

# City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 13th June, 2018

## MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Lyons (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Haire and Kingston; and  
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Corr, Dorrian,  
Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Johnston,  
Kyle, Murphy, O'Donnell,  
O'Hara, O'Neill, and Walsh.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;  
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Howard, Alderman McGimpsey and Councillor Mullan.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 25th April and 9th May were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4th June.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Welcome**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy, to his first meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and wished him well in his role.

### **Presentation**

#### **Destination Hub: Outline Business Case**

The Chairperson reminded the Committee that it had agreed, at its meeting on 9th May, to receive a presentation from the consultants which had been commissioned to undertake the feasibility work on a new visitor destination in the city centre at a future meeting.

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The Strategic Director of Place and Economy advised the Members that the presentation contained commercially sensitive information and, as such, the Committee agreed that all Members of the public and press were required to leave the room for the duration of the discussion and that it would not be audio recorded.

He welcomed Mr. C. Mounstephen, Deloitte, and Mr. M. Counahan, CHL, to the meeting.

He advised the Committee that the consultants would present their ideas on the Emerging Concept, the Governance and Organisational Structure of the project and an Outline Business Case. He pointed out that the Council hoped to submit the project as part of the Belfast Region City Deal submission.

The Chairperson advised the Members that Ms. Rosemarie McHugh, Director of Product Development in Tourism NI, was in attendance and she was also welcomed to the meeting.

The Strategic Director reminded the Committee that a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) had been completed in June 2016 based on the Belfast City Centre and Regeneration Strategy. He explained that it had recommended that serious consideration should be given to developing an international visitor destination in the city centre to complement Titanic Belfast. He explained that Deloitte and CHL had been selected to take forward the recommendations from the SOC and to progress a number of work streams.

Mr. Mounstephen explained to the Committee that the new world-class facility had the potential to make a real and lasting impact for Belfast through increasing visitor trips, as well as by increasing footfall in the city centre, and thereby supporting retail and the wider daytime and evening economy.

Mr. Counahan provided the Members with an overview of the work streams and the progress which had been made to date. He emphasised that the design of the new building should be flexible in terms of its internal layout and visually iconic externally.

A number of Members expressed their support for the work which had been carried out on the proposals to date.

In response to a Member's question in relation to how the new attraction would fare alongside the City's existing attractions, the consultants advised the Committee that the new attraction would act as a complementary asset within the city centre and that it would direct visitors to other key sites across the City in order to enhance the experience of visitors to Belfast and Northern Ireland as a whole.

In response to a Member's query regarding the work which was ongoing in relation to the community tourism infrastructure, the Chief Executive confirmed that a separate report on neighbourhood tourism changes would be submitted to a future meeting.

Ms. McHugh advised the Committee that market testing had shown that the wider story of Northern Ireland was not currently being presented to visitors in an easily

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accessible format. Additionally, she advised that the proposals had been well received at a recent meeting of the Tourism NI board.

In response to a further Member's question regarding a potential standalone art gallery in Belfast, Mr. Mounstephen advised the Committee that there was little appetite to take on a National Gallery given the high running costs associated with them. He pointed out, however, that the proposed attraction would have the space and the ability to exhibit collections on both a permanent and temporary basis.

The Committee:

- noted the work undertaken to date by the expert advisory team producing the Destination Hub Outline Business Case, including extensive engagement with key statutory and cultural stakeholders, and the intention to include this project within the Belfast Region City Deal;
- noted that an update on Community Tourism Infrastructure would be provided to the Committee at a future meeting; and
- agreed to receive a further report which sets out details of the outline business case, recommendations and a future work programme.

**Requests to Present to Committee**

**Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC)**

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that, as part of its ongoing commitment to receive regular strategic briefings, an annual economic briefing from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) was held and it was proposed that this would take place at its meeting in September.

He reminded the Members that the UUEPC acted as a critical friend for the Council, which had been central to the development of the Belfast Agenda and the key priority of growing the economy.

The Members were advised that the briefing from the UUEPC would provide them with an opportunity to consider the economic conditions and forecasts to inform the future direction and priority setting around key inter-related programmes of work for the Council, namely, growing the economy, employability and skills and city development.

