

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 20th April, 2018

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,  
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Hutchinson, McDonough-Brown,  
O'Neill and Reynolds.

Also attended: Councillor O'Hara.

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; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Long and Walsh.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 23rd March and 27th March (x2) were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meetings on 9th April.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillors Corr and Hutchinson declared an interest in respect of item 3e Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services – Capital Update and left the meeting while this item was under consideration.

### Deputations

#### Designation of Belfast district (or the city centre) as a 'holiday resort' providing large shops with an option to extend Sunday trading hours between the months of March and October

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration a report on the updated findings from the public consultation as to whether Belfast City Council should designate the Belfast district or the city centre as a 'holiday resort' under Article 6 of the shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. She reminded the Committee

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that it had considered this the previous year, however, following representations to look at the matter again, a further consultation had been undertaken and the results of which had been circulated.

The City Solicitor reviewed the high-level consultation response and the comparisons between the previous consultation in 2017 and the current consultation. He referred also to the equality and good relations implications outlined in the report.

It was reported that a number of requests had been received from deputations wishing to address the Committee and the Committee needed to decide whether to receive them.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputations.

**Deputations - Usdaw, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Retail NI and Visit Belfast**

**Usdaw**

Mr Michael Aylward, representing Usdaw, addressed the Committee. He indicated that he was disappointed that the item was back on the agenda less than a year after previous consideration. He referred to the economics argument and that in 2011 research undertaken by the Northern Ireland Assembly had indicated that there would be no economic benefit by extending Sunday trading. He stated that the pilot undertaken during the London Olympics had shown a decline in sales during that period.

He stated that the Union believed that the proposals for the extended Sunday hours would have a negative impact on retail workers. He stated that Usdaw had surveyed its members across the UK and that 94% did not wish to have extended Sunday trading. With regard to protections and workers' rights, he was of the view that, with what was currently in place, there was no protection for staff who refused to work the proposed extended Sunday hours and this could leave staff financially worse off.

He concluded by requesting the Committee to give serious consideration to the proposals. The Union did not believe it would benefit the local economy, that there were any major retailers asking for it and the negative impact it would have on smaller retailers by allowing larger store extended Sunday opening.

Mr Aylward then answered a number of questions, including issues relating to statutory protection for workers, and retired from the table.

**Retail NI**

Mr Glynn Roberts, representing Retail NI, was invited to address the Committee. He commented on the request he had made at the Committee meeting the previous year, when it had been considering this matter, for the Council to instigate with the various different players, that is, the Unions, Retail NI, the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, roundtable meetings to discuss and chart a weekend strategy for Belfast. He stated that he was disappointed that this has not happened. He referred to the current

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consultation of which 50.7% of the responders had opposed the extension of Sunday trading. He highlighted the impact he believed this would have on local independent retailers and stated that the extra hours they had to trade were vital to their businesses. The fact that the large businesses already had an unfair competitive advantage through free car parking and no traffic enforcement at their businesses. He made the point that if the Committee were minded to designate Belfast as a 'holiday resort' this could have a major impact with other towns and cities following suit.

He stated that the existing laws had been a hard fought compromise. He accepted that more needed to be done to make Belfast a world-class city in terms of tourism but referred to those attractions already in place such as the Titanic building, the Ulster Museum and St. George's Market. He concluded by requesting the Committee to oppose the proposals.

Mr. Roberts then answered a number of questions from the Members and retired from the table.

**Hospitality Ulster, NI Hotels Federation  
and Visit Belfast**

Mr. Colin Neill, Hospitality Ulster, Ms. Janice Gault, NI Hotels Federation, and Mr. Gerry Lennon, Visit Belfast, were invited to address the Committee.

Mr. Neill explained that, in terms of economic assets, tourism spend in Northern Ireland was half of that which was spent in the Republic of Ireland, with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 5%, whilst the rest of the UK and the ROI was over 10%. There was a need to maximise the income from tourists by providing more for them to do. He made the point that the tourism industry respected the rights of people who worked in hospitality and retail and the rights to allow them to choose if they wished to work on a Sunday or not.

He stated that, to compete on a global tourism stage, the city must offer an attractive experience, one that added economic value to tourism. Hospitality Ulster believed the current restrictions were not providing visitors with the best experience and limited the opportunity to maximise the economic benefits. Accordingly, he requested the Committee to support the proposal to give Belfast 'holiday resort' status.

Ms. Gault stated that Belfast hotel room numbers were likely to increase in the region of 38% by the end of 2019. In order to grow as an industry, it was important that the visitor be offered choice, as it was a very competitive market where the visitor could choose to go to any city in the UK. She explained that issue most raised by visitors was what to do on a Sunday morning. People have expressed the desire to shop, to go out into the city and spend money. The industry felt it was important that visitors were offered those choices. In tandem with that, it was important that retail workers were offered a choice as well. Visitors to Northern Ireland spend approximately £169, whereas visitors to Scotland spend £335. Throughout Northern Ireland half a billion pounds is being invested in the hotel industry and it would like to be able to maximise that economy.

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Mr Lennon explained that, from a Visit Belfast prospective, all its views were about its mission which was about driving up visitor numbers and spend. Thanks to the leadership shown by the Council, tourism has grown by 50% in the last 5 years to the point where overnight visitors were spending £300 million per year in the city. Research indicated that one third of that goes into retail. Retail is an important part of the visitor offering, it was crucial and the city was not maximising that to the full. There was 40-50% less spend here compared to the rest of the UK. The occupancy rates on a Saturday night were at 90% and it was estimated that were 10,000 visitors with time on their hands and money in their pockets on a Sunday morning. It was the view of Visit Belfast that the designation as a 'holiday resort' was a natural out working of the Council's already stated policy on tourism.

The Deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members and then left the table.

**Belfast Chamber of Trade  
And Commerce**

Ms. Michelle Greeves, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Steven Simpson, Independent retailer, and Ms. Emer McKerr, retail worker, addressed the Committee.

Ms Greeves explained that the Chamber passionately supported choice. The choice for retailers to open or not and that choice was currently not there to open an extra couple of hours on a Sunday. Some retailers can open currently, that is, those whose premises were under 3,000 square feet in size and the Chamber was asking to treat all retail the same and allow that choice for all retail workers. In addition, in some parts of the retail sector, employees work longer than 1.00pm to 6.00pm and the Chamber was asking for consistency for all workers. This would also be extended to tourists and visitors to the city who would have the choice to shop. She stated that the city needed to be animated, and attracting people to the city was not just about retail, but that did add an extra choice. The Chamber welcomed the 'charter for Sunday workers' and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Council on what that charter need to cover.

