (WIB) to promote and support female enterprise. This programme will be part-funded by Invest NI (£200,000), WIB (£200,000), and 11 Councils (£200,000) over a three-year period. This initiative aims to promote female enterprise, increase the numbers of women considering starting a business and encourage existing female entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The cost to Belfast City Council for one year of delivery is £6,200. This will be supported via a funding agreement with the lead council.**

### **3.6 Growing a Business**

- **Digital Transformation Programme: providing support to businesses to implement digital technology – aligned to the new investment in infrastructure as part of the Smart Belfast activity. This programme will commence in January 2019 and will lever ERDF and Invest NI funding. The total programme cost will be £80,900 per year (ERDF/INI £71,920, BCC £17,980). A total of 320 businesses will be supported over 4 years through this programme with 360 jobs created;**
- **Procurement Programme: support to enhance skills in tendering for SMEs, social enterprises and co-operatives. This intervention will enable participants to secure new business development opportunities**

through public procurement as well as wider supply chain development opportunities. An application for support to fund this programme through ERDF funds is currently being made. The programme is expected to commence in 2019 to be delivered over for years at an annual cost of £60,000 (ERDF/Invest NI £48,000, Belfast City Council £12,000). A total of 160 businesses over 4 years will be supported through this programme with approximately 134 jobs created;

- **Cyber Security Programme – Delivered via a funding agreement with CSIT (Centre for Secure Information Technologies). This programme arises from the NI Cyber Security Strategy for NI, which the Council supported. Part of this programme will test the resilience of local businesses against cyber attacks and support them to improve areas of weakness. The budget for this programme is £21,000. There will also be a Cyber Challenge to maintain innovation in this sector which will support one or two businesses through open competition to develop their new Cyber Security Solution. The budget for this element of the programme is £24,000.**
  
- **Creative and Music Development Programme: Officers will be procuring for the delivery of support for the city’s creative and digital industries. This will include Output Music Development Programme and Conference for activity over 3 years at a cost of £50,000 (per year). Complementary to this will be a programme for creative convergence (music/digital/tech) as part of the city’s Smart City Framework, delivered in the Immersive Lab, estimated at £20,000 per year;**
  
- **In partnership with the Council’s Waste Team, Officers are currently working on developing a Circular Economy Challenge to encourage furniture design students to develop a more circular economy approach to furniture design. We are also working with 10 hospitality businesses to develop Circular Economy practices. The total cost of these interventions is £20,000;**
  
- **We are working with the advanced engineering sector to deliver a support programme to support 12 businesses at a cost of £30,000;**
  
- **Innovation Factory (IF) currently supports 33 tenant businesses and engages 120 businesses per annum on**

their tailored support programmes. The centre currently supports 138 jobs. A separate report relating to IF performance is tabled to Committee for information.

**3.7 Investing in Belfast**

- As detailed in the International Relations Paper tabled to City Growth and Regeneration last month Members will recall the recommendation of a lead development agency for the finance and professional services sector to position Belfast in London and Dublin as an integrated solution for business relocation set up at a cost of £40,000 per year contracted for 2+1 years (subject to satisfactory performance). This will also provide support for indigenous businesses in this sector to develop their UK and ROI partnerships to expand the business as well as profiling Belfast as a dynamic investment location for this sector.

**3.8 City Centre Development**

- Festive Lighting – Officers are developing a design-led approach to festive lighting to consider improvements to city centre lighting as a longer-term project. The cost for this work to shape future direction is approximately £30,000. Additional funding for the delivery of the overall scheme will be levered from the private sector, DfC and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

**3.9 Marketing and Promotional Support**

In order to promote the Council programmes and activities and maximise take-up it is proposed that a budget of £80,000 is set aside to promote the range of activities identified above. Working in conjunction with the Corporate Communications Team and the Departmental Communications Support, this is likely to involve a range of print media, PR and social media. While there is an extensive range of programme support available to individuals seeking employment or waiting to start or grow a business, the marketing message will be simplified and, once the individual or company makes contact with the Council, we will direct them towards the support that meets their needs.

- 3.10** The Belfast Agenda emphasises the importance of partnership working and collaboration towards common goals and outcomes. There are opportunities for targeted support in the Council's economic development and

employability and skills activity by engaging with key events and conferences. It is proposed that a budget of up to £70,000 is set aside for this activity in the coming financial year. The over-riding principle of this support is that the Council will financially support events, conferences, fairs and programmes delivered by our third-party stakeholders working with our target clients where our support and input can create a referral onto the Council's programmes and where the Council's ambitions and interventions can be profiled to key target audiences.

### **3.11 Performance Measurement and Evaluation**

To independently measure and evaluate Development Department's performance across the Growing the Economy and Working & Learning work streams detailed in this report Officers wish to adopt an independent evaluation approach to verify outcomes on an annual basis. Evaluation and reporting will be undertaken over a four-year period aligned to the Belfast Agenda stretch goals. The approach will include participant and customer surveys, focus groups and telephone surveys. It is anticipated that there will be an annual performance review report with key recommendations and findings. This will be supplemented by a six monthly progress status report which will be tabled to Committee for information. The business programmes and initiatives delivered by Innovation Factory will also be evaluated through this commission. This evaluation will provide a full measure of the economic performance of the service areas and value for money assessments. The cost of this service will be a maximum of £30,000 per year over a 4 year evaluation period.

### **3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

The activities outlined in this report and work-plan attached as Annex 1 will be resourced from the set 18/19 financial budget for the Economic Development and Employability & Skills sections of Development Department budget.

### **3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. New projects or service areas are equality screened and considerations given to equality and good relation impacts at the initial stages of project development. Officers will work closely with the Equality and Good Relations Team on this activity."

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In response to a Member's question regarding the increasing importance of the digital sector, the Head of Economic and International Development confirmed to the Members that up to £70,000 had been set aside for this type of activity and to support events and programmes delivered by the Council's third-party stakeholders, such as the annual Digital DNA conference.

The Director of Economic Development highlighted to the Members the need for an integrated marketing campaign in order to promote the Council's programmes and activities and to maximise the uptake.

During discussion, a Member requested that further engagement with the Youth Forum would take place.

A further Member suggested that a Childminding Academy could be established, whereby each participant would be provided with the training to become a self-employed, fully registered childminder.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report and, in response to a Member's request, the Committee agreed that legal advice be sought regarding whether the Council could ring-fence jobs and training opportunities to Belfast residents, given that the programmes were being funded by Belfast ratepayers.

**Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

**Inner North West Masterplan Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing Inner North West masterplan consultation and highlight the relationship to other workstreams including the Car Parking Strategy, Local Development Plan and City Centre Living.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 Members are asked to:**

- note the consultation process for the draft Inner North West masterplan that is currently underway and will conclude on 8 May 2018;**
- note the relationship between the INW and other work underway across the council and also with partners.**

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

Members are aware that the consultation for the Inner North West (INW) masterplan commenced on 13 February 2018 and will run until 8 May 2018. As outlined previously to committee, the Masterplan seeks to provide a framework to help shape emerging opportunities and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development on both public and private sector owned land. The Inner North West Masterplan is underpinned by robust urban design principles that will help shape proposals coming forward.

**3.2 The INW Masterplan seeks to facilitate a new city centre mixed neighbourhood that:**

- incorporates a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm;
- takes into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain;
- reinstates the historically vibrant economy of the Inner North West area;
- promotes 'city centre living', with its social and environmental benefits;
- strengthens the city centre's urban fabric and streetscapes;
- supports and strengthens pedestrian connections within the city centre and to/from adjoining neighbourhoods;
- delivers the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, in line with the Local Development Plan

**3.3 Engagement to date**

Targeted pre-consultation work in September 2017 and the workshop with Members in November 2017 informed both the final consultation document and council's approach to engagement. During the current formal 12-week consultation period council is seeking to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders in this area of the city, including residents, businesses, statutory partners and developers.

**3.4 A focus on engaging with existing residents in the INW is an important feature of this consultation. Letters have been sent to each household advising them of the consultation, and residents were invited to participate on a walk-about of the**

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masterplan area. The consultation drop-in venues are located across the INW area to further encourage participation from local residents.

**3.5 The scheduled consultation activities are as follows:**

- Drop-in session in Smithfield Market, 14 February
- Drop-in session in Smithfield Market, 15 February
- Drop-in session in Berry St Presbyterian Church with evening presentation, 21 February
- Presentation to the Section 75 Consultative Forum, 27 February
- Drop-in session in CastleCourt, 27 February
- Presentation to the Campus Community Regeneration Forum, 27 February
- Drop-in session in St Patrick's Church, 7 March
- Drop-in session St Patrick's Church, 10 March
- Meeting with Ulster Reform Club, 15 March
- Residents' walk-about, 21 March
- Presentation to Shared City Partnership, 9 April
- Presentation to the West Belfast Partnership, 13 April
- Drop-in session in Central Library, 17 April
- Drop-in session in Central Library, 25 April
- Drop-in session in Central Library, 3 May

**3.6 Exhibition boards summarising the masterplan are on display in the Cecil Ward Building until 13 April and will move to the Central Library from 16 April-8 May 2018.**

**3.7 Key communication channels are through letters, drop-in sessions, City Matters, the BCC website and council's online Consultation Hub, Twitter and Facebook pages and external press. All information is available on: <https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/>.**

**3.8 Statutory partners**

Engagement with statutory partners continues and includes the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Translink and the Historic Environment Division; all have had opportunities to comment on the draft plan. Feedback has also been received from council departments, and there is ongoing work to explore the potential to develop the council's assets to support wider regeneration.

**3.9 Emerging themes**

Notwithstanding the ongoing consultation for the INW, feedback from the recent events indicates general support for the regeneration of the INW area and the draft proposals.

**3.10 Whilst not a comprehensive assessment of feedback to date, so far there have been expressions of support for:**

- Increasing the city centre population via shared, mixed-tenure housing;
- Reuse of existing heritage buildings, including for residential use;
- Different housing typologies and sizes to accommodate a range of needs, including families and elderly residents;
- Creation of more open space, especially green space with seating;
- Maintaining a market function but improving or redeveloping Smithfield Market;
- Improving connections through the area, particularly through CastleCourt and Berry Street and to adjacent city centre neighbourhoods;
- Protecting and enhancing the built heritage.

**3.11 Concerns have been raised during the consultation in relation to:**

- Potential building heights and the prospect of tall buildings in the future;
- The lack of outdoor play space currently, and the need for 'social infrastructure' around education, health etc to support growing numbers of residents;
- Concern that the masterplan could bring blight, or lead to vesting;
- The possible redevelopment of Smithfield Market, and the impact on local traders;
- The need for effective management of existing and new public spaces, particularly the likes of Bank Square where there are issues around access, servicing, waste collection, and parking;
- General concerns over anti-social behaviour;
- The need for public spaces to be fully accessible;
- A perceived surplus of student accommodation.

**3.12 Consultation period and next steps**

Following the consultation period, the responses will be assessed and changes to the draft masterplan considered. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitats Regulation Assessment are also underway and will inform the final plan, which will come back to the committee for approval in the autumn. Additionally, and in parallel, the development of land in public ownership is currently being discussed with DfC, and there are ongoing meetings with private developers as part of this consultation process.

**3.13 Car Parking Strategy (CPS)**

Members will recall that Aecom was appointed in October 2015 to carry out the Car Park Strategy (CPS) & Action Plan and a project steering group comprising Council officers (LDP, C&NS, CCDT, Economic Development, Estates, Legal, Finance, Communications) and DfI representatives was established.

**3.14** In November 2017, Council ratified the CPS and in December 2017 it was agreed that the CPS Action Plan would transfer to the City Centre Development Team (CCDT) to bring forward. As part of the CPS Action Plan sites in the INW will be reviewed and we are working closely with DfC in relation to their landholdings, as well as with DfI with regard to all elements of the CPS Action Plan. Committee will be updated on progress in due course.

**3.15 Local Development Plan**

The INW is in line with the emerging policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy that support population growth, sustainable development and the city's ambitions in relation to the inclusive growth agenda. In particular, within the emerging draft Plan Strategy in the LDP there are a number of new policy requirements that are already incorporated within the draft INW Masterplan, for example around the need to deliver mixed-use development and mixed-tenure housing. The masterplan and emerging LDP are also both promoting well-connected and attractive communities, high-quality design and protection of built heritage. It is the intention that the INW Masterplan and its key design principles will be incorporated into the LDP at an appropriate date in the future.

