

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 4th June, 2019

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Collins (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;
Alderman McCoubrey; and
Councillors Baker, Black, Bunting, Cobain,
Corr, Donnelly, Kelly, Kyle, Magee,
McCusker, Mulholland, Newton,
Smyth and Verner.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors de Faoite, McLaughlin and McMullan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of agenda item 2 (c), Community Development Grants Update, in that she was employed by the Grosvenor Community Centre, which received a community developments grant, and she removed herself from the room while the item was under consideration.

Councillor Verner declared an interest in respect of agenda item 7 (j), Ur City 2, in that she was employed by the Greater Shankill Partnership which had an application in, and she removed herself from the room while the matter was under consideration.

Councillor Bunting declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6 (a), Parks Events Small Grants Scheme, in that she was secretary of the Belvoir Area Residents Group which had applied for funding. Similarly, Councillors Kyle and Newton declared an interest in the same item as they were members of the Lagan Village Youth and Community Association which had also applied for funding. However, as the report was only for noting, they remained in the room during the discussion.

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Committee Schedule

The Committee:

1. agreed that all future meetings would commence at 5.15pm;
2. noted that three additional Special meetings would be held throughout the year focusing on local housing issues and engagement with the Belfast Youth Forum; and
3. agreed that it would meet on the following dates in 2019:
 - Tuesday, 6th August;
 - Tuesday, 10th September;
 - *Special Meeting on Monday, 16th September (to include the Housing Investment Plan and the Belfast Youth Forum);*
 - Tuesday, 8th October;
 - Tuesday, 5th November; and
 - Tuesday, 3rd December.

Restricted Items

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

**Request for use of Botanic Gardens and Boucher Road –
June 2020 to 2023**

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for the use of the Boucher Road Playing Fields and the Great Lawn at Botanic Gardens for a number of music events between 2020 and 2023.

During discussion, a number of Members requested that the organisers of the events would engage with local residents. A Member stated that it was important that Neighbourhood officers were not relocated from other areas to assist with large concerts. A further Member suggested that officers should ensure that the Council would be able to revoke use of the venues if necessary.

A Member suggested that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive a report after the events had been held in June by Aiken Promotions, in order that it could make an informed decision regarding the hire of the Great Lawn in Botanic Gardens for future years.

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After discussion, the Committee agreed:

1. to defer consideration of the hire of the Great Lawn at Botanic Gardens for a series of music events in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022 until August;
2. to grant authority to Aiken Promotions the use and hire of the facilities at Boucher Road Playing Fields for a series of music events, with attendances up to 45,000 persons, during the months of May and June in the years 2021, 2022 and 2023, to include set up and take down; and
3. to grant authority to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed and on condition that:
 - the promoter would resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 - an appropriate legal agreement being completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor;
 - the promoter would meet all the statutory requirements of the Planning and Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Park's Entertainment Licence; and
 - to negotiate an appropriate fee for use of the both facilities taking into account costs to the Council, minimising negative impact on the immediate area but also the potential wider benefit to the city economy.

Outstanding Debts

(Ms. J. Wilson, Business Manager, City and Neighbourhoods Department attended in connection with this item)

The Committee was advised that authorisation was being sought for an outstanding account to be written off. The Business Manager provided the Committee with the history and the actions which had been taken to date in relation to recouping the debt.

After discussion the Committee agreed that an outstanding account of £5,656.25 be written off, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation 2.2.7.

Community Development Grants Programme 2019/20
- Second Stage Payments

(Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of this item and left the room while it was under consideration.)

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The Strategic Director provided the Committee with an update on the Community Development Grants Programme (CDGP) for 2019/2020. He explained that he was seeking approval to extend the current contracts to 31st March, 2020.

He outlined to the Members that an open call for applications would be operated for Capacity Building Grants, Revenue for Community Building Grants and Advice Funding for the year 2020/21.

In response to a Member's request, the Strategic Director agreed that the details of consortia would be outlined in future reports.

A number of Members expressed concerns regarding the shortfall in funding for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service. The Strategic Director advised the Members that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would be considering the end of year funding at its next meeting and that it would be best placed to investigate whether any additional funding could be allocated towards that Service.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed that the Chairperson of the Committee would engage with the Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources (SP&R) Committee to convey the Committee's concerns regarding the shortfall in funding for the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service, particularly in relation to the SP&R Committee's upcoming report on end of year funding;
2. agreed the extension of current funding contracts for Capacity Building Grants, Revenue for Community Buildings Grants and Advice Funding to 31 March 2020; and
3. noted the open call for applications for Capacity Building Grants, Revenue for Community Building Grants and Advice funding for 2020/21.

Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions

**Response from Department of Health
re: Suicide Prevention Motion**

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st April, had passed a motion in relation to the increasing number of suicides across the City and called on the Northern Ireland Assembly to implement the Protect Life 2 Strategy on suicide prevention.

The Members were advised that a detailed response to the Council's letter had been received from Mr R. Pengelly, the Permanent Secretary and Health and Social Care Chief Executive.

In his letter, the Permanent Secretary had explained that he welcomed the Council's recognition of the devastating impact of suicide and its willingness to work with others to reduce rates across the City. He outlined that, regionally, £8.7million was invested each year in suicide prevention. He also stated that the Public Health Agency

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supported a range of projects aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing through a small grants scheme, where £63,000 had been awarded to 18 projects across the Belfast area last year.

He outlined that, in the absence of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and of a Health Minister, the Department was continuing to review all health and social care policies on a case by case basis and was taking decisions, with legal advice, when it was in the public interest. He advised that the Department was currently seeking agreement from other stakeholders on their actions contained within the draft Protect Life 2 strategy prior to his consideration for publication. He emphasised that, despite the delay in publication of the new strategy, suicide prevention services continued to be supported and developed and a number of new initiatives from the draft strategy were being piloted using transformation monies.

The Committee noted the response.

Committee/Strategic Issues

Committee Plan Priorities Overview

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This paper presents a list of emerging priorities for note by the new committee. These are based on the Belfast Agenda commitment, the emerging corporate plan and ongoing work programmes within the Department.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note;

- the emerging priorities at this stage for the City and Neighbourhoods Department.
- That the Strategic Policy & Resources committee on the 21st June will discuss a Draft Corporate plan that will set the organisational direction which will then inform this committee's planning over the coming months.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Background and context

3.1 In preparation for the new Council term the Chief Officers have reviewed and revised the Corporate business planning approach and have been developing a draft Corporate plan to

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assist member discussion and it is anticipated that this will be presented to SP&R in June.

3.2 It is expected this will facilitate discussion at the various committees and help to finalise the specific committee plans. The anticipated timeframe is:

- **Committee priorities overview to shape the new committees discussions (June)**
- **Committee plan for People and Communities should be developed by September.**

3.3 New Members of Council will also receive more information on this Department and its wide range of functions etc as part of the planned induction (10/ 11 June). Members should note that there is a significant body of service delivery on a daily basis which forms the business as usual for this department, although this is not reflected in the table below these are also subject to review and improvement.

3.4 The table below outlines the emerging Committee priorities overview for which this committee has oversight for or has influence over, as part of the Belfast Agenda. This has been cross-referenced with existing programmes and key projects and cross cutting themes such as the Belfast Region City Deal.