Mr. Simpson referred to the current difficulties in the retail trade with many businesses having to close and therefore there was a need to introduce creative ways to bring people into the city centre on Sunday mornings. There were more tourists in the city centre on Sunday mornings and there was a need to look at ways to entice them to get involved in what Belfast has to offer. He explained that 50% of his staff were female and were originally managers and this would give them the opportunity to work more hours and earn more money, which they were in favour of.

Ms. McKerr expressed the view that she would like the choice to work on a Sunday morning, which she currently did not have. She was a working mother and worked every weekday and if she had the opportunity to work on a Sunday she could have a day off during the week to spend more time with her children. It would also allow her the choice of when to attend church as, at present, working from 1.00pm to 6.00pm she missed both the morning and evening services. She could also save on crèche fees.

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She met regularly with other staff in her organisation and the topic of Sunday hours had been discussed regularly and the overwhelming feedback was that they wanted the extended hours as they would have more flexibility and the choice whether to work or not on a Sunday.

The Deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members and then left the table.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until a special meeting to be held on Friday, 27th April at 9.30a.m.

**Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the following six 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 (NI) 2014.

**Organisational Development update**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 31st May 2017, it had agreed that the City and Organisational Strategy Department (Strategic Hub) would be created to support the delivery of the Council's priorities and the Belfast Agenda. Accordingly, a report was submitted for the Committee's consideration seeking agreement to further the development of the organisational structure within the Strategic Hub within the current resourcing envelope.

The Committee approved the creation or reconfiguration of a number of posts reporting to the Director of City and Organisational Strategy, namely:

- the establishment of a permanent City Innovation Team (which would deliver the SMART cities framework alongside other innovative solutions for the city);
- the creation of a Portfolio Management function;
- the establishment of a Continuous Improvement Team; and
- to the commencement of work to review, reconfigure or create roles within the Hub and formally move functions and staff as agreed by the Committee on 31st May 2017.

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**Bonfire Decision Making Process**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until a special meeting of the Committee to be held on Friday, 27th April; but agreed the following

- that the authority delegated to the appropriate Council officers to undertake a number of specified “Interventions” in line with the July/August 2017 arrangements, which had been agreed by the Committee at its special meeting on 27th March, be extended to include delegated authority for officers to undertake community engagement.

**Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy**

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the Planning Committee, at its meeting on 17th April, had deferred consideration of the Local Development Plan to enable a special meeting to be held to enable it to formulate and give full consideration to the matter. Accordingly, he requested the Committee to defer consideration of the report until that meeting had taken place.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

**Hillview Market**

The Committee noted the contents of a report in relation to issues which had been raised by a recent Spotlight programme regarding the car boot sale at Hillview Retail Centre.

**Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services – Capital Update**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current status of Objective 3.1 - Shared Spaces and Services under Peace IV which had been designed to support capital projects and specifically an update on the status of the two projects, the Shankill Women’s Centre (SWC) and Black Mountain Shared Space (BMSS), for which the Council had previously agreed to act as delivery agent.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services theme and that as a result of only 2 projects (both outside of the Belfast area) successfully receiving a commitment for funding under the last round of funding that the call for applications under this theme has been re-opened;
- noted the feedback on the SWC and BMSS applications under the previous round of funding as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report and that both projects were informed that value for money including ongoing sustainability and quality of project design were key areas of concern for SEUPB;

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- noted that in the next round of funding that SEUPB have stressed that no project will succeed unless a number of key criteria are demonstrated particularly that the ongoing revenue costs are secured and evidenced. Reflecting this they are advising that each application must be submitted by a lead partner who will effectively act as the 'guarantor' for projects and who will be responsible for underwriting construction costs, ongoing sustainability costs etc.
- noted that there is strong support for, and commitment to, both the BMSS and SWC projects – both are in the Peace IV Springfield regeneration area and the Council are the owners of the BMSS site;
- in light of the above, agreed, given the previous Committee decision to act as delivery agent and on the basis of the points set out below, that the Council continues to support the BMSS and SWC applications under this second call and acts as the lead partner for both projects - and noted the potential implications of this decision particularly from an ongoing revenue perspective:
  - the Council is in ownership of one of the sites;
  - the council's commitment to Shared Space;
  - the Council's commitment to Interface Regeneration;
  - the existing partnership and relationship in the development of the projects;
  - the scale of the potential of the investment for Belfast (over £10 million); and
  - to ensure Belfast gains maximum investment from the Peace IV programme;
- in agreeing that the Council acts as the lead partner for BMSS and SWC, the Council reserves the right to relook at the scope of both applications and their business case, designs, governance etc. and that, in parallel to supporting the application process, a robust financial due-diligence is undertaken from a Council perspective in relation to the ongoing revenue implications and their potential impact from a rates perspective with the results of this due-diligence process to be brought back to Committee;
- noted that given the stringent requirements on demonstrating ongoing sustainability it was likely that the Council may be approached by other groups within the city to support their applications and take on the role of lead partner – given the implications of this and the resources requirements needed to help support groups it was agreed that the Council does not accede to any further requests for support.

**Community Development Grants Programme 2018/19**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the current situation regarding the Community Support Programme and Letter of Offer from Department for Communities.

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The Committee agreed:

- (1) To accept the Department for Communities offer of grant funding under the regional Community Support Programme in 2018/19;
- (2) To note a revised level of funding and agreed to a further report outlining the impact on the Council's Community Development Grants programme with options for 2018/19 grants awards.; and
- (3) That discussion be undertaken with the Department in relation to the reduction of over £33k on the overall contribution.

**Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

**Motion - Childcare Strategy**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 9th April, had agreed to the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor O'Hare and seconded by Councillor O'Neill, in accordance with Standing Order 13 (f), be referred to the Committee for consideration:

*"This Council agrees to explore options and take practical steps, including through the Belfast Agenda and City Deal, with a view to creating a childcare strategy for the city that will encourage greater maternal employment, redress gender inequalities in the workplace, increase GVA in the city and, most importantly, improve educational and social outcomes for our children."*

It was reported that a number of targeted initiatives were in the pipeline to address some of the issues identified in the Motion. They included a proposed Childcare Employment Academy which would help interested individuals to establish childcare businesses. In addition to providing the participants with employment opportunities for themselves and any staff, the increased childcare provision would ensure that parents wishing to enter the workforce would have more options in terms of childcare access.