**3.16 City Centre Living**

In January, Members received an update on the 'City Centre Living' workstream. This developed from a previous Council motion, Members' study visit to London in October, and the subsequent workshop. Officers continue to engage with DfC and NIHE on City Centre Living and this will be progressed alongside the development of the INW Masterplan and delivery of the Car Park Strategy.

**3.17 Equality and good relations Implications**

An EQIA Screening was undertaken for the Inner North West Masterplan and is part of the consultation.

**3.18 Finance and Resource Implications**

Resource requirements will be met from existing departmental budget allocations."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Residents' Car Parking Zones**

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development provided the Committee with an update in relation to the Motion on problem parking which it had considered at its meeting on 7th February.

She reminded the Committee that it had agreed, in conjunction with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), to engage with those communities which bounded the city centre.

She advised the Committee that the DfI had acknowledged the parking issues around the residential areas which bounded the city centre and had welcomed the Members' approach to providing solutions.

The Committee noted that the Department was currently installing a Residents' Parking scheme in the Rugby Road/College Park Avenue area of South Belfast, with 117 parking spaces for residents and 119 pay and display parking spaces for residents and businesses. The Members were advised that short stay parking spaces on Rugby Road and a loading bay in Carmel Street would facilitate local businesses.

The Director suggested that a panel of Members would meet with the DfI to discuss the issues of problem parking, with the following proposed agenda:

- DfI to update on status of current Residents Parking Schemes and provide background (issues/success/lessons learnt);

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- DfI to outline the process for the establishment of Resident Parking Schemes;
- Group discussion to identify and agree problem areas to be targeted; and
- Group discussion to establish Community Engagement Strategy and outline timeframes.

The Committee agreed that a Panel, comprising one Member from each of the six main parties, be convened to meet with the Department for Infrastructure.

**Positioning Belfast to Compete**

**MIPIM**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 To report on the outcomes of Belfast at MIPIM 2018 and seek approval to attend MIPIM 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the outcomes from Belfast at MIPIM 2018 including the programme of events and media coverage generated.
- Authorise officers to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand at MIPIM 2019 to an area of higher footfall and / or increasing size of stand in current location.
- Approve, in principle, that the existing £60,000 investment be enhanced by £20,000 to enable a larger stand to be provided, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at a later Committee.
- Authorise officers to commence procurement for specialist support for programming, event management, communications, and design.
- Approve attendance at MIPIM 2019 by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominated representatives.
- Approve the attendance of a number of senior officers at MIPIM 2019 to promote Belfast through the delivery of presentations, meetings with potential investors and presentations of regeneration schemes.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1** **MIPIM is the premier event in the European real estate calendar where many of the world's investors, developers and funders from both the private and public sector, gather to showcase cities and investment and regeneration opportunities. Over 27,000 people attended MIPIM 2018.**

**3.2 Belfast at MIPIM Delegation**

**A delegation of over 80 people attended MIPIM as part of the Belfast delegation. This was made up of 35 supporting private and public sector organisations. In total, £269,825 private sector sponsorship was raised for Belfast at MIPIM 2018. This is an increase from £240,350 of private sponsorship in 2017.**

**3.3** **Organisations supporting Belfast at MIPIM 2018 included: Arup; Aurora Prime Real Estate; Belfast City Council; Belfast Harbour; Benmore Developments; Bruceshaw; Bywater Properties; Carson McDowell; Castlebrooke; Causeway Asset Management; CBRE; Cundall; Davidson McDowell; Deloitte; Heron Bros; Invest NI; Killultagh Estates; KPMG; Lacuna Developments; Lanyon Communications; Mascott; McAleer & Rushe; Mills Selig; Press Eye; Queen's University Belfast; Richland Group; Signature Living; Sirocco; Titanic Quarter; TLT; TODD Architects; Tourism NI, Translink; Tughans and; Ulster University.**

**3.4 Belfast at MIPIM programme**

**The 4-day event conference involved a concentrated programme of events, meetings and engagements which allowed us to showcase Belfast as an exciting location for investment. The Belfast at MIPIM 2018 Programme included:**

- 15 unique events organised by Belfast at MIPIM. Each event was designed to highlight a range of key strengths that underpin Belfast's strong investment proposition, including: Talent, Tax, Technology & Innovation, Locations, Fast Growth Sectors, Track Record for FDI and Quality of Life. Topics covered included:**
  - Creating and shaping city neighbourhoods**
  - Innovative thinking: Belfast - back to our future**
  - Belfast: why culture matters**

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- **Belfast: accelerating growth with Eddie Irvine (ex. Ferrari formula one driver; real estate and technology investor – at no cost)**
- **Real estate investor showcases. Projects presented included Belfast Waterside Regeneration Project, Giant’s Park, Titanic Quarter, the former Belfast Telegraph building, Weavers Cross and Signature Living’s hotel developments**
- **Presenting at events organised by other cities or partner organisations including:**
  - **UK Cities: The Future of Real Estate with Estates Gazette**
  - **Role of Culture in Re-urbanisation organised by Invest Newcastle**
  - **Culture, Art, Heritage & Sport organised by DIT**
  - **Global cities: The New Powerhouses, part of the MIPIM 2018 official programme**
  - **Collaboration, Not Competition: Integrated UK offer of Financial & Professional Services organised by DIT**
  - **City Brand: Marketing & Investment in a National/International Context organised by Marketing Liverpool**
  - **Creating an economically resilient city organised by Invest Newcastle and Estates Gazette**
  - **New opportunities in Europe’s Waterfront Cities organised by Marketing Liverpool**
  - **A wide range of meetings between our delegation members and funds, investors, occupiers and developers.**

**3.5 Belfast at MIPIM stand**

**3.5 The Belfast at MIPIM stand incorporated the new City brand and included eye-catching digital displays and a touchscreen display showcasing VU.CITY Belfast, the 3D interactive model of Belfast. This allowed potential investors and developers to view and interact with development and investment opportunities across the city.**

**3.6 With the support of Queen’s University Belfast, an electric DeLorean car was on display at MIPIM. Built in Belfast in the early 80s and made famous by the Back to the Future trilogy it demonstrated Belfast’s reputation for world-class talent and technological innovation and attracted significant interest from MIPIM attendees.**