<i>Priorities</i>	<i>Key deliverables</i>	<i>Over the year we will:</i>
Neighbourhood Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Design a new model of neighbourhood working, with teams which are better integrated, flexible and responsive. · Review the Council 'community Provision' offer · Implement our Open Space & Street Scene project (integrating street cleansing & parks operations) · Develop 5 transformational, place based regeneration programmes in local areas across N,S,E & W Belfast. 	
Good Relations Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Launch the Public Strategy, complete a Good Relations audit; promote key messages e.g. <p>Good Relations is everyone's business & complete an Implementation Plan aligned to</p> <p>Belfast Agenda, Local Development Plan & Resilience Strategy.</p>	
Leisure Transformation Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Open the new £25 million Andersonstown Leisure Centre; £20 million Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre & £15 million Brook Leisure Centre. Develop their mobilisation plans with GLL and create 75 new employment 	

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	<p>opportunities in these centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Commence construction of the new £8 million Avoniel Leisure Centre and £17m restoration of Templemore Baths (includes £5m HLF funding). · Progress plans for a new facility at Girdwood · Develop our Sports Development Framework, in collaboration with our Leisure Partners (GLL), to enhance the delivery of sport and leisure opportunities & outcomes and create pathways to improved health & wellbeing.
Physical Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Continue to use our £28.2m Belfast Investment Fund, £9m Local Investment Fund & £4million Social Outcomes Fund to support partnership projects citywide; · Deliver 30+ projects for the Executive Office (Social Investment Fund & the Urban Villages initiatives) & a number of projects for the Department for Communities; · Work with Members to develop a new Physical Programme; and · Examine the funding mechanisms to support the Council's future Physical Programme including the potential for a new neighbourhood fund.
Sustainability/ Climate Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Scope our carbon and sustainable energy strategy and identify priority areas for research/study (in order to enable reporting on GHG emissions); · Contribute to ESRC Climate Commission and jointly Commission 'mini Stern review'; · Commission scenario planning on sea level rises using QUB and Met Office Data; · Support delivery recommendations in Belfast Infrastructure Study particularly relating to the transport/ energy / renewable energy nexus; · Review our Sustainable Procurement Strategy; · Develop approach to electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Belfast.
Waste & Resourceful Belfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Propose new waste collection arrangements under the 10 Year Waste Framework Strategy; · Test new collection arrangements for around 5,500 households (September 2019); · Undertake Phase 2 of the "No Food Waste" campaign; · Complete route optimization exercises for domestic and commercial waste; · Prepare a Fleet Strategy for the Council's vehicles; · Through the Resourceful Belfast programme maximise economic potential through the

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · creation of social enterprises; · Develop a waste acceptance policy at the Council's Household Recycling Centres & CA sites; · Undertake a feasibility study for development of the Duncrue Complex for fit-for-purpose waste facilities.
City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Ensure the city centre is green, attractive & safe by initiating the Streetscape city centre improvement project aiming to achieve the citycentre achieving Purple Flag status to demonstrate this.
Customer Focus Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Awarding of contract for the strategic delivery partner; design of the new customer hub; <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Procurement of Web CMS for new website & also the new CRM system.</p>

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

Full resource scoping will be part of the process for preparing the final Committee Plan.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Equality and good relations/rural needs considerations will be factored in to each stage of the corporate business planning process.”

During discussion, the Strategic Director advised the Committee that officers were keen to get Members' feedback and input into the Committee Plan and that he hoped to submit a further report to the September meeting.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Future Burial Provision and Engagement with Neighbouring Councils

The Director of City Services reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 2nd April, it had agreed that an Expression of Interest (EOI) would be undertaken to identify potential burial land which would serve the north and west of the City. She explained that officers were currently working on drafting the necessary paperwork for the EOI to be issued.

She explained further that, at that meeting, the Committee had been provided with information which had been commissioned in order to assist the Council in determining the amount of burial land which remained and its future requirements. The Members

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were advised that, given good practice guidelines, the Council would be seeking between 5.51 and 8.66 hectares of new land.

The Committee was advised of a recent request which had been received from Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC), requesting a sub-regional approach towards searching for burial space and crematorium provision, given the complexity of finding and resourcing such key projects.

The Director explained that an initial discussion had been hosted between senior officers of Belfast City Council, LCCC and representatives of Ards and North Down and Antrim and Newtownabbey Councils in May 2019.

After discussion, the Committee noted:

1. that preparation was underway for an Expression of Interest (EOI) to be issued for new burial land, as agreed by the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group at its meeting in December 2018, and ratified by the People and Communities Committee in April 2019; and
2. the requests in respect of consultation and engagement by LCCC with neighbouring Councils and approved formal engagement with adjacent councils to consider and progress discussions, if appropriate, a sub-regional options proposal on burial space and crematorium provision.

Physical Programme/Asset Management

Tullycarnet Park, Pavilion and Bowling Green

The Committee was advised that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, as its meeting on 18th August, 2017, had approved funding through the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) to Tullycarnet Action Group Initiative Trust (TAGIT) Boxing Club for the construction of a new boxing club facility.

The Members were advised that the Council was proposing to lease 0.093 acres of open space land in Tullycarnet Park to TAGIT to facilitate the development of a new boxing club facility, which would significantly enhance the sporting potential of the park and produce a community benefit.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it grants a Land Lease to TAGIT Boxing Club for the purposes of constructing a new boxing club facility on the Council lands.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

**Park Events Small Grants Scheme
Tranche 1 Awards**

(Councillors Bunting, Kyle and Newton declared an interest in respect of this item, in that they were members of groups which had applied for funding. However, as a

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decision was not required from the Committee, they remained in the room for the duration of the item)

The Strategic Director provided the Committee with a list of the successful and unsuccessful applicants which had applied for funding through Tranche 1 of the Parks Events Small Grants Scheme.

He explained that the Open Spaces and Active Living Unit had assessed the applications against specific criteria, with 35 out of 49 applications having been successful. The Committee was advised that 20% of the applications had been reviewed by an Independent Assessment Panel.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided.

Review of Partnership Funding

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Elected Members on funding provided from within departmental revenue estimates to partner organisations to support their work in the 19/20 financial year.

1.2 Council has partnership working arrangements with a range of organisations which share common objectives. In previous years, those requests for funding have been approved by People and Communities Committee on a case by case basis. However, given the changing context and ongoing financial pressures these requests are being presented collectively for consideration.

1.3 Committee may wish to note that at its meeting in March 2019, Members agreed to continue with a partner financial contribution to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful for the ‘Live Here, Love Here’ Campaign and ‘Eco Schools’ Project to the value of £55,000 but on the condition a value for money/outcomes review was undertaken.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To seek authority from Committee;

- to commence a review of the ongoing financial contributions to each of these partner organisations focussed on alignment with the Belfast Agenda outcomes and value for money.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI)

The Council wishes to promote the use of Mountain Bike Trails and Jump Parks at Barnett Demesne and Mary Peters Track to ensure the facility is well used, contributing health and well-being by encouraging active lifestyles. This is a well-used facility with over 45,000 uses per year on the Barnett's Mountain Bike Trails and Dirt Jumps.

3.2 The marketing campaigns and website management by ORNI create and manage advertising in Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland to ensure tourists are aware of the trails available at Barnett's Demesne and Mary Peters Track as well as providing valuable updates on trail closures, conditions and events.

3.3 The funding provided by Belfast City Council is £5,000 towards the cost of promotion, support and liaison with consortium partners to ensure a collaborative approach providing mutual benefits for the mountain bike trail centres in Northern Ireland. Provision has been made in the departmental revenue budgets for this contribution since 2013/2014.

3.4 The funding provided is based on full support from each stakeholder with match funding being provided by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Mid Ulster District Council for Trail Centres in their areas.

3.5 Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC)

Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) was established in 1988 and is part of the World Health Organisation Healthy Cities Network. Its aim is to work with statutory, community and voluntary partners to make Belfast a more healthy, equitable and sustainable city. Its involvement in the WHO Healthy Cities Network enables Belfast to connect and learn about health and wellbeing policy and practice from across the world. Preparation is currently underway to make an application for Phase VII of World Healthy Cities and Officers are working with Belfast Healthy Cities to ensure full alignment with the Belfast Agenda.

3.6 Council has been supporting Belfast Healthy Cities annually since its inception with the most recent award being £81,294 provided for within the annual revenue estimates. Belfast

Healthy Cities is funded by other statutory organisations, including the Public Health Agency and Belfast Trust.

3.7 Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP)

The Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP) is a partnership between Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, the Department of Communities and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Belfast City Council has funded LVRP since its inception in 1967 and, along with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, are its main funders.

3.8 People & Communities Committee at its meeting on 12 May 2015, approved funding of £41,055 for 2015/16 and provision has been made in revenue budgets at this level since then. The NIEA provides funding to LVRP but at a reduced level and there remains uncertainty around central government funding. Following representation to Belfast City Council, a one off non-recurring additional award of £25,000 was made to LVRP for the 19/20 financial year, bringing the total award for 19/20 to £66,055.

3.9 Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP)

The Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP) brings together a divergent range of partners from local government, environmental groups, quarry and farming representatives and local communities with the joint aim of protecting this valuable resource on the perimeter of North and West Belfast. The Council has supported BHP since its inception in 2003/4 and the Parks & Leisure Committee at its meeting on 14 April 2011, approved its annual funding of £36,900. Provision has been made in revenue budgets at this level since then.