In addition, a budget had been set aside as part of the Council's Employability and Skills investment for this year. That would be available to individuals to access the support programmes by providing resources to address potential barriers, such as childcare.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor O'Hara, in whose name the motion was standing, addressed the Committee.

The Committee agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to the Committee in due course.

**Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

**City Region Growth Deal – update**

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

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

**1.1 To update Committee on the ongoing development of a Belfast City Region Deal Proposition including engagement with partners, emerging projects and next steps.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to note;**

- Ongoing work to develop the next proposition document for the Belfast City Region Deal
- The initial emerging projects under the key themes
- The next steps for engagement including a proposed joint members Forum in May 2018.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Department for Communities and Local Government, is now in full operation.**

**The programme is being developed to fulfil the agreed objective for the BRCD of *'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'*.**

**Programme Update**

**3.2 Innovation**

**In line with the process adopted for other successful city deals the universities are working with the BRCD on the Innovation strand of the proposition. Queens University and Ulster University have developed outline innovation proposals for potential inclusion in the BRCD and examples of emerging projects include;**

- A Digital Innovation Centre
- A Financial (and Legal) Technology Centre
- Academic Medical Research Institute
- Creative Industries Centre of Excellence
- A Global Innovation Institute

3.3 Discussions with University partners, and the relevant NI departments has begun to further explore and develop these and other projects for inclusion in the next iteration of the proposition document.

#### Employability and Skills

3.4 The Chief Executive of Belfast Metropolitan College, on behalf of the Regional Colleges, is working with Council partners on the development of an initial proposition on Employability and Skills for discussion with government departments and agencies. A significant amount of engagement has taken place with the FE colleges in the region as well as council officers from all six councils in the development of a draft framework. The emerging framework has three principal strands:

- Targeting economic inactivity
- Addressing skill supply issues
- Meeting the skills needs of our growth sector

3.5 Specific priority areas and programmes are being developed to support the key strands in areas such as;

- Careers Enhancement,
- Apprenticeship Hub,
- Graduate Development,
- Employability for All,
- Economic Activation,
- Business Productivity,
- Digital skills.

3.6 The skills proposition will underpin and support the other strands of the deal. It will seek to both support the skills needed to deliver growth in the high value added sectors such as digital and creative industries and also to enable and to facilitate inclusion through programmes to support the large number of people of working age who are currently economically inactive.

3.7 A key element of the employability and skills proposition will involve establishing a new integrated approach which is more responsive to the needs of business in the region and which

reflects the changing requirements to remain competitive in a global economy.

- 3.8 A first draft of the proposition has been developed and a meeting is scheduled with NI departments in mid-April, after which there will be a need to be for direct engagement with business representatives across the region.

#### Digital

- 3.9 Future City Catapult has been engaged on behalf of the Belfast Region City Deal Partners to develop a Digital Strategy to identify the digital infrastructure required across the region in order to advance economic growth and social inclusion. It will consider

- What digital infrastructure is required to support our key growth sectors
- What future digital skills will be required to ensure digital infrastructure is used to achieve economic efficiencies
- How digital infrastructure can progress social inclusion and inclusive economic growth

- 3.10 A significant amount of work has been undertaken to date and FCC has conducted an extensive programme of engagement with Council partners and key stakeholders, including a session with local businesses facilitated by the CBI.

- 3.11 The emerging vision and proposition highlights a range of strategic objectives for the digital infrastructure strategy which include

1. Take action to increase digital readiness of the regional economy
2. Accelerate the development of data and Internet of Things capabilities
3. A Pathway to a future-proof digital infrastructure
4. Embed digital into services prioritising those that will trigger economic growth

- 3.12 Work is continuing to develop specific projects to support these objectives which will be included in the city deal proposition document at the end of April.

#### Infrastructure

- 3.13 At the last meeting, committee was provided with an update on the emerging infrastructure projects in Belfast that were

identified for initial consideration in the next city deal proposition. They were selected given their significance to the development of the city and wider economic region. These projects had already been priorities identified in a number of council strategies including the Belfast Agenda, the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and the Local Development Plan and include; The Belfast Story, Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2- Linking the north & south of the city, Lagan Bridges and Links, Transport Hub phase 2 (Weavers Cross), York Street Interchange. The Living with Water Project has also been identified as significant in terms of supporting the city's infrastructure and has been included for further consideration.

- 3.14 Members are reminded that in all of the work strands the initial list of projects are in early draft and it is important to recognise that the value of the projects being identified by Council partners has a value far in excess of even the level of financing that could be available through a £1billion BRCD. There are therefore a significant a number of steps, including discussions with DCLG and NI Government Departments on both financing and deliverability, still to be worked through in relation to all the projects that are being considered as part of the deal.

#### Next Steps

- 3.15 Work has also begun on developing the tourism ask in the city deal. An early draft of this is due at the end of April and will help to inform this element of the proposition document. At the same time members will be aware that the Council continues to work on the development of a new potential city centre tourist attraction as well as developing a framework for neighbourhood tourism.

#### Engagement

- 3.16 Councils will continue to consult with the NI Executive Departments to test the emerging project list and updated proposition paper which will form the basis of discussion and negotiation with DCLG at the end of April / early May. It is anticipated that further prioritisation will form part of this process as well as the need for more information to take projects forward including detailed financial modelling with funding streams and development of individual business cases.
- 3.17 As projects now begin to emerge, further detailed discussions will take place with all partners and the private sector to

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maximise the benefits of any deal, including identifying other funding opportunities. A further Joint Members Forum will also be held in May.

**Financial & Resource Implications**

- 3.18 Finance for the development of the Belfast City Region Deal has been included in the revenue estimates.**

**Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Inclusive Growth Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

- 1.1 Members have expressed their desire to embed inclusive growth within the programme and project decision-making process of Council. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan 2017-21 includes a commitment to ‘work to drive inclusive growth’ through the development and adoption of an inclusive growth framework.**

**The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed approach and timescales associated with the realisation of this commitment and embed inclusive growth in our portfolio approach of the Belfast Agenda.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- 1. Note the proposed approach and suggested timescale associated with the development of an inclusive growth framework.**
- 2. Agree to the commissioning of expertise to support Members to develop and implement an inclusive growth framework and action plan.**
- 3. Agree to participating in a Members’ workshop with a view to defining the inclusive growth priorities.**

**3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 The OECD states that inclusive growth is: ‘Economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society.’**

Recognising the importance of securing inclusive growth for Belfast, Members have engaged in a number of activities designed to support the development of an inclusive growth agenda. This has included a roundtable discussions facilitated by the RSA Commission on Inclusive Growth, work with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies and a Rockefeller Foundation Resilient Cities workshop. This work has been complemented by the findings of a poverty report produced by the Belfast Youth Forum and by work by Ulster University’s Economic Policy unit on economic inactivity in the City.