**3.7 A dedicated Belfast at MIPIM investment guide was produced which highlighted Belfast's proposition to potential investors. It included an overview of key sectors, investment opportunities, property market outlook and profile of the Belfast at MIPIM sponsors. This was available for potential investors and developers on the stand or download from a dedicated website that BCC City Centre Team produced promoting investment in Belfast – [www.investinbelfast.com](http://www.investinbelfast.com).**

**3.8 Media coverage**

**Five media releases were issued during MIPIM 2018. These included releases to announce: the Belfast delegation is set for MIPIM 2018; Floral Hall aspirations; The Sixth redevelopment; Giant's Park development submissions; Waring Hotel announcement. These generated significant interest in Belfast from print, broadcast, trade and online media.**

**3.9 As of 22nd March 2018, over 73 media articles about Belfast have been published, with an estimated online coverage views of 407,000. Please note this does not include coverage achieved in print. This number is likely to increase with anticipated features in long lead trade and business press. The @BelfastMIPIM Twitter account issued 247 tweets and generated 6million impressions. The overall financial and reputational value is currently being researched to quantify the media coverage achieved.**

**3.10 The build-up to MIPIM 2018 also enjoyed significant media coverage. Four press releases were issued in the build-up to MIPIM, generating significant coverage.**

**3.11 Future focus**

**In the immediate future, officers will be following up in leads generated at MIPIM. The statistics for the number of visitors to the Belfast at MIPIM stand are being collated and members will be updated once they have been received. Follow ups with potential investors are underway to translate this pipeline into tangible investments.**

**3.12 It should be noted that at MIPIM 2018 many of the regional cities from the UK significantly improved and increased the size of their stand, substantially raising their profile. This emphasises our need to continue to improve and raise Belfast's profile at MIPIM. Members will be aware that for MIPIM 2018 requests were made to the event organisers to relocate or increase the size of the Belfast stand but they were**

unable to accommodate this request due to lack of alternative space. For MIPIM 2019, further consideration is being given to the size and location of the Belfast stand. The 2018 stand was the same size as 2017, however we were limited in our ability to host larger groups and discussions and could only provide limited facilities for individual networking. In addition, while the Belfast programme successfully animated the stand, the location could be more prominent to obtain an increase in passing footfall and the opportunity for additional engagement.

**3.13** The growing ambitions for 2019 underpins the requirement to start planning as soon as possible for MIPIM 2019 to ensure we can continue to deliver a programme that effectively markets Belfast as a location for investment.

**3.14** Members are therefore asked to:

- Authorise officers to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand at MIPIM 2019 to an area of higher footfall or increasing the size of the Belfast stand in its current location.
- Approve in principle that the existing £60,000 investment be enhanced by £20,000, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at later Committee.
- Authorise officers to commence procurement for specialist support for programming, event management, communications, and design for MIPIM 2019.
- Authorise attendance at MIPIM 2019 of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, or nominated representatives, and the appropriate senior officers, to attend MIPIM 2019. To ensure costs are kept to a minimum, Members are asked to authorise the booking of hotels and flights at the earliest opportunity. MIPIM is attended by 24,000 delegates and accommodation is quickly booked out.

**3.15** Equality and Good Relations Implications

N/A

**3.16** Financial and Resource Implications

**Finance:** Members are asked to note that a balanced budget for Belfast at MIPIM 2018 was £329,825 (80% of which was raised from the private sector). Although excellent value for money, both in terms of partnership support and investment outcomes, the overall spend illustrates the high level of

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**funding required to effectively market the city on the international stage.**

**Resources: Effectively delivering a project on the scale of MIPIM is a very resource intensive activity. Belfast at MIPIM was delivered by Belfast City Council officers, the Belfast at MIPIM taskforce and Lanyon Communications, a communications agency appointed in September 2017 to assist with event management; PR, marketing and communication; sponsorship and stand design for MIPIM 2018.**

- 3.17 Members are asked to approve the appointment of external support to assist with the delivery of MIPIM 2019. Subject to approval from Members, these will be funded through the public-private budget outlined above.”**

A number of Members stated that they felt that the Council's contribution should remain the same and the private sector funding towards MIPIM increased.

A Member expressed concern that, while they could see the advantages of attracting investment to Belfast at MIPIM, it should not be to the detriment of the inner city communities which lived in Belfast.

A number of other Members stated that they believed that Belfast should seek to increase its presence at MIPIM in 2019 and that additional funding would be a worthwhile investment for the City.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie  
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Council's contribution towards the 2019 Belfast delegation to MIPIM is not enhanced by a further £20,000, and remains at £60,000.

On a vote by show of hands, six Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in the report.

**European Capital of Culture Legacy Programme**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the status of the European Capital of Culture 2023 designation and to**

outline a planned programme of activity to support the development of an alternative legacy initiative.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 It is recommended that Members:**

- Note the contents of this report and agree that the budget set aside for the development of stage 2 of European Capital of Culture competition is now utilised for the development of a cultural legacy programme, which can be delivered with or without the designation of European Capital of Culture.
- Agree to receive a further report in due course that sets out a detailed legacy programme and funding strategy for approval in line with the funding strategy for European Capital of Culture as part of the legacy programme
- Agree for officers to develop a partnership project with Galway 2020, as part of the legacy programme to be brought back to Committee for approval.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council developed and submitted in October 2017 a stage one application for the 2023 designation of European Capital of Culture. In November 2017, in advance of the formal presentation of the bid to the jury panel, all bidding cities were notified by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) of the European Commission's decision that the UK would no longer be eligible to host the competition.

**3.2** Since November 2017, officers have been in regular discussions with DCMS and the other bidding cities to seek a satisfactory resolution to the situation. From the outset, the position of all bidding cities was that the preferred outcome of these discussions should be the reinstatement and completion of the competition. However, in March 2018 the other cities together with DCMS, reached the conclusion that further participation in the existing UK competition in its current form was no longer viable given the timeframe and the position maintained by the European Commission.

**3.3** A delegation from Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council travelled to Brussels to meet with

the European Commission. Meetings were also held with representatives from the Committee for Regions and the UK Permanent Representation to the EU. These meetings further confirmed that pursuing the 2023 UK competition for European Capital of Culture was no longer an option. The delegation also sought clarity over current status and eligibility criteria for European funding programmes for cultural activity. Officers have agreed to follow up with relevant authorities to seek written clarification to these queries. They are also pursuing all potential avenues for Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council to be awarded the title at any stage going forward.