3.10 This partnership has in turn generated much needed investment in the landscape and infrastructure within our parks. This ranged from the construction of new paths in Ligoniel and Cave Hill Country Park and an orienteering course in Belfast Castle Estate to heritage interpretation, visitor counters, habitat mapping and numerous events.

3.11 Changing Context

Given the changing context with the development of the Belfast Agenda and associated community planning implementation mechanisms as well as continued pressure on Council finances, it is recommended that Council uses the 19/20 financial year to undertake a review of its ongoing partnership arrangements with a focus on alignment with the Belfast Agenda and value for money.

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3.12 The review will be commissioned externally and is focussed only on Council's contribution to the identified organisations. Recommendations from the review are expected in autumn 2019 at which time further Committee consideration may be required.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

All of the above has been budgeted for within existing departmental revenue estimates for 19/20.

3.14 Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments

There are no known equality, rural needs issues, however this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Operational Issues

Street Naming

The Committee considered a report in relation to the naming of new streets and a continuation of an existing street in the City.

The Committee approved the naming in respect of:

- Castlegowan Drive, off Catlegowan Place, BT5,
- (Continuation) Castegowan Park, off Quarry Hill, BT5,
- Whitewell Grove, off Whitewell Road, BT36; and
- Elmgrove Court, off Beersbridge Road, BT5.

Dual Language

The Members were advised that the Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate required that at least 66.6% of the people surveyed in the street must be in favour of the proposal.

The Committee was informed that at least two thirds of the total numbers of persons surveyed in the streets were in favour of the proposal to erect second street nameplates in Irish.

The Committee approved applications to erect second nameplates in Irish at Edenmore Drive, Bingnian Drive and Corby Way.

Affordable Warmth Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Belfast City Council has been engaged in a partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme (AWS) since 2014.

1.2 The scheme aims to address fuel poverty for the most vulnerable households in the city by targeting those households that meet certain criteria, as identified by Ulster University. While it is a targeted scheme, self-referrals are also considered. To qualify for the scheme occupant’s income must be below £20,000 (gross).

1.3 The eligibility criteria for the boiler replacement element of the scheme includes:

- have an existing central heating boiler that is at least 15 years old; and
- be aged over 65; or
- receive Child Benefit for a child under 16 years of age; or
- receive DLA.

This report provides an update on the scheme including confirmation received from the DfC of the funding allocation for 2019-2020 and the level of referrals to be provided.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to;

- note the contents of the report and consider the chair of committee writing to the Permanent Secretary for DfC raising the inadequacy of the level of funding related to the levels of need being identified through the scheme.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

During 2018-2019:

- the Service completed 303 referrals to the NIHE.

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- the total value of approvals granted for the scheme in Belfast was £871,381
 - 450 measures were installed
 - 233 homes were improved within Belfast.
- 3.2** The scheme continues to receive a high volume of enquiries. While the scheme is primarily targeted, the service received significant number of self-referrals, with 686 households currently on the self-referral holding list.
- 3.3** Correspondence issued from DfC to Councils on 4th April 2019 , contained in Appendix 1, states that the number of referrals which will be accepted by the NIHE has reduced from 30 per month (18-19) to 18 per month (19-20) for each council area – 216 in total.
- 3.4** The funding provided to each council to deliver their part of the scheme has also been reduced from £68,780 in 2018–2019 to £41,256 for 2019-2020. The reduction is due to the overall scheme reduction and the increase in average spend for measures per household, which has risen to £4,500, from the original estimated £1,400.
- 3.5** The overall funding is split equally between the 11 council areas, and no consideration is taken on the variations in number of households waiting to be considered, or the nature of the measures involved.
- 3.6** The funding being provided is insufficient to fully cover the current salary costs and has led to one member of staff being released. The service currently has only the co-ordinator in post who is carrying out the full range of duties to manage the scheme and provide the referrals through to the NIHE. The Building Control Service also continues to subsidise the administration of the AWS as it handles the significant number of calls about the scheme. This remains in the region of £40,000 per year.
- 3.7** The team continue to triage the cases, in line with a process agreed with DfC, to ensure that the most vulnerable are helped. The triage should ensure that referrals are made for those most vulnerable, with broken boilers or the elderly but significant numbers of eligible households will not avail of the scheme at this time
- 3.8** The Building Control Service has been informed by NIHE that the DfC have delayed the issuing of approvals for applications for the Affordable Warmth Scheme. This temporary delay impacts all Councils across Northern Ireland and will affect approximately 900 applications received by the Housing

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Executive since 31/12/18 and 400 applications received prior to 31/12/18.

- 3.9 DfC have confirmed that they are seeking a more long term approach to the scheme, over a five year period, with a business case prepared for the consideration of any future minister. It has also commissioned a report from the Department of Finance on the future of the scheme and the final official findings are yet to be released.**

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

The DfC will provide £41,256 in funding for 2019-2020 which is insufficient to cover current salary costs. This is leading to the loss of an experienced site officer who is being redeployed to another part of the council.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs issues.”

A Member suggested that the Department should be paying for the installation of solar panels, in terms of a long-term, environmentally sustainable way of heating homes.

A number of Members expressed serious concerns regarding the level of funding for the scheme across the City.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded on behalf of the Committee to the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Communities raising the following points:

- the inadequacy of the level of funding related to the levels of need being identified through the scheme;
- the amount spent on bureaucracy administering the scheme;
- that Belfast, as the capital city, had by far the largest population and that the allocation of funding should be based on need rather than split equally between the 11 Councils;
- that the scheme should have a key focus on ensuring that houses were well insulated; and
- that the Permanent Secretary be invited to a meeting to discuss the Affordable Warmth Programme.

Food Service Delivery Plan

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Food Safety Unit works with local businesses to build compliance with Food Law and to ensure that food produced and**

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sold in Belfast is safe and can be trusted. This not only protects the consumer it also protects and enhances the reputation of the City, our local businesses and their competitiveness.

- 1.2 Food related illness costs the local economy, individual businesses and the consumer. It is estimated (based on N.I. Department of Health statistics) that in Belfast around 11,200 people may suffer from food poisoning and food related illness annually, potentially resulting in 104 hospital admissions, 5 deaths and costing the Belfast economy in the region of £19 million.
- 1.3 A reputation for good food hygiene standards can support economic growth. The Food Hygiene Rating Act (NI) 2016 requires businesses to display their food hygiene rating, improving the opportunities for consumers to make informed choices and encouraging improved compliance. It is expected that this enhances the reputation of Belfast as a safe place to visit with 99% of food businesses rated as 3, 4 or 5 (broadly compliant or better). (See appendix 2 for ratings breakdown).
- 1.4 BREXIT will continue to pose a major challenge for the service this year with the potential for additional checks on the import and export of foods. We are working closely with the Food Standards Agency, DAERA, government departments, local businesses and other stakeholders to plan for reasonable worst case scenario's and ensure adequate arrangements are in place to facilitate trade and protect consumers.
- 1.5 It is estimated that around 2 million people living in the UK have a food allergy and officers work to ensure food businesses provide the required (allergen) information to enable consumers to make informed choices. However recent cases of severe allergic reactions, including the tragic death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse after eating a Pret a Manger sandwich, have highlighted concerns regarding the adequacy of labelling requirements for food that is prepacked for direct sale (PPDS) i.e. food that has been packed on the same premises from which it is being sold. The Food Standards Agency have just completed a public consultation on options to address these concerns. Additional legal requirements will require officer time to support, monitor and ensure compliance. It is likely this work will impact significantly on the unit.
- 1.6 Each year, the Council produces a Food Service Delivery Plan which sets out the activities, techniques and approaches to be taken during the year to support businesses in ensuring food safety, food standards and to promote informed healthy choices. The Plan provides the basis on which the Council's regulatory activities are monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency and it is a requirement that it is presented to the Council for approval.

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2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to approve;

- **The Food Service Delivery Plan 2019-2020.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has a key role in overseeing local authority regulatory activities to ensure that official controls are delivered. Powers to enable the FSA to monitor and audit local authorities are contained in the Food Standards Act 1999. A detailed Framework Agreement on local food law enforcement has been produced by the Agency, in conjunction with local authority representative bodies, to provide guidance on how regulatory service plans should be structured and what they should contain. Service plans developed under these arrangements provide the basis on which local authorities are monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency.

3.2 The Framework Agreement as described above requires that Food Service Delivery Plans should be submitted to the relevant Member forum, in this case the People and Communities Committee, for approval. This is to ensure local transparency and accountability.