The evidence for an inclusive growth agenda is apparent. Despite the wider success of the Belfast economy over the last decade, and a range of public policy interventions, there is a clear challenge (Source: JRF):

- 376,000 people (21 per cent) in Northern Ireland are living in poverty;
- The level of working age poverty at 20 per cent is equal to the highest recorded since 2002/03;
- 101,000 of Northern Ireland’s children (23 per cent) are in poverty;
- 63,000 pensioners are in poverty (21 per cent).

- 3.2 This need for a set of new interventions to address growing economic inequalities has informed the priorities of the Belfast Agenda with inclusive growth being centre to the vision of the Community Plan. In particular evidence from partners and from the Belfast Conversation that informed the development of the Belfast Agenda, identified a set of particular challenges:**

- Growing levels of in-work poverty
- Number of households in poverty
- High levels of economic inactivity and long term unemployment
- High claimant counts levels
- Low skills and poor educational attainment, resulting in low paid jobs and poor progression

- 3.3 The outworking of this commitment within the Belfast Agenda has seen Council implement a range of programmes of work and interventions to support those most in need within our City. This has included significant investment in employment and skills interventions, interventions to address barriers to employment, the adoption of the living wage, educational support programmes, investments in social enterprise and co-operatives, fuel poverty interventions, robust adoption of social clauses and early years support and intervention.
- 3.4 While the on-going implementation of the Belfast Agenda, the successful delivery of the Belfast City Region Deal and the outworking of the Local Development Plan will provide opportunities for all citizens of Belfast, members have expressed their desire to embed inclusive growth more clearly within the programme and project decision-making process of Council. One such mechanism to ensure this is the adoption of an inclusive growth decision-making framework.

3.4 Why an Inclusive Growth Framework?

The RSA Inclusive Growth Commission and work by Metro Dynamics (with support from JRF) has resulted in the development of an inclusive growth decision-making framework. This framework is designed to support the development of a bespoke inclusive growth approach, embedding inclusive growth within existing functions and ensuring that it is incorporated within the social and economic agenda of a decision-making authority.

In essence, it is a technical led approach to creating an inclusive growth-led council. On the basis of 'what gets measured is what gets done', it is intended to drive behavioural change in investment strategy, so that inclusive growth outcomes are at the heart of the prioritisation. Furthermore, by leading the way in adopting a framework we can work with partners to progress the adoption of an inclusive approach throughout the City.

We anticipate that the embedding of an inclusive growth framework for the Council will involve a number of steps :

3.5 Step 1: Defining inclusive growth for Belfast

It is vital that that there is an agreed, and Belfast specific, definition of inclusive growth. To do this we must use data and evidence to determine challenges facing the city, and its population, and collectively develop a common narrative

about the vision for change. Doing this will ensure a common framework is in place for all policy and decision makers.

To support this process we seek approval to host a Members' workshop in May. This workshop will explore the inclusive growth challenges within Belfast, examine in-depth the evidence and seek to agree the definition.

**3.6 Step 2: Developing and adopting a Belfast City Council bespoke framework**

Building on the outworking of this workshop, and working with established experts and practitioners, officers we will develop an inclusive growth framework to ensure that inclusive growth is placed at the heart of policy, capital and programme decisions. This will ensure that the Council has a practical and simple framework to use in future decision making to quantify the inclusive growth benefits of investments and interventions.

**3.7 Step 3: Assessing current interventions**

This step will involve an assessment of whether the Council's and the actions of other agencies / partners are sufficient, along with the development of a plan to address deficiencies or build on strengths.

**3.8 Step 4: Measuring our progress**

Members will be aware the Community Planning and Smart Cities teams are currently working with Community Planning Partners to pilot a City Dashboard; it is proposed that the agreed measurements of inclusive growth form part of this dashboard. This will enable Members to assess progress.

**3.9 Step 5: Ensuring Delivery**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy, via the Council's newly established Strategic Hub, will oversee the successful implementation and delivery of the Council's inclusive growth framework. The work of the hub in taking forward a number of workstreams, including: the ongoing delivery and implementation of the Belfast Agenda, the development of a comprehensive consultation and engagement agenda, including working with CNS to strengthen community and civic voice, will be critical in ensuring that Council's ambitions in relation to inclusive growth are fully realised.

In addition the commencement of the Commissioner for Resilience in June, will provide increased focused and momentum to the inclusive growth agenda.

**3.10 Proposed timescales**

It is proposed that the process begins with a Members workshop in May, leading to a programme of work that will take place over the next 12 months to embed inclusive growth throughout Council.

**3.11 Linked priorities**

There are a number of linked work streams already underway. These include the ongoing development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and the development of anti-poverty interventions. In relation to the BRCD, the vision agreed by Council partners has inclusive growth at its core. By adopting the various work streams above and working in collaboration with our BRCD partners, it is anticipated that we can integrate inclusive growth principles, particularly around the strand of employability and skills.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

To support Members in the delivery of an inclusive growth framework we anticipate initial development costs of approximately £30,000. Provision for these development costs has been made in the 2018/19 budget.