**3.4 The decision to bid for European Capital of Culture recognised the significant economic and social benefits derived from flagship cultural programmes including:**

- generating a direct economic return
- raising the city’s international profile
- significantly boosting tourism
- supporting investment and job creation
- supporting skills development and enhancing entrepreneurship
- improving connectivity
- breathing new life into a city's culture sector and addressing long term capacity issues
- enhancing European and international linkages in context of Brexit

**3.5 While it is recognised that it will be difficult to achieve the full scale of benefits without the brand value of the European Capital of Culture title, a number of unsuccessful cities have gone on to deliver significant legacy programmes that have clearly demonstrated an economic and social return on investment. Examples include the ongoing investment of Dublin City Council in the legacy programme, Dublin Culture Connects, developed following their unsuccessful bid for the 2020 title. Leeds and Dundee have also announced large scale legacy programmes to follow through on proposals set out in their 2023 bids and to ensure that the energy, enthusiasm and investment to date is built upon.**

**3.6 Approach to developing a legacy programme**

The bid for European Capital of Culture responded to the opportunity for cultural transformation as well as the need to support the next phase of tourism development in the city. These challenges remain and the work undertaken in stage one of the bid process provides an ideal foundation on which

to build an ambitious and strategic response. It is therefore recommended that officers continue to develop options for a legacy programme to be delivered in 2023 in line with a number of key elements of the original bid. In particular:

**3.7 Long-term cultural strategy and capacity building**

A strong focus of the original bid was to address long-term sustainability issues in the cultural sector and support the cultural development of the city. Any legacy plans need to take a long-term view of investment in cultural infrastructure as well as align to the recommendations set out in the recent Events and Festivals strategy. This was strongly supported by the cultural sector.

**3.8** The current Cultural Framework and Tourism Strategy for the city remain in place until 2020, however, in order to have new strategies and associated funding programmes in place for 2020 research and development will take place over the coming years. This will include in depth engagement with key stakeholders and strategic partners. There is therefore an opportunity to ensure that all of these workstreams are integrated and that any legacy programme supports the wider Belfast Agenda as well as capacity building and investment in the cultural and tourism sectors.

**3.9 Civic engagement**

A key strength of the stage one bid was the level of civic engagement. Over 15,000 people were engaged with directly as part of the development of the concept and programme. Plans for stage two of the bid would have built on this engagement. The development of a legacy programme would therefore continue with the engagement methodology of the original bid to:

- ensure high levels of participation
- connect people to opportunities
- create positive changes in attitudes and perceptions
- enhance civic engagement and participation
- improve social inclusion
- promote the richness and diversity of our cultural identities

**3.10** As part of this approach creative neighbourhood projects will be rolled out across the city. The design of these pilot projects will be informed by the Belfast baseline research recently conducted by Thrive NI on behalf of Belfast City Council. This research has helped establish levels of engagement

across the city and importantly identified areas where there continues to be low levels of provision or participation.

**3.11 European dimension – to be extended to have both a European and an international focus**

The bid identified over 100 city-to-city European links as well as developing a series of new European partnerships. This was particularly relevant given the nature of the competition as well as the need to maintain cultural, social and economic links with the European Union after Brexit. The legacy programme will help maintain existing relationships as well as foster new partnerships. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to widen this out to have an international dimension including a focus on existing sister cities connections. The design of the programme will take into consideration cultural links as well as key economic and tourism markets.

**3.12** Members will be aware that in March 2018 it was agreed that Belfast would develop plans to become a UNESCO City of Music. It is likely that the formal process for this will take place in 2021 with the need to demonstrate international linkages throughout the lead in years.

**3.13** As part of the original European Capital of Culture bid, there were also plans to work with a number of cities that have held or are due to hold the European Capital of Culture title. This included a project with Galway 2020 that was to be further developed in stage 2 of the bid process. It is proposed that development work continues on this project. Music has been identified in initial proposals as the creative focus with an opportunity to develop a large-scale project bringing in Nashville as well as a number of other partners.

**3.14** Discussions are also ongoing with DCMS and the other bidding cities involved in the 2023 UK competition with a view to assessing opportunities for collaboration.

**3.15 Large scale year long programme of activity in 2023**

As well as the civic engagement outlined above, stage one of the bid also involved consultation with the cultural and creative sectors. This included:

- Information sessions
- Thematic workshops
- Big Ideas sessions

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- 3.16** These sessions engaged with over 300 people working across the arts, heritage, sport, science and the creative industries.
- 3.17** A creative reference group was established to include local representatives from both cities. These members were selected following a nomination and application process. This group also included three international programmers who have previous experience of either developing a bid or delivering a successful European Capital of Culture.
- 3.18** At stage one a number of indicative projects were presented as part of the bid. In order to select these projects three strands of programme development were put in place. This included:
- (i) Open Call:** this was an opportunity for anyone to submit projects ideas
  - (ii) Commission:** the identification of a number of flagship project ideas. A formal commissioning process would have taken place at subsequent stages.
  - (iii) Curate:** the group identified specific gaps in the programme and made connections with smaller projects from the open call.
- 3.19** The open call for stage one received 125 project proposals with an initial selection made based on the criteria for the competition. It was anticipated that the cultural programme would comprise of 5 flagship projects and a programme of 30 smaller scale proposals programmed across the calendar year.
- 3.20** It is proposed that as part of the development of a cultural legacy programme a corresponding yearlong framework would be adopted. This will be tested through a similar process to that which had been set out for stage 2 of the competition. This will include:
- Delivering a series of creative pilots to test the viability of projects based on submissions already received.
  - Carrying out further development on flagship projects. There is now an opportunity to align this to the Events and Festivals recommendations. Individual flagship projects across the legacy programme could form the basis for the future development of signature and major events. The cumulative impact of a yearlong programme could also be commensurate with that of a ‘mega’ classification as set out in the Events and Festivals Strategy.

- Identifying the building blocks required in the 5-year period leading up to 2023 to ensure adequate momentum and capacity including creating opportunities to enhance existing cultural activity as well as respond to new and emerging opportunities.
- Undertaking further engagement with the cultural and creative sector throughout each phase of development. This would commence with a workshop in May 2018.

**3.21 Next steps**

It is proposed that the above areas of work will be carried out over this financial year as part of a development phase with a detailed cultural legacy programme then presented to Committee for consideration.