In response to a Member's request, the Committee agreed that the presentation from the UUEPC would be circulated to the Committee in advance of the meeting and that presentations from other economic perspectives would also be provided throughout the year.

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The Committee agreed:

- to receive a presentation from the Ulster University Economic Policy Centre at its September Committee meeting;
- that a copy of the UUEPC presentation be circulated to the Members in advance of the meeting; and
- that additional economic perspectives be invited to present to the Committee throughout the year.

**Folktown Regeneration Initiative**

The Committee was advised that the West Area Working Group had received an update on the proposals for the Folktown Regeneration Initiative, which had requested support for the promotion of the area as an emerging cultural quarter, the development of meanwhile activity and a proposal for a permanent event space and community hub.

The West AWG had recommended that Folktown presented their work to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, so that their proposals could be considered within the context of the Committee's work on meanwhile use/city animation, business support and promotional activity.

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from Folktown Regenerative Initiative at a future Committee meeting.

**Belfast Marathon**

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that representatives from the Belfast City Marathon had requested to present to the Committee once again, in order to follow up on their previous presentation on 21st February, where they had outlined a number of proposed changes to the City's marathon.

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from Belfast City Marathon at a future Committee meeting.

**Growing Businesses and the Economy**

**Working and Learning**

The Director of Economic Development reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 11th April, it had requested legal advice in relation to whether the Council could ring-fence jobs and training opportunities to the residents of Belfast, given that the programmes were paid for by Belfast ratepayers.

He confirmed to the Members that legal advice had since confirmed that the Council could do so.

Noted.

**Positioning Belfast to Compete**

**Events and Festivals Strategy Update**

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Noted.

**International Relations- Nashville Invitation**

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 Members’ approval for an outward business-focussed visit to Nashville from 26 – 30 August 2018.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- **Approve the attendance of the Chair of Committee or nominee and one officer to engage in the outward business visit to Nashville with key stakeholders and Belfast businesses, from 26 - 30 August 2018. This is subject to confirmation of stakeholder commitment and programme value.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Members will recall the November 2016 approval of a new International Relations Framework for the period 2016 - 2021.**

**3.2 The aim of this Framework is to continue to promote Belfast on the international stage with other stakeholders as a place to invest, work, visit and study. The Framework will deliver primarily on the formal relationships already in existence through our Sister City Agreements with Shenyang, Boston and Nashville, the Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin, and developing relationships with the City of London. New areas of opportunity will be considered on their merits and relevance to Belfast.**

**3.3 Members will be aware that, at the 8 March 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update report on International Relations activity for the previous six months**

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was presented and the outline plans for the coming period were agreed.

- 3.4** As part of the agreed programme of activity for 2018/19, Belfast City Council hosted a *Nashville in Belfast Week* (28 April - 6 May 2018), showcasing joint activity across a range of sectors including music, food creative industries, education study abroad opportunities, doing business in Nashville and pursuing tourism opportunities. A detailed report on this highly successful week will be presented to members in due course, once all outputs have been measured.
- 3.5** As part of the Nashville programme, a series of focussed business meetings were held with Belfast City Council, Invest NI, Catalyst Inc., CSIT, Venture Capitalists and both Universities. The Nashville delegation included a leading entrepreneur in the field of healthcare, who is also a venture capitalist with interest in investing in business start-ups in Belfast. Since the visit, a proposal has been presented to Belfast City Council by the Nashville Sister Cities Board to invite Belfast City Council, economic agencies and a number of Belfast businesses in the healthcare/life health sciences sector to attend a conference in August 2018, and follow a wider but focused economic programme.
- 3.6** The conference entitled 'Health: Further' is being held during the week of 26 August 2018 as part of a wider series of events happening in Nashville that week called '*Nashville Is... Week*', a week of entrepreneurial celebration in the city. The Nashville Board and this leading entrepreneur have invited a delegation to attend the week free of charge, but to focus specifically on opportunities for Belfast businesses in health and healthcare, as Nashville is an economic driver for the USA in this field. The proposal asks that a Belfast delegation is made up of 1 Belfast City Council elected member and official, 4 healthcare entrepreneurs, 1 Venture Capitalist in this field, 1 representative from the Department of Health in Northern Ireland, 1 representative from Invest NI in this sector and 2 other representatives in the sector recommended by Belfast City Council and partners. There will be a maximum number of 14 delegates.
- 3.7** The Sister Cities Nashville Board and Nashville City Council are fully supportive of this invitation and are encouraging Belfast to attend to drill down into real cooperation and business opportunities. This is the outcome of 2 years of developing relationships and targeting the right people in