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into account; equality screening will be undertaken in line with agreed Council policy. However, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Capital Programme Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted 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 of current status of projects under the Programme along with projects recommended to be moved Stages.**

**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 IT Programme - Corporate Asset Management System is moved to Stage 3- Committed - Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending the tender return price at which stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver (section 3.3-3.7)
- agree that the following projects are moved to Stage 2 - Uncommitted on the Capital Programme
  - Waste Plan – New citywide kerbside collection system – OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.9 - 3.10)
  - Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade - OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.11)
  - Belfast Zoo – Works at the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary - OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (3.12-3.14)

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1** 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 £3.8m upgrade of the Tropical Ravine which has been handed over to the C&NS Department – the project was officially opened on Wednesday 11th April by the Lord Mayor, Cllr McAllister and Sir Peter Luff, the Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The opening was extensively covered by local media and reaction to the new building has been overwhelmingly positive
- New 3G pitches and pavilions at Falls Park and Cherryvale as part of the Pitches Strategy
- Works on Phase 2 of Olympia which includes the construction of a new pitch and play park, re-provision of Midgley Park, a new tree lined boulevard leading from the Boucher Road and the development of two commercial sites at the front of the site. Works are due to complete in the coming weeks with an official opening planned for the end of May. In addition Members are asked to note that the two sites which front onto the Boucher Road have now been put out to the market with a particular emphasis on uses which would be complementary to the sports village such as a hotel or leisure. Members are asked to note that a report will be brought to Committee following receipt of offers and that any deal would be subject to Planning and the purchaser(s) would be expected to develop within an agreed timeframe.
- Playground Refurbishment Programme 2017-2018 - three major refurbishments at Hanwood, Botanic Gardens and Blythefield and minor/partial refurbishments at six other sites across the city

**Projects currently on the ground**

- Works on the new leisure facilities at Andersonstown, Robinson and Brook
- New mini 3G pitch at Clarendon
- Upgrade works at the West Wing outdoor space, City Hall (including the Cenotaph)

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- 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 Avoniel and Templemore leisure redevelopments, the City Cemetery HLF project, the baby plot memorial at the City Cemetery and a range of IT projects including a new HR/payroll system

**Proposed movements on 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**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Overview</b>	<b>Stage</b>
Corporate Asset Management System	Part of the IT programme – development and implementation of a fit for purpose corporate asset management system	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending tender return
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	Move from Stage 1 Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted
Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station upgrade	Construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station at the North Foreshore, to accept segregated dry recyclables and food waste from a kerbside sort 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	Move from Stage 1 Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted
Belfast Zoo – Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary	Members have previously agreed their ambitions and objectives for the Zoo and will be aware that a feasibility study on the longer term management options for the Zoo is currently underway. This proposal	Move from Stage 1 Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted

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	<p>focuses on proposed immediate works required to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that work is also underway on looking at the wider capital investment requirements at the Zoo and the development of a wider capital financing strategy for these</p>	
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**Move to Stage 3 – Committed**

**IT Programme - Corporate Asset Management System**

**3.3**

Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	January 2016
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Gerry Millar
Client Department	Property & Projects

**Members will be aware that prior to local government reorganisation in 2015 the Council already owned and managed a substantial estate. This was significantly enhanced under LGR with the addition of over 70 assets which transferred from Lisburn and Castlereagh and has further increased since this time with the completion of new assets. Due to the growing estate there is a requirement for the Council to have a fit for purpose corporate asset management system to support the strategic objectives of better financial management, information management, planning and performance and asset management.**

**3.4 Over the last number of months a series of Envisioning/Discovery' Workshops have been held to assist in the identification of outcomes, business aims and scope of system in order to produce a final systems specification for procurement purposes for the new system. In addition a cross departmental Steering Group, consisting of representatives from Estates, Facilities, PMU, Digital Services, Finance, C&NS and Legal, has been set-up and is meeting regularly to identify all asset related data, interdependencies, relevant processes and business service linkages in relation to the use and management of land and property information across the Council.**

**3.5 As part of recent pre procurement market research, officers attended a number of system demonstrations and undertook a comparative costing exercise. These are however impacted by the fact that there are a number of different options available which are impacted by how the system is hosted (i.e.**

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on premise versus hosted by another organisation). Given this, it is not possible to this point to accurately allocate a budget and that the only way to obtain definitive costings will be to go out to the market for tender via an open procurement process. In parallel to the procurement process, officers will continue the process mapping exercise, collation of asset related data-sets and cleansing of data..

- 3.6** It is therefore recommended that the Corporate Asset Management System 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 the tender return price. An update will be brought back to Committee at this stage along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- 3.7** In addition Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes 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 – this will be subject to SP&R approval in relation to the final budget allocation.

**Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted**

- 3.8** Members are asked to note that moving a project to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme does not constitute a decision to invest in any project. OBC's for these projects will now be worked up which will include firming up the options and the costs and further information will be brought back to Committee in due course.
- 3.9** **Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system**

Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	January 2016
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Gerry Millar
Client Department	Property & Projects

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 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.

- 3.10 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 moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme so that further detail can be worked through the development of the OBC.

3.11 **Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade**

Agreed as an Stage 1- Emerging Project	November 2017
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services

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 moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the

Capital Programme so that further detail can be worked through the development of the OBC.

**3.12 Belfast Zoo –Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary**

Agreed as an Stage 1- Emerging Project	January 2018
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services

As part of the discussion of the long-term future of Belfast Zoo, Members have identified priorities for change that include:

- Enhancing the customer offer to generate additional revenue streams
- Building a reputation for providing a high-quality visitor experience which brings people back time and again as well as attracting new customers and increasing dwell time
- Providing assurance that the health and wellbeing of the animals is maintained
- Providing strong education and conservation programmes
- Providing an ability to access external grants and potential for generating third party investment for improvements
- reducing the current Belfast City Council subsidy
- Contributing to the Belfast Agenda

**3.13 The SP&R Committee agreed in January that the ‘Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works’ project be added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1- Emerging Project and that this would focus on two key work streams including**

1. *Short-term* – eradicate immediate health and safety issues that will in-turn generate additional revenue opportunities for the Zoo including proposed works at the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary
2. *Medium to long-term* – this will follow the resolution of operator model considerations and the NFS proposals. In consideration of these it will be imperative that, in the long-run, a new Master Plan is required to address outdated buildings and infrastructure, changing animal care and guest needs including accessibility, and to ensure the Zoo continues to evolve and be an example of a modern Zoo. Work is continuing on this

3.14 Members are asked to note that it is recommended that *Belfast Zoo - Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary* is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow the health and safety issues which have been identified to be addressed. Members are asked to note that the Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works which will look at the longer term requirements of the Zoo will remain as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project on the Capital Programme with further information to be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.15 **Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial* – Corporate Asset Management System – Budget to be brought back to Committee for sign-off following the tender return process.

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.

3.16 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update**

The Committee considered the following 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

- note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1.