**3.22** As part of this process further consideration will be given to how legacy plans could be delivered in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council including the appropriate governance arrangements to support the delivery of the programme.

**3.23** A full business case, funding strategy and resource plan will also be developed. This will include further proposals for investment from the private sector as well as government departments.

**3.24** All means open to the council to access European funding and/or a cultural title will continue to be pursued.

**3.25 Financial & Resource Implications**

The budget for this development phase will be allocated from resources set aside for the stage 2 bid for European Capital of Culture.

**3.26 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

As part of the legacy programme an engagement plan will be developed and will be equality screened with any gaps addressed. The final programme and associated strategies will also be equality screened.”

A Member expressed concerns that there were no specific costs detailed in the report.

The Chief Executive clarified to the Members that she was asking for approval to use some of the budget which had been set aside for the development of Stage 2 of the European Capital of Culture competition, in order to work with the cultural sector to

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develop options for a cultural legacy programme. She explained that a funding strategy on the options would be submitted to a future meeting for the Committee's approval.

A further Member suggested that engagement with the Irish Government should also take place.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report and agreed that some of the budget which had been set aside for the development of Stage 2 of the European Capital of Culture competition now be utilised for the development of options for a cultural legacy programme, which could be delivered with or without the designation of European Capital of Culture;
2. agreed to receive a further report in due course, setting out the detail of a proposed legacy programme with a range of options along with a funding strategy for approval;
3. agreed that officers develop a partnership project with Galway 2020, as part of the legacy programme to be brought back to Committee for approval; and
4. agreed that a delegation of Belfast City Council and Derry and Strabane District Council representatives would meet with the Irish Government in relation to the European Capital of Culture bid process.

### **Heathrow Expansion**

The Director of Economic Development outlined to the Committee that, in October 2016, the UK Government had approved a third runway at Heathrow Airport. He explained to the Members that the expansion of Heathrow would be one of the largest infrastructure projects in the UK.

He advised the Members that, in recognition of the scale of investment and the potential for all parts of the UK to benefit from supply chain and skills development opportunities, Heathrow had sought expressions of interest for up to four Logistics Hub locations.

The Committee was advised that these Logistics Hubs would be used as off-site centres for construction and manufacturing in order to help the airport to deliver its expansion plan with minimal on-site disruption.

The Director explained that, from an initial 121 applications, 65 potential sites had been shortlisted, with six of the sites located in Northern Ireland:

- North Foreshore – Belfast;
- Global Point Business Park – Antrim and Newtownabbey;
- Belfast International Airport – Antrim and Newtownabbey;
- Former Michelin Site – Mid and East Antrim;
- Silverwood Business Park – Lurgan; and

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- Former Shackleton Barracks – Ballykelly.

In order to improve the chances of the bid, the Director explained that the partners had identified that a collaborative proposition involving all six NI sites as part of a ‘fully packaged solution’ was likely to be favoured over individual, stand-alone site solutions.

He explained also that, in order to develop the business case for the combined bid, it was proposed that each council involved would contribute up to £10,000 for each site to access specialist advice and consultancy support. The Committee was advised that this would enable the submission to be made by the closing date, in November 2019.

In parallel with the work on the Logistics Hub joint bid, the Director outlined that the Council would host a ‘Meet the Buyer’ event in the City Hall on 20th June, 2018, which would enable local businesses to meet with key buyers in Heathrow, focusing on existing supplies and services requirements.

The Committee agreed to set aside a maximum of £10,000 to contribute to the Business Case development work as part of a combined NI bid for the Heathrow Logistics Hub.

**EU World Cities Project**

(Ms. C. McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Committee on the progress of the EU World Cities project. This is an international urban sustainable development exchange project between the cities of Durban (eThekweni Municipality) and Belfast, with the ultimate aim of developing closer international relations and fostering trade.**
- 1.2 The paper summarises the success of the exchange of learning to date and proposes areas of possible future collaboration which could be considered within a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be discussed at the final project meeting in May 2018 (the MOU was a project commitment agreed in March 2017).**
- 1.3 The partnership and collaboration to date has been highlighted by DG REGIO as exemplary and was presented at the UN Habitat World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018. This was a unique opportunity to raise the international profile of Belfast City Council on the global stage. As a result of the success of this project both cities have been invited to apply for further funding to continue the**

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successful collaboration for next 12-18 months from the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue.

1.4 Invest NI have worked closely with the Council on this project. One of the outcomes of the Belfast Durban collaboration is the identification of new NI export business opportunities and knowledge transfer emerging in the renewable energy, waste management and smart technology sectors in the cities of Johannesburg / Durban and Cape Town.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the success of the collaboration between Durban and Belfast to date and, in particular that it was invited to present to the World Urban Forum UN Habitat in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 16 February 2018.
- Agree the areas of mutual collaboration on urban sustainability challenges which will inform the draft Memorandum of Understanding (a commitment in the initial project).
- Note that Officers were invited to apply for further funding to the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue to further foster business and government links on smart sustainable technology for mutual benefit (closing date 28th March 2018)
- Consider the makeup of the outward delegation of 3 people to Durban and Cape Town on 13-17th May for the final conference.

3.0 **Main Report**

3.1 **Background**

World Cities ([www.world-cities.eu](http://www.world-cities.eu)) is a project of the European Union managed and 100% funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). The project supports the exchange of information, experience and best practice on smart urban sustainability challenges and was initiated by the Council's Smart City Team.

3.2 There is a particular focus on developing the green economy, sharing expertise on energy security, sustainable mobility, circular economy and associated smart city solutions that

stimulate innovation, and new business starts up etc. These areas are at the heart of the Belfast Agenda and are key to economic progress as we open up new opportunities for smart sustainable growth in the city. Given the common legacy of post conflict societies there is also a specific focus on sharing workable solutions to related legacy issues of unemployment, deprivation and segregation through innovative urban planning and progressive community development strategies.

**3.3 Triple Helix Model**

Uniquely the World Cities project encourages cities to foster collaboration amongst and between local and international triple helix partners i.e. research institutions, innovation clusters, academia and public sector. To this end the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed the involvement of the Strategic Investment Board (circular economy), the Centre of Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) at QUB as strategic partners.