3.3 A summary of the key work activities completed in the last year and profiling the work of the unit is included for information in Appendix 1. A summary of current food hygiene ratings is included in Appendix 2. The Food Service Delivery Plan for 2019-2020 is included in Appendix 3.

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

The resources required for this core service have been included in the City and Neighbourhood Services Revenue Estimates for the year and no additional resources are anticipated.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

The Planting of One Million Trees over a 15 Year Period/ Council’s Tree Policy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members are advised of a ‘Notice of Motion’ from the Council meeting of the 4th March 2019 in regards to the ‘Planting of one million trees initiative’ and the agreement that this be referred to the People & Communities Committee for consideration. In addition Members are also advised of a request from Emma Little Pengelly MP, tabled at the February meeting of the People & Communities Committee to plant 5 small trees on Council land as part of the Queens Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project in March 2019. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a report to be submitted to a future meeting which would detail any policy for such requests. The purpose of this report is to consider the detail in relation to these requests.

1.2 Recommendations

I. The Planting of One Million Trees over a 15 year period

The Committee is asked to agree in principle that it becomes the lead partnership facilitator for this Project, with a goal to planting one million trees in the city over the next 15 years. The principle commitment is subject to further officer level discussions with Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group (BMRG) to clarify the level of officer resource required to support any facilitation role between the BMRG and the fore mentioned interested organisations. There is no Council financial contribution.

II. Council’s Tree Policy & Request from Emma Little Pengelly, MP.

The Committee is asked to approve the proposed policy position for future tree planting requests within our Parks and Open Spaces which mark significant occasions and events:

'Permission for future tree planting requests may be granted by the People and Communities Committee on a request by request basis. Any tree planting proposals/request received by the Council should fit in and be aligned with the Council's 'Tree Management Plan' for that individual Park/Open Space as advised by Council Officers within City and Neighbourhood Services'

Based on the noted policy statement above, committee is asked to accede to the request submitted by Emma Little Pengelly MP, to plant 5 small trees to mark Her Majesty the Queens' Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

(i) The Planting of One Million Trees over a 15 year period

At the Council meeting on 4th March 2019 it was agreed under a 'Notice of Motion' that a request for the planting of one million trees over a 15 year period be referred to the People and Communities Committee and a report be submitted to a future Council meeting which would investigate ways in which the Council could help facilitate the planting of one million trees in Belfast over the next 15 years.

3.2 Officers from the City and Neighbourhood Services Department met with Peter Carr and Peter Diehl, two representatives from the BMRG on 11th April 2019. The group gave an overview of their proposal which is ultimately to see the planting of one million trees over the next 15 years. The BMRG indicated who they had been in communication with to date, with regards to supporting their initiative with possible financial/ material assistance and potential suitable areas of land for planting.

- Harbour Commission
- Department for Infrastructure
- Housing Executive
- Queens University
- Translink
- Urban Villages
- Woodland Trust

3.3 The BMRG would want to explore a number possible funding avenues to support this Initiative.

3.4 The BMGR made reference to the Council's draft Local Development Plan (LDP) which recommends the inclusion of

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trees in new developments and to seek to develop the City's green and blue infrastructure network. The group stated that while these objectives are positive, more is needed by way of further extensive tree planting.

3.5 The BMRG would like to see the Council take ownership of the 'one million tree' project and act as the main facilitator, working in partnership with the city's people, landowners and service providers

3.6 The Council currently invests an annual sum of £20,000 towards replacement and new tree planting within its Parks and Open Spaces which continues to make a positive and lasting impact in our city's landscape. Some of the Council's tree planting could be aligned to fit in with the one million trees project.

3.7

I. Council's Tree Policy & Request from Emma Little Pengelly, MP.

At the People and Communities Committee meeting on 12th February 2019, the Committee was informed of a request received by Officers from Emma Little Pengelly MP to plant 5 small trees on Council land as part of the Queens Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project in March 2019. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable a report to be submitted to a future meeting which would detail any policy for such requests.

3.8 Officers have considered and drafted a policy position for dealing with any such requests as detailed below;

Permission for future tree planting requests may be granted by the People and Communities Committee on a request by request basis. Any tree planting proposals/request received by the Council should fit in and be aligned with the Council's 'Tree Management Plan' for that individual Park/Open Space as advised by Council Officers within City and Neighbourhood Services'

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

I. The Planting of One Million Trees over a 15 year period

Officer time dedicated to this project will be determined after further discussions with BMRG.

II. Council's Tree Policy

There are no Financial or Human Resource implications other than officer time.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no known Equality/ Good Relation/Rural needs issues associated with this report.”

The Committee:

1. agreed to defer consideration of the request to plant 5 small trees to mark Her Majesty the Queens' Commonwealth Tree Canopy Project, until the August meeting, for discussion at the Party Group Leaders meeting;
2. agreed, in principle, that it would become the lead partnership facilitator for the project which had a goal to plant one million trees in the City over the next 15 years;
3. noted that the One Million Trees commitment was subject to further officer level discussions with Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group (BMRG) to clarify the level of officer resource required to support any facilitation role between the BMRG and the interested organisations, noting that there would be no Council financial contribution; and
4. agreed to invite the Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group (BMRG) to a future meeting to discuss the One Million Trees initiative.

Update on Graffiti Control

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **At Committee on 4th December 2018, Members endorsed a number of actions to be undertaken in relation to the Council's approach to dealing with the control and removal of graffiti throughout the city. This followed a Notice of Motion, proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Dudgeon as follows:**

‘This Council recognises the damage caused by and unsightliness of the growing amount of graffiti within our City centre and our neighbourhoods, on our shutters, our walls, our doors, our utility boxes etc.

As the Council has the power under Article 18 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland)

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Order 1985 to remove or obliterate any graffiti which, in the opinion of Council, is detrimental to the amenity of any land in the district, pro-active policies and procedures for addressing the problem need to now be put in place, perhaps on the lines of those adopted in 2016 by Ards and North Down Borough Council. Accordingly, the Council agrees to allocate the necessary funding and resources, or the reprioritisation of existing resources, to tackle the environmental scourge of graffiti in the City.'

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

- 1.2** It was agreed at the December Committee meeting that a progress report would be brought back to Committee to update on actions undertaken to date.
- 1.3** The purpose of this report is to apprise Committee of actions and ongoing work in relation to the control and removal of graffiti across the city.
- 2.0** **Recommendations**
- 2.1** The Committee is asked to
- Note the update provided in this report.
- 3.0** **Main Report**
- Key Issues**
- 3.1** At the Committee meeting held on 4th December 2018, the following actions to tackle the issue of graffiti were agreed:
- 3.2** **Re-engagement with external partners, statutory agencies and utility companies to raise the profile of problematic graffiti within their organisations, highlight their responsibilities in relation to graffiti removal on their properties and sites, and to agree actions for them to address the issue of graffiti, including site monitoring and graffiti reduction and removal programmes.**
- 3.3** The Enforcement Manager has continued to engage with the key utility companies and statutory bodies. These organisations have been advised by Council, of the current concerns in relation to graffiti activity on their property and in response, they have outlined their current approaches to its removal. Some of the organisations carry out a programme of maintenance whilst others only remove contentious graffiti or graffiti which has been the subject of complaint. In one case,

a utility company (Virgin Media) has agreed to undertake a proactive maintenance programme on their equipment. Contacts for these companies and organisations have been established and they have been advised that they may receive more frequent requests from Council, highlighting the need to remove graffiti from their property.

3.4 Following engagement with statutory agencies and utility companies, officers within the enforcement team will undertake a proactive monitoring regime by identifying hotspot areas and engage with the respective statutory agencies and utility companies to achieve removal of the graffiti.

3.5 Enforcement Officers have commenced a monitoring programme, to identify and highlight property and equipment that requires the removal of graffiti. There have been challenges associated with this process, as there are so many organisations who now own street furniture and, in the absence of signage identifying the owner of the property, officers have to spend considerable time ascertaining ownership. To overcome this problem, we are exploring the use of GIS systems to assist in the identification of ownership in relation to equipment owned by the utility companies. Notwithstanding this, a number of organisations have responded positively and have already undertaken the necessary work to remove the graffiti. Unfortunately in a number of instances, the graffiti has re-appeared within days of its removal.