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- note the update in respect of the options appraisal for the future management arrangements for Templemore as outlined at 3.2 to 3.4 and endorse the recommendation from the East AWG that “*Option 4 – the Council enter into a contractual relationship with the TUT for the original building only, that being the interpretative area and the existing pool, with the new build being outsourced for management by the Council’s strategic partner*” be adopted as the preferred future management option for the Templemore Baths.
- note, however, that given the tight timescales for this work given the HLF timescales and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall East leisure provision, the agreement of the East AWG that ‘*Option 6 – Outsource the management of the building in its entirety to a strategic partner / the Council’s existing strategic leisure partner*’ would be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 could not be satisfactorily reached.
- note the next steps as outlined in 3.5 below and that Committee will be kept up to date on progress in the next two months

**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 –**

<b>CENTRE</b>	<b>USP</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre completed. Works underway on outside phases. Due for completion May 2018 – Opening event being arranged for 30 <sup>th</sup> May
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Site works underway
Robinson	Aquatic Centre	£20	Site works underway
Brook	Outdoor Centre	£15m	Site works

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CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
	of Excellence		underway
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Stage 2 consultation undertaken.
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Revised facilities mix and design agreed. Options appraisal on the future management arrangements currently underway
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

**Templemore – Future management arrangements – Options appraisal**

- 3.2** Members will recall that they were informed last month that an options appraisal in respect of the future management arrangements for Templemore was underway. This was on the basis that the Council had received legal advice that a direct award to the Templemore Users Trust to run the new facility would leave the Council open to legal challenge. At the same time however, there was a recognition of the significant work that the Trust has done over the years to keep the existing Baths open and the East AWG members have continually stressed their desire that the TUT continue to have an active role in management of the facilities. It has been highlighted this needs to be balanced against the fact that the new facility is an entirely different proposition to the existing centre and that the new centre is a core part of the city's overall leisure offering.
- 3.3** The East AWG, at its meeting on 10th April, were updated on the outcome to date of the options appraisal by the consultants. At this meeting, Members considered the options put forward and agreed to recommend to the SP&R Committee that the Council should progress '*Option 4 - BCC enters into a contractual relationship with the Trust for the existing building only (i.e. existing pool and interpretative space). New build managed by the BCC's strategic partner. (Precise contractual structure to be agreed with Council)*'. It was noted that this option is subject to a satisfactory partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding being reached that meets the Council's and HLF's requirements including, but not limited, to an agreement by TUT to apply Council policies in relation to pricing, a commitment to the Council's monitoring

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arrangements and full co-operation with both the HLF and the Council in relation to the design, funding application and maintenance.

**3.4** Members are asked to note that the Council has now received definitive timescales from the Heritage Lottery Fund and are now required to submit all project documents to them by 10th August for the pre-application review with the final application to be submitted by 5th October. As previously advised HLF have indicated that there will be no possibility for an extension to this deadline and there is therefore an extremely tight window in the coming months to progress this. It must be emphasised that if the HLF monies are not secured the current proposals for Templemore cannot be achieved within the Council's budget provision of £12m for the centre. This will not only impact Templemore but will have a wider impact on the overall leisure provision within East as the Templemore and Avoniel projects are inextricably linked.

**3.5** To ensure the tight HLF timescale is met the East AWG members agreed the timetable agreed the timetable and next steps as set out below:

- By end of April 2018 - discussion period with TUT (starting asap) with the aim of agreeing the aforementioned principles/ Heads of Terms. Discussions with Strategic Partner.
- 18th May 2018 – Update to SP&R
- May-Mid June 2018 – Detailed negotiations with TUT and Strategic Partner to agree specific division of roles and responsibilities (to be encompassed within a partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding)
- 22nd June – Update to SP&R
- By 10 August 2018 – Submission of all project documents to HLF as part of a pre-application review – to include partnership agreement or MoU, Business Plan & Management & Maintenance Plan

Members are asked to note that there is a significant piece of work to be undertaken in the coming months and it was therefore recommended that independent facilitation continue to be provided in support of this.

**3.6** Committee is asked to note that all Members of the East AWG expressed their support for Option 4 and for a continued role for TUT in the future management of the building. However that they also noted the tight timescales as set out above and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall

East leisure provision. They therefore further agreed that '*Option 6 – Outsource the management of the building in its entirety to a strategic partner / the Council's existing strategic leisure partner*' would be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 cannot be satisfactorily reached.

- 3.7 Members are therefore asked to endorse the recommendation of the East AWG that Option 4 be adopted as the future management option for the Templemore Baths. Recognising however the tight timescales and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall East leisure provision note the agreement by the East AWG that Option 6 (as above) will be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 cannot be satisfactorily reached. Members will however be kept up to date of progress in the coming months.

3.8 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.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications .”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Asset Management

Acquisition of Land Adjoining Twinbrook Wildlife Park

The Committee approved the acquisition of two plots of land adjoining the Council - owned Twinbrook Wildlife Park, which would be acquired from Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department for Infrastructure at a cost of £7,000 and £6,800, respectively

Belfast Flare Pavilion, Manderson Street

The Committee approved the grant of a licence for an eighteen-month period to Landmark East to permit the locating of a temporary pavilion on Council land at the entrance to the C S Lewis Square, just off the Newtownards Road, subject to terms to be agreed by Estates and Legal Services. The annual licence fee would be £90 for the area of land required for the pavilion. All costs including repair, maintenance and insurance would be met by Landmark East.

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**Land at Springfield road/Ballygomartin Road:  
Acquisition of Land**

The Committee approved the acquisition of an area of land at Springfield Heights from the Crown Solicitors office. The area would transfer to the Council for £1,000 plus costs of £400 plus VAT.

**Acquisition of Land at Grampian Avenue**

The Committee deferred consideration of the two plots of land within the Grampian Avenue children's park to enable further information to be obtained.

**Proposed Licence for Temporary use for  
Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion**

The Committee approved the grant of a licence to Ballysillan Swifts FC to use part of the Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion, the minimum utility cost of which would be covered through existing site revenue budgets.

The Committee agreed also to allow free use of this site by the organisation and to the Council providing key-holder access until the licence had been signed off.

**Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site**

The Committee agreed to rescind its previous option with Forbairt Feirste in respect of land adjacent the former Beechmount Leisure Centre site, and agreed that the Property and Projects Estates undertake an initial feasibility study in relation to the potential development and use of the land.

**Area Working Update**

**Minutes of the Area Working Groups**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Area Working Groups as follows:

- North Area Working Group of 20th March;
- West Area working Group of 22nd March;
- South Area working Group of 26th March; and
- East Area working Group of 10th April.

**North Area Working Group**

The Committee to the recommendation from the North Area working Group in respect of the North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast project and that that project was now being progressed to due diligence.