**3.4** Representatives from these bodies comprised the delegation to Durban in April 2017 along with Cllr George Dorrian and the Sustainable Development Manager. There was strong support for this project from DfE, OFMDFM, the NI Executive Office in Brussels and Invest NI given that Invest NI planned to open its first office in South Africa this year. The initial conference with all 8 cities in Johannesburg in March 2017 was attended by the EU Ambassador to South Africa, Dr Marco Cornaro, the British High Commissioner to South Africa, Mr Peter Boxer the Strategic Director of DG REGIO Dr Ronnie Hall.

**3.5** The overriding impression from the Durban and EU delegations was that Belfast is a transformed City with a new energy, enthusiasm and ambition to compete on the world stage. It has a growing reputation as a centre for excellence in renewable energy, energy storage, cybersecurity, smart technology and sustainable transport, all topics at the heart of global urban sustainability challenges. There was also a general impression that the city had moved faster than South African cities to overcome the legacy of the past conflict and to deal with associated issues of segregation, deprivation and unemployment. It was acknowledged that collaborative city branding was successful and with the assistance of Visit Belfast, the city was now positioning itself successfully on the global tourism trail.

**3.6 Collaboration presented at UN World Urban Forum**

It was on the basis of exemplary work and ongoing collaboration that the Belfast Durban partnership was invited to be presented at The UN Habitat World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. This international conference brings together the best global examples of urban sustainability challenges and opportunities which contribute to the UN's New Urban Agenda objective and progress on agreed international Sustainable Development Goals. The presentation was delivered by Puvén Akkiah from Durban.

**3.7 City challenges, potential themes for collaboration and associated funding.**

Urban sustainability challenges are wide ranging in their nature, and following deliberation between the cities it was agreed to narrow the focus to 4 possible theme areas for collaboration. (These themes are described below). Over the year of collaboration a significant amount of information has already been shared, especially during the two visits, and collaboration is ongoing with Durban and the Belfast's triple helix partners. The Council have received offers from the triple helix partners to take the lead where appropriate. For example Catalyst INC and CSIT are keen to lead on smart, digital partnership with Durban Smart Xchange similarly CASE and UU have taken the lead on renewable energy deployment with Durban City Council.

**3.8 EU Urban Innovation Action Fund**

A 0.3bn European Fund for Urban Innovation Actions, available annually to cities until 2020 is heavily promoted to cities in the EU World Cities programme. The fund provides for up to 80% co-financing on relevant projects. This year themes includes Local Job and Skills, and Climate Adaptation next year themes include Digital transition, Urban poverty, Sustainable Land Use and Urban security. Applications open in December and close the following April, up to 5million euros are available. No EU partner cities are required for application. The council's Development Department have been examining this fund with a view to application in 2019.

**3.9 Theme 1 Post Conflict Urban and City Planning (learning form Belfast)**

South African cities are inherently unsustainable from a planning perspective. The legacy of apartheid means that many poorer people are still forced to live outside the city centres, yet forced to travel daily, at considerable expense to the city centre for work, with significant transport, congestion and pollution impacts. In addition there is a legacy of underinvestment in the city centre. The general observation is that Belfast has moved faster to address post conflict issues with priority given to physical and social connectivity in planning. Durban is keen to learn more from the successful experience of Belfast in urban planning, city centre regeneration and investment and city branding. Durban and Cape Town are also members of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities programme, so there is an opportunity to share experience and outcomes of this international resilience programme.

**3.10 Theme 2 Smart City Innovation, entrepreneurship and business incubation (learning from Durban)**

Johannesburg and Durban have a global reputation for entrepreneurship and smart digital innovation. The Belfast delegation noted how the City Councils in both cities are closely linked to all the major academic, technical and research clusters through detailed Memorandum of Understanding. This means that City challenges can be shared with the educational and technical institutions, who in turn have access to international best practice. This close 'town and gown' arrangement fosters innovation and lends itself to faster incubation and in turn faster new business spin out.

**3.11** Site visits to Catalyst INC and CSIT afforded the opportunity for the Durban delegation to connect to the Belfast business incubation hub and state of the art cyber security innovation. Both Catalyst INC and CSIT view South Africa as a priority market and have expressed interest in collaborating with the Durban Smart Xchange and The Resolution Circle for mutual collaboration and international business development.

**3.12 Theme 3 Energy security, renewable energy and energy storage**

At present South Africa is 100% dependant on coal fired power stations for primary energy production. This will change

dramatically as South Africa has committed to the international COP21 agreement and associated carbon reduction targets. Durban is keen to develop a collaborative partnership with Centre of Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) to avail of best practice in the deployment of solar, wind, wave, tidal biogas and biomass energy. Since November, the City of Durban plans to work with CASE and UU to deploy a NI designed off grid solar powered ecosystem ideal for the townships outside Durban.

- 3.13 The export of NI knowledge, skills and product development is clearly a win-win business opportunity for CASE, University of Ulster and Durban City which Invest NI is keen to support.

3.14 Theme 4 Waste Management Recycling, Circular Economy

The recycling industry is in its infancy in South Africa: circa 90% of waste is still landfilled. This is set to change dramatically when the first Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) will be built in South Africa outside the City of Durban. The MRF is a partnership between Durban City Council and USE-IT. Durban is keen to learn from the experience of the SIB and Belfast City Council in waste management policies, recycling collection service, and efforts to encourage behavioural change.

- 3.15 The development of MRF facilities will employ the same screening, shifting, washing and conveyor belt technology used in the mining sector currently the main export to South Africa from NI. Again Invest NI is keen to support this new potential business opportunity in the Durban area.
- 3.16 Committee is asked to discuss and agree these themes as ongoing areas of work with Durban, acknowledging that we have been given an undertaken by all triple helix partners with an international remit, i.e. CASE, Catalyst INC and SIB to work collaboratively to continue the dialogue.

3.17 Further Funding Opportunity

Given the success of the collaboration to date both cities were invited to apply to the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue Fund to extend the collaboration for another 12-18months. Given that building strong international relations is now more important than ever to secure investment, trade, tourism and knowledge exchange and we have laid good foundations with this project (which is recognised internationally) this fund should be examined to help extend that opportunity to further the public and private sector business links. Officers have

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submitted an application for this funding and a future report will be brought to Committee to update Members on its progress.