3.6 Where appropriate, the use of FPNs and Defacement Removal Notices.

The use of Defacement Removal Notices will be kept under review and can only be used when all avenues of engagement have been exhausted. Fixed Penalty Notices can only be issued to those observed in the activity of defacing property and detection of such offences is extremely challenging, given that the majority of the offences occur during hours of darkness.

3.7 Continued engagement with Probation Board NI (PBNI) to further develop the existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and support, where appropriate, the effective removal of non-contentious graffiti in all areas of the city.

A series of meetings has taken place between the Council and the PBNI to explore better and more effective use of this resource, to provide a city wide service to owners of private

property who have requested assistance with the removal of graffiti from their property.

Since Christmas, the graffiti bus has experienced operational issues which has resulted in it being unavailable for a number of weeks. Work is however continuing to ensure that robust procedures and appropriate resources are provided in the deployment of the graffiti bus to maximise its contribution to graffiti removal across the city. To assist with the promotion of this service within local communities, officers from the Community Safety Team will be providing additional support by identifying properties defaced by graffiti which could benefit from the services of the graffiti bus.

3.8 Develop a Graffiti Removal Policy.

A policy has been drafted and will be presented to Committee at a later date subject to equality screening.

3.9 In response to reported contentious or offensive graffiti, Council will continue to obliterate this type of graffiti from private property following completion of the relevant disclaimer form.

The City and Neighbourhood Services Department has a limited budget to deal with graffiti removal and at present resources are sufficient to deal with graffiti removal from Council properties and sites together with the removal of reported contentious graffiti from public places and private property. In the period January 2019 to March 2019, the Council responded to 81 Service requests for removal of contentious or offensive graffiti.

In addition to the above work activity, the following projects, aimed at addressing graffiti issues are currently being delivered:

3.10 The Belfast Canvas Pilot Project

At the March 2019 meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members agreed to a pilot project in the city centre to take forward a public art project involving utility boxes similar to the Dublin Canvas project. This pilot public art project has been undertaken in partnership with Destination Cathedral Quarter and Belfast One Business Improvement District and is aimed at improving the look and feel of the area through animation. In addition the project aims to decrease incidences of graffiti/tagging, fly posting, and other anti-social behaviours associated with utility boxes. Professional street artists, collaborating with community

groups and university students, will decorate privately owned utility boxes in the city's main retail heart, to transform them into unique works of art, adding colour to the cityscape. Nine utility boxes have already been transformed under this scheme and a total of twenty four boxes will be completed by June/July 2019. Following an evaluation of Phase 1, a more detailed proposal will be brought back to Committee for delivery of Phase 2 on the Belfast Rapid Transport route. It is anticipated the timescale in relation to Phase 2 will be August 2019.

3.11 City Centre Rejuvenation

Following the Primark Fire in September 2018, additional funding of £100,000 has been provided to enable the Council to provide enhanced cleansing within the immediate retail area affected by the fire. This funding will enable additional resources to be deployed for deep cleaning street surfaces and the provision of graffiti removal services to the commercial/retail sector whose premises have been defaced with graffiti. This project commenced in mid-May 2019 and will continue over the next six months. Graffiti on shop front shutters is a prevalent feature of the street scene within the city centre area and options to address this issue are currently being explored.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no additional financial resource implications associated with the work relating to the activities referred to in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6 of this report, which is being undertaken within existing resources. Funding in relation to the Belfast Canvas Pilot project and the City Centre Rejuvenation has been approved.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

Council recognises the importance of removing contentious or offensive graffiti as quickly as possible to reduce fear and community tension and will continue to operate this approach using existing resources.

A policy in relation to Councils approach in dealing with graffiti removal has been drafted and will be subject to equality screening.

There are no rural needs implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**Update on Grass Cutting at Sites
not Owned by Belfast City Council**

The Strategic Director advised the Committee that a review of grass cutting arrangements relating to sites not owned by the Council had commenced. He explained that the review was exploring opportunities to enhance the existing provisions, including pilot projects, an improvement plan and, in conjunction with Corporate Communications, funding options such as sponsorship schemes.

He highlighted to the Members that, given the ongoing financial pressures faced by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and Transport NI, grass cutting had been reduced, with further cutting only undertaken in respect of road safety.

The Committee was advised that discussions had taken place with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI and that engagement would continue to inform enhancements to future arrangements.

The Strategic Director explained to the Committee that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting in March, had agreed the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy and that it was anticipated that it would shortly be released for public consultation. He highlighted to the Members that the Strategy would support future neighbourhood based plans and the ongoing grass cutting review by helping to inform future approaches to address the need for maintenance of non-Council open spaces.

He explained that, since 2016, the Council had supplemented grass cutting arrangements for DfI and Transport NI, by providing five cuts per annum at the following sites, on the basis that each organisation contributed resources within existing budgets:

- Michael Ferguson roundabout;
- Kingsway Embankment, Dunmurry;
- Knock Dual Carriageway; and
- Cregagh Road with Knock dual carriageway.

He advised the Committee that it was being proposed that a further site, McKinsty Road, be added to that list.

The Committee was advised that the annual cost of grass cutting, up to a maximum of five times per year, of the McKinsty Road site would be £5,000. The Strategic Director confirmed to the Members that this amount was not included within the estimates for 2019/2020 and that resource would have to be found via in-year Department adjustments.

A Member stated that, while he was supportive of the addition of the site, officers should consider reducing the number of cuts from five in order to include further non-Council owned sites. He suggested that officers, in its future discussions, should consider the inclusion of a site outside Milltown Cemetery and a site at the Monagh by-pass.

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After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the continued actions which were being undertaken as part of the ongoing review of grass cutting arrangements at sites that were not owned by the Council;
2. agreed that a further report in relation to the review of grass cutting arrangements would be submitted to a future meeting; and
3. agreed to the inclusion of a site at McKinsty Road within the grass cutting arrangements that the Council currently operated with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport NI.

Glasgow Rose Trials 22nd – 23rd August 2019

The Strategic Director advised the Committee that the City of Glasgow International Rose Trials would take place on 22nd and 23rd August, 2019. He explained that the Council had been invited by Glasgow City Council to participate in the trial judging, with representatives having attended the event regularly over the years. He added that representatives from Glasgow City Council had reciprocated each year by supporting Belfast City Council's rose trial event at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park.

The Strategic Director advised the Members that attendance costs, including accommodation and flights, were approximately £350 per person and that it was proposed that the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson and the Director of Neighbourhood Services, or their nominees, would attend.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to the attendance of the Director of Neighbourhood Services, or his nominee, at the Glasgow Rose Trials on 22nd and 23rd August, 2019.

**Request for use of Cathedral and Jubilee Gardens,
Falls Park, Botanic Gardens and Woodvale Park**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Members are advised that a number of requests have been received seeking use of our Parks and Open Spaces to host specific events, namely.**

	Park	Dates	Event
I	Cathedral Gardens & Jubilee Gardens	20 th Sep – 21 st Sep 2019	Culture Night
II	Falls Park	3 rd Aug – 10 th Aug 2019	Feile an Phobail

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III	Botanic Gardens	28 th August 2021	City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter
IV	Woodvale Park	9 th – 11 th July 2019	Woodvale festival

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are recommended to approve the use of our parks, as detailed below, for the hosting of specific named events;

	Park	Dates	Event
I	Cathedral Gardens & Jubilee Gardens	20 th Sep – 21 st Sep 2019	Culture Night
II	Falls Park	3 rd Aug – 10 th Aug 2019	Feile an Phobail
III	Botanic Gardens	28 th Aug 2021	City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter
IV	Woodvale Park	9 th – 11 th July 2019	Woodvale festival

Members are asked to note that the agreement to host these events will be subject to the completion of the appropriate event management plan, satisfying all statutory licensing responsibilities, relevant consultation and agreement of satisfactory terms by the Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Culture Night, Cathedral Gardens and Jubilee Gardens, 20th – 21st September 2019. Cathedral Quarter Trust plan to host Culture Night Belfast at Cathedral Gardens and at Jubilee Gardens on Friday 20 to Saturday 21 September 2019.

- **The event will result in the closure of Cathedral Gardens and Jubilee Gardens for 3 days.**
- **Set-up will be from 3pm on Thursday 19 September and dismantle will be completed by 11pm on Saturday 21 September.**

Culture Night Belfast is a free, family-friendly event based in the city centre, with the Cathedral Quarter as its primary hub.