business, government and academia and may lead to direct financial investment in Belfast companies.

**3.8** With regard to the key International Relations activities for 2018/2019, all activity will be driven by a number of the priority outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda. This proposal from Nashville will contribute to the 'Growing the Economy' theme of the Belfast Agenda. These focus on:

- Building the City's position as a magnet for FDI
- Maximising the City's connections worldwide to drive growth
- Positioning the City internationally as a key tourism, education and business destination
- Helping local companies to internationalise their business.

**3.9** **Financial and Resource Implications**

It is proposed that Members approve and agree to provide financial support to the Nashville outward visit for BCC related participation at a maximum cost of £3500. This resource will be covered within the agreed 2018/19 International Relation's Unit budget allocation, included in the budget estimates which were approved by the Council in February 2018.

**3.10** **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

The International Relations Framework was equality screened."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Five Year Cultural Programme**

(Ms. E. Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report and the accompanying Programme Plan:

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

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to provide further detail to Members on the planned programme of activity to support the development of a significant 5-year cultural initiative of international profile, that seeks to build on the work undertaken as part of the European Capital of Culture competition.

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Note the contents of this report and the support of the cultural sector and agree to receive further updates including a detailed options appraisal in December 2018.
- Agree for officers to further scope options for Belfast to participate in the Culture in Sustainable Cities programme (Culture 21) and delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Economy and Place to progress if appropriate at a maximum cost of £20,000.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

In April 2018, Members agreed that in light of the European Commission's decision on the ineligibility of a UK competition that officers would build on the work undertaken to date and develop alternative options for a 5 year cultural programme of scale. These options will be taken back to Committee for consideration in December 2018. In parallel, negotiations will continue with governments on funding and support including the potential to reconsider the position of Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council.

**3.2 Options Development**

The process of developing these options will involve extensive engagement and will adopt a co-design model working closely with citizens and the cultural sector. A panel of international experts will assess the creative projects and signature events included in the programme. The programme plan for the development of these options is included in Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov). Options will also integrate work on:

- A signature event in partnership with Galway 2020
- UNESCO City of Music
- Options for collaboration with other international cities including potential partnerships with the UK cities that had been bidding for 2023 designation
- Delivery of major events as set out in the Events and Festivals Strategy
- A year-long cultural programme of scale to be delivered in 2023



- **The opening of the new visitor attraction**

**3.3** These options will be developed in the context of long-term cultural development and investment and how to best support the priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda. The process of developing options for a 5-year programme will also consider how it should connect with the further development and implementation of the recent Events and Festivals Strategy as well as the future development of a new Cultural Framework and Tourism Strategy. This wider context helps position the five-year programme as the catalyst for sustainable growth and investment in the cultural sector.

**3.4** **Long term cultural development and investment**

To support a long-term approach to cultural development the stage one bid had recommended that Belfast considers participation in a suitable global programme such as Culture 21. This programme includes support from international cultural experts, extensive local engagement and critical assessment of the city's current position resulting in clear recommendations for future cultural policy. This work would also address cuts to public sector funding for the arts and inform the most effective long-term response from local government.