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**West Area working Group**

The Committee noted that the West Area Working Group had approved a minor change to WLIF2-14 MNA Regional Centre of Excellence in respect of the project promoter.

**Local Investment Fund - Proposed Awards Ceremony and Dinner**

The Committee considered a report on a proposal to hold an Awards Ceremony and Dinner in the Autumn time to mark the extent of the projects delivered under the Council's highly successful £9m Local Investment Fund Programme.

The Committee:

- agreed to host an award ceremony/dinner in the City Hall to mark the impact of Local Investment Fund in the Autumn time to which community groups who had a benefit from funding, all Elected Members (including Members who had left Council since the launch of LIF) and Council officers who have supported LIF would be invited; and
- noted that further details on the ceremony and arrangements, would be brought back to the Members in due course for consideration.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Contracts for Award**

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria to accept the most economically advantageous tender;
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 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 set out in Appendix 1, Table 2; and
- noted the contracts which had been awarded in the last quarter:

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**Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration**

**Table 1 – New tenders**

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Centralised Postage	R Cregan	3 years
Asset Management	R Cregan	5 years
Supply of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	G Millar	3 year
Tender for the Franchise of the coffee shop in City Hall	G Millar	3 year
Tender for the provision and servicing of toilet hygiene equipment and floor mats for various Council properties	G Millar	3 year
PCSP Crime Prevention Equipment	N Grimshaw	3 year
New Parks Inspections	N Grimshaw	5 year
Supply & Deliver of Fertilisers Grass Seed	N Grimshaw	5 year
Provision of Pitch Drainage Services	N Grimshaw	5 year
Collection and Treatment of Paints and Varnishes	N Grimshaw	4 year
Sharps Removal	N Grimshaw	3 year
Litter Bins	N Grimshaw	3+ year
Enterprise Awareness Programme	J Greer	3 year
Driving Employment Academies	J Greer	1 year
Hospitality and Hotel Employment Academy	J Greer	1 year
Lead Development Agency	J Greer	3 year

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Cyber Security Programme	J Greer	2 year
Creative and Music Development Programme	J Greer	3 year
E&S, IF and ED Economic Growth Service Evaluation	J Greer	4 year
Student Enterprise Initiative	J Greer	3 year
Business case for Investment (Infrastructure Proposal)	N Gallagher	1 year
Financial / Commercial Investment Advice	N Gallagher	1 year
City Centre Living	N Gallagher	1 year
Public Sector Land and Strategic Site Assessment (incl car parks)	N Gallagher	1 year
Car Park Action Plan (incl. sites assessment)	N Gallagher	1 year
Belfast Telegraph - commercial advice	N Gallagher	1 year
Residential Market analysis	N Gallagher	1 year
Meanwhile Animation Castle Street	N Gallagher	3 year
Meanwhile Animation North Street	N Gallagher	3 year
Tender for the provision of event management and support services for MIPIM 2019	N Gallagher	1 year

**Table 2 – Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>System/Product</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Annual estimate</b>
Clockwise – (Being replaced)	Softworks	£50,000
PS Enterprise – (Being replaced)	Bain Capital Private Equity	£67,000

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E-Bravo	Bravo Solutions	£30,000
Travel & Substance (T1) system	Selima	£45,000
Health & Environmental Services (Flare)	Civica APP	£153,507
Invoice management (SAP)	Vendor Invoice Management (VIM)	£67,334
Provision of Kerbside collections and treatment services for recyclable materials	Bryson Recycling	£1,400,000
Energy Management	M&C Energy group Ltd (Schneider Electric)	£51,470

**Equality and Good Relations**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 9th April and agreed to the following recommendations:

**Peace IV Recommendations**

- to authorise the eleven small scale sites for the Shared Space and Services project;
- to agree the selection criteria and that the Area Working Groups be permitted to consider and make the recommendations regarding the selection of the sites to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- to agree to adopt the PEACE IV Partnership Agreement and the Partner Delivery Agreement with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and
- to grant officers authority to reframe the tender for the Young Advocates Project and that it be re-advertised.

**Other Recommendations**

- to note the allocation of £166,692 to support 31 organisations to deliver Good Relations projects from April til September, 2018 through the Good Relations small grants funding and the allocation of £83,369 to support 21 groups to deliver diversionary projects from June til August 2018 through Summer Intervention funding;

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- to approve the allocation of £2,000 from the District Council Good Relations Programme to support four local initiatives as parts of Neighbours' Day 2018; and
- to approve the recommendations in respect of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

**Language Strategy Launch and Update**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, it had granted approval to implement the recommendations on the draft Linguistic Diversity Policy. The recommendations which had been presented to the Committee had followed a period of public consultation which had ran from 23rd May to 18th July, 2017, and a number of key priorities had been included in an action plan to run from October 2017 until March 2018.

An update on some of the key priorities are set out below:

- rebrand of draft Linguistic Diversity Policy to a Language Strategy was complete and now incorporated consultee comments and revisions from the consultation period. An event was scheduled to take place on Monday, 14th May, 2018 when the Language Strategy would be launched by the Lord Mayor. The keynote speaker's message would focus on the challenges and opportunities which linguistic diversity brings in achieving the Belfast Agenda outcomes; and
- the recruitment of an Irish Language Officer and Language Officer was underway, with part funding now secured for the Irish Language Officer. Advertisement of both posts was scheduled for mid-May.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided and approved the arrangements for the launch event.

**Operational Issues**

**Requests for use of the City Hall and  
the provision of Hospitality**

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to April, 2018 as set out in Appendix 1 below:

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**APRIL 2018 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS**