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The event serves as a high-profile platform for artists and cultural organisations to showcase their work, and offer audiences the opportunity to explore new art forms and activities.

The organisers intend to bring a stage, marquees, food vendors, arts and crafts, live music and face painters at Cathedral Gardens and will provide live music and street entertainment at Jubilee Gardens. Organisers estimate that 10,000 people will attend the event. Organisers will provide toilets, first aid cover and stewards at Cathedral Gardens and first aid cover at Jubilee Gardens.

Set up will commence at 3pm on Thursday 19 September, with the main event taking place on Friday 20 September from 1pm to 9pm, and Saturday 21 September from 10am to 5pm. The event will be dismantled and the site will be clear by 11pm on Saturday 21 September.

Previously, this event was delivered over one day however this year the request has been extended to provide for a longer and enhanced programme. The proposed event in 2019 will result in the closure of Cathedral Gardens and Jubilee Gardens for 3 days.

3.2 Feile an Phobail, Falls Park, 3rd -10th August 2019.

Feile an Phobail have requested the use of Falls Park to host the West Belfast Festival, which is due to take place from 3 - 10 August 2018. Set up for the event will begin on 29 July 2018, with take down planned for the 19 August 2018.

Since August 2006, Feile an Phobail has organised a number of West Belfast Festival events at Belfast City Council venues.

The events would be similar to previous years which included:

- Carnival parade through Falls Park
- International Boxing event
- Teddy Bears picnic in Falls Park
- Feile family entertainment day in the park, music events and family entertainment.
- An occasional licence will be applied for by the organisers for the sale of alcohol and an entertainment licence for the period of the event.
- Guided historical tours in the City Cemetery which would be charged for appropriately by the tour provider.

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The event will require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility and will have alcohol on sale during some of the events.

Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.

3.3 City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter, Botanic Gardens, 28th August 2019.

City of Belfast Grand Black Chapter have requested the use of Botanic Gardens to facilitate passing through of a parade from City Hall to Mark the Centenary of the Formation of Northern Ireland.

The demonstration will take place on Saturday 28 August 2021 and will commence at 10am from City Hall and pass through Botanic gardens at approximately 12 noon, exiting through the Stranmillis embankment gate by 2.00pm and will board buses parked on Stranmillis embankment. There will be no return parade from Botanic Gardens.

The route proposed will include passing buildings with a significant relevance to the Centenary including City Hall, Ulster Hall and Union Theological College, Botanic Avenue, which was the building used for the newly formed Northern Ireland Parliament between 1921 – 1932 while Stormont was being built.

3.4 Woodvale Festival, Woodvale Park, 9th – 11th August 2019

A request has been received from Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association seeking use and hire of the facilities at Woodvale Park for the staging of the Woodvale Festival:

Since 2008, Twaddell and Woodvale Residents Association has organised a number of events in Woodvale Park. The 2019 event will be similar to last year which included:

- Education and arts programme
- Family and childrens concert
- Main concert
- Community live music and performance showcase
- Marching band event
- Family fun day
- Creative arts arena
- Main Live concert (2)
- Traditional bonfire

Organisers will be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event may have to change due to adverse weather conditions.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

- II. Falls Park for Feile an Phobail &**
- IV. Woodvale Park for Woodvale Festival**

Staff may be required to work additional hours to cover the events outside normal hours and there may be other operational costs to the Council. These will be charged to the hirer, in the form of an agreed charge for the use of Council facilities.

Council officers will liaise with organisers in relation to the potential environmental impact of this event. A reinstatement bond will be required to be paid to the council before the event to cover any reinstatement of grounds after the event; this bond will be £10,000.

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment

No Equality or Good Relations implications have been identified, however, this is being monitored on an ongoing basis.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Youth Forum Progress

The Committee considered a report which provided Members with an update on the ongoing work of the Council’s Youth Forum, as well as the Children and Young People Unit’s “Ur City 2” fund.

The Committee was apprised of the Youth Forum’s development of a youth participation Charter for the Council, where authority was being sought for a scoping exercise to be carried out.

The Members were advised of a number of the Youth Forum’s campaigns, which, amongst others, included a poverty campaign entitled “Poverty: it’s not a choice”, and a mental health research project called the “Elephant in the Room”.

A number of Members paid tribute to the hard work of the staff and the members of the Belfast Youth Forum, particularly in relation to the Elephant in the Room campaign.

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After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the main developments and updates in the report;
2. agreed to establish a joint engagement arrangement between the Belfast Youth Forum and the People & Communities Committee, through the facilitation of up to 3 Special People and Communities meetings per annum (previously referenced within Schedule of Meetings, Item 1d); and
3. agreed to carry out a scoping exercise on the creation of a Youth Participation Charter (YPC) for BCC.

Notice of Traffic Regulation Order 2019

The Committee was advised that, in March 2016, the Council had made available £700,000 from the Capital Programme to install alleygates across the City. The Members were advised that Phase 4 had been divided into 3 sub-phases, with Phase 4(a) having been completed in March 2018 and Phase 4(b) in October 2018. The Strategic Director explained that he was now seeking approval for Phase 4(c) to proceed.

He advised the Committee that a pre-consultation exercise with affected residents and Statutory bodies had been carried out and that the Notice of Intention had been advertised on Friday, 5th April. He confirmed that no formal objections to the Traffic Regulation Orders had been received.

He outlined that Legal Services had recommended that alleygates at the proposed locations could proceed, as the Council could be satisfied that the requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments Act (2011) had been met in establishing that the areas were affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.

He explained that he was seeking formal approval to make the Traffic Regulation Orders enabling gates to be installed in the following areas:

- To the rear of Nos. 1-73 Grace Avenue and to the rear of Nos. 1-35 Greenville Court.
- To the rear of Nos. 1-9 Abetta Parade and to the side of Nos. 5 and 7 Abetta Parade.
- To the rear of Nos. 70-76 Ravensdale Street and to side of Nos. 70 and 72 Ravensdale Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 48-76 Castlereagh Road and to the side of No. 2 Clara Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 62-72 Jonesboro Park.
- To the rear of Nos 1-83 Rosebery Road, Nos. 4-88 Rosyln Street and to the side of Nos. 22 and 24 Rosyln Street and to the side of No. 2 Rosyln Street and No. 119a My Lady's Road.
- To the rear of Nos. 103-119 My Lady's Road, Nos. 1-31 London Road, Nos.1-13 Canada Street and to the side of No. 1 London Road.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-36 Donard Street, 164-176 Ravenhill Road and to the side of No.2 Donard Street.

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- To the rear of Nos. 38-80 Donard Street, The rear of Nos. 47-93 Richardson Street and to the side of No. 4a Canada Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 11-29 Donard Street and the rear of Nos. 20-38 London Street
- To the rear of Nos. 41-89 Donard Street, Nos. 40-80 London Street, Nos. 33-47 London Road and to the side of No. 89 Donard Street and No. 80 London Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 33-63 London Street, Nos. 6-36 Ravenhill Street, 49-93 London Road and to the sides of No. 63 London Street, No. 36 Ravenhill Street and No. 6 Ravenhill Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 2a-64 Florida Drive.
- To the rear of Nos. 1-7 Ardilea Drive, Nos. 7-13 Ardilea Street and to the side of No. 7 Ardilea Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 1-25 Jamaica Street, Nos. 10-19 Havana Court and to the side of Nos. 15 and 17 Jamaica Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-90 Stratford Gardens and Nos.92-172 Alliance Avenue.
- To the rear of Nos. 174-276 Alliance Avenue.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-68 Velsheda Court and to the rear of Nos. 70-112 Velsheda Park.
- To the rear of Nos 2a-58 Rosebank Street and to the rear of Nos. 1a-55 Columbia Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 234-274 Limestone Road, Nos. 1-39 Lothair Avenue, Nos. 52-54 Atlantic Avenue and to the side of No. 54 Atlantic Avenue.
- To the rear of Nos. 156-166 North Queen Street and to the rear of Nos. 30-38 Glenrosa Link.
- To the rear of Nos. 145-173 University Street and to the rear of Nos. 11-47 Fitzroy Avenue and to the side of 1a Dudley Street and to the side of No. 173 University Avenue.
- To the rear of Nos. 82-112 Sandy Row, Nos. 83-111 Charles Street and to the side of Nos. 90 and 92 Sandy Row.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-10 Mowhan Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-36 Moonstone Street and to the rear of Nos. 615-643 Lisburn Road.
- To the rear of Nos. 38-54 Moonstone Street, 1-7 Capstone Street, Nos. 645-667 Lisburn Road and to the side of No. 54 Moonstone Street.
- To the rear of Nos 6-38 St Jude's Parade and to the side of Nos. 38 and 40 St Jude's Parade.
- To the rear of Nos. 2a-38 Florenceville Avenue, 3-39 Rossmore Avenue 473-477 Ormeau Road and to the side of No. 3 Rossmore Avenue and of Nos. 38 and 40 Florenceville Ave.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-34 Rossmore Avenue, Nos. 1-33 Ardmore Avenue, Nos.479-483 Ormeau Road and to the side of No. 2 Rossmore Avenue
- To the rear of Nos. 2-78 Olympia Drive.
- To the rear of Nos. 8-54 Eliza Street Close and to the rear of Nos.11-61 Upper Stanfield Street and to the rear of Nos. 3-13 Welsh Street.
- To the rear of Nos. 9-13 Glasvey Close, Nos. 15-19 Glasvey Close, Nos. 21-37 Glasvey Close, Nos. 22-38 Glasvey Close and to the side of No. 13 Glasvey Close, Nos 19 and 21 Glasvey Close, Nos 37 and 38 Glasvey Close and to the side of No. 32 Glasvey Close.