**3.5** The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To foster increased local and European understanding of the connection between culture and local sustainable development in the participating cities, on the basis of the issues raised by the Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21 Actions, as well as other issues relevant to the European and local agendas.
- To enable the design, implementation and evaluation of innovative pilot measures in areas relevant to culture and sustainable cities, through collaboration between public, private and civil society actors.
- To facilitate exchanges, evaluation, peer learning and capacity building among European cities concerned with culture and sustainable development, based on the thematic areas identified in Culture 21 Actions.
- To provide wide visibility to the participating cities and their policies and programmes in the European

**3.6 Completion of the two year programme includes a four step methodology:**

- 1. Analysis of the local context and first assessment**
- 2. Design of the work programme**
- 3. Implementation of the work programme**
  - 3.1 Pilot Measures**
  - 3.2 Peer Learning (visit to another city)**
  - 3.3 Peer Learning (visit from another city)**
  - 3.4 Local civic engagement**
  - 3.5 Monitoring**
- 4. Final conference and assessment report**

**3.7 Recommendations have been received from independent experts and other participating cities. It is proposed that a workshop is held with the organisers of the programme to scope out potential participation by Belfast before making a final decision.**

**Participation in this programme aligns with the recent Notice of Motion that pledged support to Arts Matter and the need to address ongoing issues of sustainability in the sector.**

**3.8 Financial Strategy**

**The development of options for a 5-year programme will involve a financing strategy that will enhance and re-prioritise the level of long-term investment in culture. This will include an effective approach to securing contributions from the private sector. Members will be aware that Belfast recently participated in the Core Cities Cultural Enquiry. The official report and recommendations are due to be published in September 2018 and will be incorporated into the funding strategy. The sessions held in Belfast highlighted the potential for new approaches to cultural investment and the opportunities for public and private finance.**

**3.9 Recent engagement with the cultural sector has demonstrated support for a major 5 year programme and how it can act as a catalyst for change and present an opportunity to address long term structural and sustainability issues.**

**3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

**The Committee agreed that the budget for this development phase would be allocated from resources set aside for the stage 2 bid for European Capital of Culture. Appendix 1**

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(available on modern.gov) sets out the programme plan with a total maximum expenditure of £295,000.

**3.11 Options will then be presented to Committee in December 2018 for consideration in advance of the 2019/20 rate setting.**

**3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**As part of the 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.”**

In response to a Member’s query, the Cultural Regeneration Manager confirmed to the Committee that community groups and those working in the arts, music, sport and food sectors would all be included within the Council’s extensive engagement plan.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

**Strategic and Operational Issues**

**Belfast Cycling Strategy**

European Cycle-Friendly Employer Accreditation Scheme

The Director of Economic Development advised the Committee that a new cycle-friendly accreditation scheme for employers had been launched in Belfast on 19th April, 2018. He explained that the scheme was aimed at encouraging staff to commute to work by bike and had been developed to provide a European standard for cycle-friendly companies. He advised the Members that it was being run by the European Cyclists’ Federation (ECF) across Europe and that it would be delivered in the UK by Cycling UK and supported by Sustrans.

He outlined to the Members that the scheme recognised that encouraging staff to cycle for business journeys helped to improve staff health and could help boost productivity. He also pointed out that the outline detail of the scheme indicated a contribution towards delivering a number of the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda in particular ‘Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city’.

The Committee was advised that officers from across the Council were liaising with Sustrans and Cycling UK regarding further detail of the Cycle-Friendly Accreditation Scheme and a that follow up report would be submitted for its consideration at a later date.

Belfast Bicycle Network Plan

The Director reminded the Members that the Council had responded to the public consultation on the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network Plan in January 2017, and he suggested

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that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) be invited to a future meeting to discuss the plans for its implementation, in order that the Council could highlight any potential areas for consideration.

During discussion, the Committee agreed that NI Greenways also be invited to attend that meeting.

The Director reported that, while the DfI had made progress on developing the cycling network in the city centre, there was a lack of progress on a coherent bicycle network city wide.

In response to a number of Members' queries, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy undertook to clarify the detail of the Council's formal submission to the consultation on the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network Plan, ensuring that it had a city wide focus based on previous council reports and submissions.

Active Belfast Initiative

The Director outlined to the Committee that the Council had committed to work at a strategic level to promote physical activity, including cycling, through the work of the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP) and the Active Belfast initiative. He explained that the Active Belfast Partnership had developed and agreed a new overarching strategy for physical activity called 'Get Active Belfast'.