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2018 EVENTS</b>						
Birth Mothers and their children for Justice NI	27th April 2018	<b>From The Heart –</b> Exhibition, audio video installation, candle lit vigil, presentation and testimonials from survivors of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home.  Numbers attending – 200+	C & D	No (charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i>  No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Theatre NI with EquityUK	4 May 2018	<b>Celebrating the Theatre and NI Creative Industries –</b> reception with speeches and performances to celebrate the contribution of performing arts to Belfast and NI economy.  Numbers attending – 150+	C	No (charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i>  No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS)	18 June 2018	<b>Launch of Refugee Week 2018 –</b> Annual event to celebrate the achievements of the refugee community and link with partner organizations. Reception with speeches.  Numbers attending – 80	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Ulster History	20 June 2018	<b>Official Launch of Ulster History project –</b> resources to gain better understanding of the role the people of Ulster in shaping the United Kingdom.	D	No (Voluntary)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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		Numbers attending – 75				
Belfast Bible College	October / November 2018  <i>Final date tbc</i>	<b>75th Anniversary Reunion and Signature Event</b> – celebration of life of the college with invites to former students. Drinks Reception, small exhibition of college life, speeches, prayers and dinner.  Numbers attending – 100	C	No (Charity)	No	Approve No Charge Drink Reception
Bright Lights Dance Group	3 November 2018	<b>Made in Belfast – Celebration of Dance</b> – event to celebrate 30 years of this Dance company with various dance performances and a dinner reception  Numbers attending – 100	C	TBC – query charity status	No	Approve Charge TBC No Hospitality
Department for the Economy	6 November 2018	<b>Apprentice of the Year Awards 2018</b> – 18th year of these awards to marking the achievements of apprenticeship training in NI - Speeches, Lunch Presentations & Entertainment  Numbers attending – 250	C	Charge £300	No as Government body	Approve Charge £300 No Hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	21 November 2018	<b>Belfast Trust Chairman's Awards 2018</b> – award ceremony, reception and dinner to recognize the achievements of trust staff.  Numbers attending - 300	C  1 in 3	Yes - £825	No as Government body	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality

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Horn of Africa People's Aid	8th March 2019	<b>International Women's Day</b> – Celebration event with speakers, entertainment and drinks reception.  Numbers attending – 50+	C & D 1 in 3	No (Charity)	No - got at previous event	Approve 1 in 3 rule applied No charge No Hospitality
The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT)	23rd March 2019	<b>ASiT Gala Awards and Dinner</b> with drinks reception as part of 3-day conference at Belfast Waterfront.  Numbers attending - 250	A & C	No (Charity)	Yes – Wine reception linked to Visit Belfast	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Aquinas FC Dinner	19 October 2019	<b>50th Anniversary Gala Ball</b> with Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment.  Numbers attending - 400	C & D	Yes - £300.00 not £825 as voluntary/ community group	Yes – Wine reception	Approve Yes, £300 Wine Reception

**Minutes of Meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 12th April.

**Business in the Community 2018 – Responsible Business Awards**

The Committee was advised that the Council had been shortlisted as a finalist in the “Diversity and Inclusion” category of the 2018 Business in the Community Responsible Business Awards and had been invited to attend this year’s awards event. The awards event was scheduled to take place on the evening of 24th May 2018 in the Belfast Waterfront Hall.

The Committee:

- agreed to the Council’s attendance at the 2018 Business in the Community Responsible Business award event; and
- approved the attendance of the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or nominee) the Chair of the Equality and Diversity Network (City Solicitor), or his nominee, and the Human Resources Manager.

**Elected Member Development Charter –  
Level Two Accreditation**

The Committee considered the the following report:

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

**1.1 To seek approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to proceed with an application and assessment process for re-accreditation of the Elected Member Development Charter Award.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Approve Corporate HR officers to begin work on an application to enable an assessment process to be conducted for Belfast City Council’s re-accreditation of the Elected Member Development Charter Award.
- Note members’ participation will be required as part of the Charter assessment process.
- Note the council’s preference to have North West Employers, given its approach, conduct the re-accreditation assessment.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

**3.1 Belfast City Council was the first Council in Northern Ireland to be successful in gaining the Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development in 2011. The award was in recognition of excellence in elected member development. In 2015 the council gained re-accreditation of Charter status (level one).**

**3.2 Intrinsic to gaining this accreditation was the Council demonstrating that members are developed in such a way that they are able to work strategically with partners and stakeholders, engage and lead local communities and deliver tangible, sustainable and beneficial outcomes for the citizens of the city.**

**Current Position**

- 3.3 The Charter is awarded for a three-year period which means that the Council, should it wish to retain Charter status, is required to apply for re-accreditation this year.
- 3.4 It is proposed the Council proceeds with a Charter Level Two assessment, to be conducted by September 2018. This level requires evidence that the Council has continued with, and improved, its strategies for member development and that this work has clear links to the aims of the Belfast Agenda and outcomes which directly impact and deliver benefits for local communities.
- 3.5 NILGA works with both South East Employers and North West Employers as awarding bodies for the Charter. Having considered both organisations approaches in respect of level two accreditation the North West Employer's approach best fits our needs in respect of the measurement of the link between member development and community benefits. North West Employers will therefore be asked to conduct and oversee the assessment process should the Council decide it wishes to proceed.

3.6 **Key issues - Charter Level Two Assessment Process**

Charter Level Two considers if and how the Council can demonstrate how the community has benefitted from investment in elected member development. The main evidence requirements that the assessors will look for when considering awarding Charter Level Two are set out at Appendix One.

- 3.7 Given that Level Two has a clear focus on outcomes and in particular community impact it is proposed that selected geographically dispersed LIF and BIF projects are the focus for the application. This will allow the Council to demonstrate that the impact of delivering specific projects, and corresponding member development interventions, has helped to resolve issues being experienced by communities.

**Next Steps**

- 3.8 It is proposed that the Council submits an application for Charter Level Two. Initial feedback will be provided by North West Employers advising if sufficient evidence has been provided to proceed with a formal level 2 assessment.
- 3.9 If agreed that the Council is in a position to be assessed for Charter Level Two an assessment visit will be arranged. The assessment team will comprise a councillor from North West

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**Employers' Regional Development Committee, a local (NI) councillor (as a peer mentor/ assessor) and an officer from North West Employers supported by NILGA.**

**3.10 The assessment process will be designed around the specific project(s). The assessment team will interview elected members, community representatives, officers, representatives from partner organisations and key stakeholders. Given the nature of the Charter Level Two award members' participation and involvement in the assessment process will be critical to the possibility of achieving a successful outcome.**

**3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

**The cost of the Level 2 assessment will be in the region of £4,180, plus travel costs incurred by the external assessors for the assessment visit. It is anticipated a 25% contribution to the assessment cost, if re-accreditation is achieved, will be made by NILGA/Local Government Training Group. The costs will be met from the 2018-2019 Corporate OD budget.**

**3.12 Corporate HR will work with key departmental officers, specifically Property and Projects staff, to collate the evidence required for the assessment process.**

**3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**None associated with this report."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**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 16th April.

Arising out of the discussion, the Director of Property and Projects drew the Members attention to the ongoing work on exploring a further option regarding the Film Studio; and that Councillors would be invited to hear the Developer submissions on the commercial leisure lead/mixed use development.

Noted.

Chairperson