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- To the rear of Nos. 29-47 Rodney Parade, Nos. 2-60 Rodney Drive, 62-126 St James's Road and to the sides of No. 62 St James's Road, No. 126 St James's Road, No. 2 Rodney Drive and to the side of No. 60 Rodney Drive.
- To the rear of Nos. 2-80 St Katherine Road and Nos.109-185 St James's Road.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that it pass a resolution to make the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Order 2019 for Phase 4(c) for the locations as set out above.

Consultation on Petroleum License

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members are advised that DfE has recently commenced consultation into an application by EHA Exploration Ltd. for Petroleum Licence PLA1/16. DfE is simultaneously consulting on a second licence application (PLA2/16) by Tamboran Resources (UK) Limited, relating to the Lough Allen Basin and encompassing 608 km² of Fermanagh and Omagh local government district lands to the west of Upper and Lower Lough Erne. The PLA1/16 licence application encompasses an area of approximately 1,134 km², including wards within Antrim And Newtownabbey, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Mid Ulster and Belfast borough and city councils. A map illustrating the extent of the licence area, together with a list of the Belfast City Council wards included is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. DfE has advised that an oil or gas field often lies directly below only a small area on the ground surface, and they are relatively rare and difficult to find, so having a large licence area allows the Licensee to understand the local geology more fully and increases their chances of making a discovery.

1.2 In commencing the consultation exercise, DfE has advised that in assessing previous Petroleum Licence applications, the Department would have consulted on the basis of an *'intention to award'*, having already obtained Ministerial approval. In November 2018 however, and in the continuing absence of an Assembly or Minister, the Secretary of State published new guidance to government Departments entitled *'Guidance on decision-making for Northern Ireland Departments during the period for Northern Ireland Executive formation'*. In line with this guidance, DfE has completed a Public Interest Test and concluded that it should continue all necessary preparatory work to ensure that a decision on the Petroleum Licence application can be taken as soon as possible after a Minister is appointed.

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- 1.3** The objective of DfE's current consultation is therefore to ensure that the Department has taken account of the range of opinions in preparation for making a recommendation to a future Minister as to whether or not a Petroleum Licence should be granted to the applicant. DfE has stated that it wishes to ensure that the Department has an informed view of any issues that may have the capacity to impact on the granting of the Licence or on its terms and conditions.
- 1.4** DfE has advised that persons wishing to provide representations in respect of Petroleum Licence Application PLA1/16 must do so on, or before 5th July 2019. DfE has further advised that once the consultation has closed, the Department will consider the Petroleum Licence application, along with consultation comments received. A recommendation on the award of the Licence and any required conditions will eventually be passed to a future Minister for consideration.
- 1.5** DfE has confirmed however, that any final decision to grant a Petroleum Licence in NI will have to await Ministerial and / or Executive approval.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report and;
 1. Agree to provide consultation comments regarding the granting of the licence or on the licence's terms and conditions ahead of the DfE deadline of 5th July 2019 and that
 2. A draft Committee consultation response is attached as Appendix 2

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** DfE has advised that no oil or gas has been commercially produced in Northern Ireland (NI) to date, meaning that NI is currently entirely dependent on imports to meet its oil and gas requirements. DfE has further advised that small quantities of oil and gas have been recorded in some exploration wells in NI, meaning that certain areas remain a prospect for oil and gas in porous sandstones at depths of 1-3 km below ground level.
- 3.2** EHA Exploration Limited has recently submitted an application for a Petroleum Licence covering the area denoted

within Appendix 1 to this report. The proposed licenced area overlies part of a geological basin, the nature of the underlying geology meaning that there may be potential for oil to be present.

- 3.3 Within NI, petroleum licences include the following three components and time scales; (i) a five-year Initial Term, during which an agreed work programme of exploration must be carried out; (ii) a five-year Second Term, during which a field development programme must be approved; and (iii) a 20-year Third Term, called the production period.
- 3.4 During the Initial Term, exploration activities are focussed on identifying a suitable drilling target. Before the end of year three though, the Licensee must decide whether they wish to proceed to the drilling of an exploration well or to relinquish the Licence. If the Licensee decides that they wish to drill an exploration well, they must enter into a contractual arrangement with the landowner for permission to use a site and obtain all the permits required to carry out the drilling operations. If the Licensee completes their work programme to the satisfaction of the Department, they can opt to continue the Licence into the Second Term which will normally involve the drilling of additional wells and the submission of a Field Development Plan if any commercially viable discoveries are found. If the Field Development Plan is approved by DfE and the Licensee obtains planning permission and other consents, the Licence may enter the Production Period, which includes the development of the field, the commercial production of oil and/or gas, followed by the eventual decommissioning of the production facilities at the end of the production phase.
- 3.5 Initial works to be undertaken therefore include using geochemical surveys as an initial reconnaissance tool to identify areas suitable for further detailed exploration methods. The applicant proposes carrying out soil sampling and using updated analytical techniques to pinpoint any indicators of subsurface oil or gas. The applicant also proposes to survey across known fracture zones, faults and significant geological boundaries.
- 3.6 Following the initial assessment, works focus on the most promising areas for follow-up geochemistry and geophysical surveys. Both passive electromagnetic and seismic reflection methods are proposed to image the subsurface geological structures in these areas. The objective of these surveys is to understand the structure of the rocks at depth and to identify one or more areas where oil or gas might be trapped in the sandstone reservoir rocks. If analysis of these structures

results in the identification of one or more drilling targets, the applicant would inform DfE of its intention to drill one or more exploration wells. The applicant has indicated at this stage that they would favour the use of slimhole drilling techniques to minimise the footprint and operational impact of any exploration wells. The EHA Exploration Ltd. proposed draft work programme is as follows:

3.7 Years 1 – 3 (Part I)

- Analysis and modelling of existing exploration data and the results of Tellus airborne geophysics and ground geochemical surveys.
- Reconnaissance geochemical surveys over whole Licence area.
- Geophysical surveys;
 - Electromagnetic surveys
 - 2D seismic acquisition 300 – 450 line kms
- Further modelling and analysis of new data.

3.8 Years 4 – 5 (Part II)

- Plan and design the exploration well(s).
- Application to drill (planning, technical, environmental).
- Subject to obtaining all necessary permits, drill exploration well.
- Analyse results.
- Plug and abandon well, restore wellsite or, if successful, complete well for possible future production.

3.9 A draft Committee consultation response is attached as Appendix 2 to this report for consideration.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications at this time other than officer time to review the consultation.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

This is a request to respond to a consultation by DfE, the Good Relations and Rural Needs Assessment are not known by Council at this time.”

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During discussion, a number of Members stated that they had a number of concerns in relation to the proposals and the Committee agreed:

1. that its response to the consultation would be that a Petroleum Licence not be granted, given the potential impacts on the environment and human health, concerns regarding insufficient information and analysis/evidence provided by the Department for the Economy (DfE); and
2. that officers would amend and incorporate the Committee's comments into the draft response ahead of the DfE's deadline of 5th July 2019.