**3.18 Make up of May delegation**

As part of the original project commitment DG REGIO will provide finance for a delegation of 3 from Belfast to return to South Africa on 14-17th May. One and a half days will be spent in Durban for the final partnership meetings followed by a final World Cities conference in Cape Town on 15th May with all 8 city delegates from the World Cities projects.

**3.19 It is proposed the Belfast delegation of 3 (which is funded by EU World Cities) includes:**

- A representative from BCC Urban planning / City Centre Regeneration
- A representative of the Catalyst INC or the digital community
- The Sustainable Development Manager / International Relations led.

**3.20 The urban planning representative would manage the development of collaboration on urban planning as outlined in Theme 1.**

**3.21 The representative from the Digital Community will bring forward closer collaboration between the digital communities in both cities as outlined in Theme 2, and both will be involved if the future funding application is successful.**

**3.22 It would be possible to include others in the delegation but costs would not be covered by DG REGIO.**

**3.23 Names must be submitted before 15th April 2018. Following this funding application and the outward study visit, a comprehensive report will be brought back to committee for further consideration.**

**3.24 Committee is asked to consider the make-up of the proposed delegation.**

**3.25 Finance and Resources Implications**

EU World cities will cover full financial and content support for 3 people to participate in the final stage of this programme i.e the outward visit to Durban and Cape Town on 14-17th May 2018. The work has been managed to date by the Sustainable

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**Development Manager and is included in her work programme with support from the Development Department International Relations Team.**

**3.26 Equality and Good Relations**

**The project has been screened for equality and good relations impacts. There are no equality and good relations impacts at this stage. It should be recognised that this international project provides the opportunity to highlight the role of the Council as a body which is committed to building a peaceful and prosperous city and sharing its expertise internationally.”**

The Committee:

1. noted the success of the collaboration between Durban and Belfast to date and, in particular, that it was invited to present to the World Urban Forum UN Habitat in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 16 February 2018;
2. agreed the areas of mutual collaboration on urban sustainability challenges which would inform the draft Memorandum of Understanding (a commitment in the initial project);
3. noted that officers were invited to apply for further funding to the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue to further foster business and government links on smart sustainable technology for mutual benefit (closing date 28th March 2018); and
4. agreed an outward delegation of 3 people to Durban and Cape Town, on 13-17th May, for the final conference (fully funded by the Project) comprising:
  - one representative from Catalyst Inc.;
  - 1 Council officer; and
  - the Chairperson of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or her nominee).

**Strategic and Operational Issues**

**Committee Plan 2018-2019**

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that it had held a workshop in February 2018 to focus on its priority areas of work for the year ahead, particularly in relation to Employability and Skills and City Centre Development. She outlined that the draft Committee Plan had been drawn up to help maximise the Committee’s role in delivering on the ambitions within the Belfast Agenda, namely, that by 2035:

- our economy would support 46,000 additional jobs;
- our city was home to 66,000 more people;
- there would be a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods; and

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- every young person leaving school would have a destination which would fulfil their potential.

She explained that the engagement with Members had helped to build officers' understanding of the key issues to lead to more informed decision-making on how to best allocate the Council's resources.

The Committee was advised that, during the workshop, there had been general support from Members for the direction of travel for the city centre and employability and skills programmes of work. The Chief Executive explained that a number of Members had emphasised the importance of supporting inclusive growth through economic and city development.

She highlighted to the Committee that many of the programmes and projects were crosscutting and that there were opportunities to maximise the impact by aligning relevant programmes and actions to areas such as the Smart Belfast Framework and city resilience.

The Committee considered the following key programmes and activities, aligned to each of the Belfast Agenda priorities, which were included in the draft 2018/19 Committee Plan:

**“Growing the Economy**

- **Support job creation priorities**
- **Shape the development of a Council-wide Inclusive Growth Framework and programme of activities**
- **Promotion and marketing of the city internationally, including at MIPIM and the launch of a standalone website promoting investment and development in Belfast**
- **Launch ‘Belfast: City for Business’ concept, along with the new concierge service and further develop opportunities for partnership working**
- **Continue to develop the city as a tourist destination, including production of an Outline Business Case for a second world-class visitor attraction**
- **International Relations - Further develop Belfast’s Sister City Relationships and continue to build on the relationships with the City of London and with Dublin on the economic corridor**

**City Development**

- **Deliver a City Centre Liveability Strategy by pursuing opportunities for City Centre Living, working with public and private sector partners to deliver high-quality mixed-tenure residential accommodation**
- **Deliver the City Centre Engagement Plan and improve the capacity of residents and groups to engage in the regeneration and development process**

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- **Secure full planning permission for the development of the Belfast Telegraph site for a scheme targeted at the professional, creative and tech sectors**
- **Implement meanwhile use projects in the city centre, and influence the activity of other partners**
- **Work with partners to influence key developments in the city e.g. UU campus, Transport Hub, Belfast Streets Ahead, Hope Street, York Street Interchange. Royal Exchange, Sirocco, Queens Quay & Greater Clarendon etc.**
- **Work with city stakeholders, including DfI and the private sector, to implement the Car Parking Strategy and emerging Action Plan**
- **Secure approval and progress the East Bank and Inner North West masterplans**
- **Incentivise the development of Grade A office accommodation through the City Centre Investment Fund**
- **Work with Partners to deliver the proposed Belfast Region City Deal application including project selection & provision of supporting information including the Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Plan**
- **Deliver the Belfast Infrastructure Plan to provide a holistic approach to assessing the critical interventions required to deliver the objectives of the Belfast Agenda & the Local Development Plan.**

**Working and Learning**

- **Ramp up and expand the Employment Academies across the city and across sectors**
- **Increase engagement and early intervention with schools and with young people, both within and outside of the formal school setting**
- **Pilot new approaches to increase engagement and opportunities for reskilling, retraining and apprenticeships for all ages**
- **Deliver and further develop the phased approach to the Belfast Employability Pathway (Belfast Workplace)**
- **Maximise the job and employment opportunities from planning and major redevelopment in the city**

**Living Here**

- **Progress the City Events and Festivals Strategy and deliver the annual events programme**
- **Develop and progress the ECoC Legacy Programme 2018-2023**
- **Deliver a City Centre Liveability Strategy by pursuing opportunities for City Centre Living, working with**

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**public and private sector partners to deliver high-quality mixed-tenure residential accommodation.”**

The Committee agreed the draft Committee Plan 2018/2019.

Chairperson