He provided the Members with an overview of the strategy and explained that the first of seven pledges in the strategy was to 'create an integrated active travel network'.

The Committee was advised that a 'Task and finish' subgroup had been established, with key stakeholders having been asked to commit to three meetings, with a view to producing a collective action plan by mid-2018.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the emerging detail of the Cycle-Friendly accreditation scheme;
- agreed to invite the Department for Infrastructure and NI Greenways to a future meeting to discuss the plans for the implementation of the Bicycle Network Plan and agreed Council priorities;
- noted that the Strategic Director of Place and Economy would clarify the detail of the Council's formal submission to the consultation on the Draft Belfast Bicycle Network Plan, ensuring it had a city wide focus based on previous council reports and submissions; and
- noted the ongoing partnership work of the Active Belfast initiative and the work of the 'Task And Finish' subgroup.

## **Year End Committee Plan**

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 close-off the 2017-18 City Growth & Regeneration Committee Plan. This provides an update on progress with the key actions, in particular highlighting the work undertaken in terms of jobs growth, skills development, cultural investment and physical regeneration. The headline figure is that, during 2017-18, over 1,700 residents have entered employment/self-employment as a direct result of the Council’s investment.

**1.2** The Plan drew together several annual delivery plans; such as city centre development, support for businesses, Employability & Skills, tourism and the cultural framework. It set out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee oversaw during 2017-18 to maximise the Council’s contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda that, at its core, has a commitment to inclusive growth.

**1.3** The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus on the economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:

- Our city is home to an additional 66,000 new residents
- Our urban economy supports 46,000 more jobs
- There will be a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods
- Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1** The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the report and that officers are continuing to progress the actions within the City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan 2018-19 as agreed by the Committee in April 2018.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Key Issues**

The 2017-18 Committee Plan was developed in line with the Council’s Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast

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Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth and the importance of growing the local economy to improve the quality of life. While the Committee contributes to the delivery of all 4 work-streams, Growing the Economy, City Development and Working & Learning are the focus of this Committee, therefore the Committee continues to take the lead in ensuring that there is connectivity between the need for economic growth and the purpose of this growth – to connect people to opportunity and reduce inequality.

3.2 The Committee has received regular reports throughout the year outlining the progress with the key programmes of work. Building on this work, the Committee approved the 2018-19 Committee Plan in April 2018 in order to continue the Council's investment and commitment to delivering on the Belfast Agenda ambitions.

3.3 Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov) provides an update against each of the main action areas in the Committee plan. Members are also aware that a number of detailed reports on key programmes of work have recently been considered and these will continue to feature regularly on the Committee agenda.

3.4 **Overview of Progress:**

Particular highlights for the 2017-2018 Committee Plan include:

**Growing the Economy**

- Through our enterprise outreach activities, we have engaged with 361 individuals across the city, plus 30 student entrepreneurs, 33 social enterprises and co-operatives (via the 'Go-Social' programme), and 24 high growth start-ups to help them start a business.
- 249 jobs were created through out 'Go For It' programme in 2017/18 which helped individuals to develop new business plans.
- Launched the new 'Think Do Be' business growth programme in September 2017 - 130 companies have accessed support to date with each company having the potential to create at least one new job.
- Business and Conference tourism this year delivered 79,300 bed nights, which contributed over £45million to the City's economy
- Working with the Smart Cities team, three collaborative networks have been appointed to take forward the Tourism Challenge focusing on building a more

accurate understanding of visitor behaviour and gather real time data.

- The City Events annual event programme attracted an audience of almost 318,000 people into the city. This helped to create an economic benefit of £16.8 million.
- Successfully supported the third annual Friendship Four Ice Hockey Tournament in partnership with the SSE Arena that reached a worldwide TV audience of 20M households and over 100M viewers.
- Secured the Council's invitation to the Shenyang Winter Cities Summit for 2018 as a result of the visit from our Sister City Shenyang and successfully programmed the 'Nashville in Belfast' week which took place in April 2018
- Secured approval to launch the pilot phase of the Belfast City for Investment; Soft Landing Service. (Since launching in April 2018, 13 enquires have been dealt with).