The response, as amended, reads:

"Dear Sir/ Madam,

The People and Communities Committee has considered the matter of the Department for the Economy's (DfE) recent consultation into Petroleum Licence Application PLA1/16 by EHA Exploration Limited at its meeting of 4th June 2019 and would provide the following comments by way of response.

The Committee notes that DfE, in the presence of an Assembly and Minister, would normally have consulted on a Petroleum Licence application on the basis of an 'intention to award', having already obtained Ministerial approval. DfE has advised however that under current circumstances and having regard to the November 2018 Secretary of State, 'Guidance on decision-making for Northern Ireland Departments during the period for Northern Ireland Executive formation', the Department has completed a public interest test and concluded that the Department should continue all necessary preparatory works to ensure that a decision on this Petroleum Licence application can be taken as soon as possible after a Minister is appointed.

Although DfE has initiated an eight-week consultation exercise, running from 7th May 2019 until 5th July 2019, this Committee would express its concern that the consultation exercise has been commenced directly after the 2019 Northern Ireland Local Government elections have been concluded and at a point where local government Committee memberships and governance arrangements are still being finalised. The Committee would therefore contend that given the significance and extent of Petroleum Licence Application PLA1/16 for Belfast City and for other council areas, the Department has afforded insufficient time for Petroleum Licence Application PLA1/16 to be adequately scrutinised by Committee and Council and for a comprehensive technical response to the licence application to be provided to them to inform our response to the Department.

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Nevertheless, given the timeframe set forth by DfE, the Committee has reviewed the content of the Redacted Application Form for Petroleum Licence Application PLA1/16 and various other supporting documents and would comment as follows.

The Committee has concerns that the licence applied for relates to an area of some 1,134 km², described as west, south and east of Lough Neagh and geographically illustrated in Appendix E Area Under Consideration. The area applied for therefore covers wards within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid Ulster Council and Belfast City Council. Within the Belfast City Council area, wards principally affected are those located in the southwest, west and north of the city; thereby potentially affecting in excess of 100,000 residents living within these areas. The proposed licenced area also encompasses aspects of the Belfast Hills, including Black Mountain and Divis.

Given the potential impacts on the environment or human health, and Members' concerns regarding insufficient information and analysis or evidence provided by the DfE on this and concern over the long term sustainable development impact for NI, the People and Communities Committee has agreed not to support the granting of this Licence by the Department."

Positive Animation of Parks/Open Spaces

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 For Members information, previous People and Communities Committee requested regular updates on ongoing work to encourage positive animation of Council parks/open spaces as a way of deterring anti-social behaviour and vandalism.**
- 1.2 This emerged as a result of ongoing concerns raised with Elected Members about the impact of anti-social behaviour and vandalism in parks/open spaces and the impact of this on the positive use and animation of these spaces in communities.**
- 1.3 Ongoing review of reported anti-social behaviour and feedback from Elected Members identified a small number of parks and open spaces where it was agreed a co-ordinated focus with other statutory organisations and communities would add value. These were Falls Park/City Cemetery, Orangefield Park/Avoniel Park, Marrowbone Park, Dunville Park and Ballysillan Park.**

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1.4 Additionally, at Full Council in March 2019, Members requested an update to a future People and Communities Committee on the ongoing work to positively animate these parks/open spaces and how Council managed ongoing vandalism.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to;

- note the contents of this report and support the ongoing work to positively animate parks/open spaces

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Positive Animation of Parks/Open Spaces

Ongoing review of local, regional and national best practice indicates that one of the most effective ways of addressing anti-social behaviour and vandalism is to positively animate parks/open spaces by creating a sense of ownership and empowerment amongst users. This includes young people, who often gather in parks/open spaces as a way to positively socialise. It is however, recognised that young people are often gathering in parks/open spaces at times when they are closed and particularly after dark which can create additional vulnerabilities for those young people.

3.2 General Animation

Council Parks Outreach and Open Spaces and Active Living Teams work closely with local schools, youth and community groups throughout the year running positive events and activities in our parks/open spaces. This work helps create a positive relationship between participants and the parks/open spaces and increased respect and civic pride. Examples include:

- Outdoor Education Sessions
- Biodiversity Sessions
- Park Life Schools Programme
- Park Life Saturday Club
- Family Fun Days
- Growing Workshops
- Historical and Cultural Guided Walks
- Community Clean Ups

3.3 Since 1 February 2019 over 100 events and activities have taken place in Council parks/open spaces to positively animate those spaces.

3.4 Council also works with a range of external organisations who support Councils' objective of positively animating our parks/open spaces. These include community and cultural events, Park Runs and music events.

3.5 Targeted Animation

In addition to general animation taking place across a range of parks/open spaces in the city, a targeted programme of animation is delivered in those priority parks/open spaces as identified at 1.3. Characteristics of these programmes of animation are:

- Takes place at times when anti-social behaviour is more likely to take place e.g. weekends, school holidays, evenings
- Takes place in those priority parks/open spaces
- Is integrated with and adds value to existing youth and community provision around these parks/open spaces (including post primary schools)
- Targets those most at risk of engaging in anti-social behaviour
- Ensures appropriate arrangements are in place to manage any safeguarding or general vulnerability issues

3.6 Specific examples of targeted animation since 1 February 2019 in priority parks/open spaces include:

- Detached Youth Outreach
- Late night youth diversionary activities in 3G facilities
- Evenings youth and community events

3.7 Vandalism

Officers regularly review requisitions for repairs at parks/open spaces due to vandalism, criminal damage or arson. There has been a marked reduction in serious vandalism, criminal damage or arson at all parks and open spaces, however, there remains a small number of more serious and persistent issues in West Belfast.

3.8 Unfortunately, Council does not have a system in place at present which formally records the reason a repair has been requested i.e. as a result of vandalism and the associated

cost. However, this will be specified in to the new system which is to be procured in the coming months.

3.9 Partnership Working

Promoting the positive use of parks/open spaces and reducing anti-social behaviour/vandalism is not something the Council can achieve in isolation and requires extremely high levels of partnership working. Partners involved include Council, PSNI, Education Authority, Youth Organisations, Community Organisations, Translink, local schools and other revenue programmes (e.g. Urban Villages, Fresh Start, PEACE IV).

3.10 Supporting Innovation

An opportunity presented itself in 2018 for Council to avail of Department for Economy funding to work with the SME sector (including community/voluntary organisations) on opportunities to use innovation and technology in encouraging positive use and deter negative use of parks/open spaces.

3.11 £100,000 was secured for Phase 1 which has worked with five SME's to develop prototype options which will be field tested for a two week period only in five parks/open spaces across the city during June 2019. Subject to satisfactory field testing, an 'in principle' application for Phase 2 funding was submitted to the Department for Economy for further development of maximum two of these prototypes. Initial indications are a further £100,000 is likely to be made available during 19/20 and subject to satisfactory monitoring a further £125,000 during 20/21. Phase 2 is designed to work proactively in partnership with communities and other users of parks/open spaces around the further development of the technological solutions. If a formal letter of offer is received, further briefings can be provided for Elected Members either by way of Party Group or Area Working Group on the roll out.

3.12 Data capture has been and will continue to be a part of the technology development. However, data is only gathered where it will give important insight in to how parks/open spaces can be more effectively animated. Additionally, all SME's have been subject to rigorous Data Protection and Privacy Impact Assessments with full legal compliance.

3.13 Financial & Resource Implications

3.14 Staff Resources

The above approach continues to support the values and principles of the City and Neighbourhood Services and wider Corporate Change Programme.

3.15 Financial Resources

All of the above work continues to be accommodated from within existing Council and (D)PCSP revenue budgets. The work is intended to maximise existing resources, reduce duplication and facilitate joined up decision making and resource allocation in the identified parks/open spaces.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None have been identified at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Request for the use of Dundonald Cemetery

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the Dundonald Apprentice Boys of Derry seeking permission to use Dundonald Cemetery to conduct a wreath laying ceremony on 27th June from 7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request and furthermore approved the use of the Cemetery for that purpose on a yearly basis going forward, if required, subject to the Event Organisers resolving all operational issues to the Council’s satisfaction.

Issue raised in advance by a Member

**Cherryvale Playing Fields –
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds to raise**

In response to a request from the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds, the Committee agreed that officers would engage with the Friends of Cherryvale Park in relation to ongoing works at Cherryvale Playing Fields.

Chairperson