

Extract from minutes of:

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

20th September, 2019

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**Motion - Economic Future Planning**

The Committee was reminded that the following motion which had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Hargey had been referred by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council recognises that economic future planning is crucial in the period ahead, particularly given the impending withdrawal from the European Union.

This Council should plan for, and bring forward an economic plan for the future of this Council area in the event of the north of Ireland retaining membership of the European Union, following a referendum on Irish Unity.

The economic plan should draw on the numerous existing reports of an all-island economy, including, but not limited to: ‘Modelling Irish Unification’ by Dr Kurt Hubner, ‘The Economic Effects of an All Island Economy’, by Paul Gosling, ‘The Economic Case for Irish Unity’, by Michael Burke and the Joint Oireachtas Committee Report, ‘Brexit and the Future of Ireland – Uniting Ireland & Its People in Peace & Prosperity’.

This Council should be prudent in planning for the future to maximise our potential and secure future economic growth and to compete effectively with other Cities across the Island of Ireland.

The economic plan should examine how this Council would prepare for this scenario and how this Council area could position itself within this potential new constitutional arrangement, in order that Belfast maximizes all opportunities for city growth in this context.”

After discussion it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the motion and that Council officers research the issue and then bring back a report on how such a plan would be developed, resourced and led.

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