### 3.5 City Development

- Launch of the new Belfast Brand, which has integrated the new Belfast Brand into BCC corporate communications and advertising campaigns.
- Launched the new website to promote Belfast to the investment and development communities, both domestically and internationally in March 2018 ([www.investinbelfast.com](http://www.investinbelfast.com)).
- A delegation of over 80 people attended MIPIM as part of the Belfast delegation (35 supporting private and public sector organisations). In total, £269,825 private sector sponsorship was raised for Belfast at MIPIM 2018.
- Expanded the VUCITY model to cover 52km<sup>2</sup> of Belfast and incorporated into the Belfast at MIPIM 2018 stand to showcase development and investment opportunities in the city.
- Launch of the City Centre Investment Fund seeking applications for commercial development.
- East Bank and Inner North West draft Masterplans produced for consultation, and extensive engagement undertaken
- Commissioned Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Plan to support City Region Deal application.
- Business case for second major visitor attraction (Destination Hub/Belfast Story) underway.

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- Secured approval to allocate £240k per annum for two years to provide animation in Castle Street & North Street, with roll-out planned for summer 2018.

**3.6 Working & Learning**

- Across the various Employability & Skills programmes offered by the Council, over 4,300 residents have accessed employability interventions. Of these, over 1,300 have entered employment/self-employment.
- Launched and delivered the new Employment Academy sectoral model. Employment Academies in 2017-18 focused on the hospitality, construction, healthcare, retail and public transportation sectors.
- In total, 5,328 young people have participated in employability and skills development activities in schools across the City.
- Additionally, over 3,100 training accreditations have been supported, with 490 progressing onto further education or training.

**3.7 Living Here**

- The work on the European Capital of Culture bid engaged over 15,000 citizens as well as 300 artists and practitioners with 125 project proposals received. Since the announcement that Belfast was no longer eligible associated work programmes have continued. This includes securing Committee approval in March 2018 to progress plans to apply for UNESCO City of Music.
- Ten organisations benefitted from one-to-one mentoring through our capacity building support to strengthen the cultural sector.
- The first 'BelFeast Food & Drink' festival showcased our local food and drinks industry in the city centre, attracting approximately 11,000 visitors at the market and various events. Visitor surveys generated 100% positive response to the question of BelFeast becoming an annual/ regular event.

**3.8 Financial & Resource Implications**

Progress is in line with the previous agreed Departmental budgets.



**3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Programmes and actions within the Committee Plan are developed and delivered in consultation with the Council's Equality & Diversity Officers."**

A Member thanked the officers for the work which had been completed on the numerous work streams throughout the year.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and that officers were continuing to progress the actions within the Committee Plan 2018-2019, as agreed by the Committee in April 2018.

**Restricted Item**

**The Information contained in the report associated with the following item 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 the item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42 (4) and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Recruitment Panel Nominations**

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that Ms. N. Gallagher, former Director of City Centre Development, had left the Council on 6th June to take up a post in Bristol City Council.

She outlined to the Members that the newly appointed Strategic Director of Place and Economy would assess this staffing requirements and explained that an Interim Lead Officer role would be created for six months, subject to review, for the City Regeneration and Development section.

The Committee noted that the job description for the post had been amended to reflect the key duties required on an interim basis and, in line with Council practice, that the role would be internally trawled as an internal staff development opportunity.

The Chief Executive advised the Members that the selection panel would have delegated authority to appoint the successful candidate and that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would be advised of the outcome.

During discussion, the Chairperson advised the Committee that he would be unable to attend all of the required recruitment stages as listed within the report.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Deputy Chairperson, or her nominee, and Councillor Beattie, or his nominee, would form the selection panel for the recruitment of the post of 'Interim Lead Officer - City Regeneration and Development' in the new Place and Economy Department, who, along with the Chief Executive and the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, would balance the panel in terms of gender and community background.

Chairperson