

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Tuesday, 17th December, 2019

## MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Kingston (Chairperson);  
Aldermen Haire and Spence;  
Councillors Beattie, Black, Carson, Dorrian,  
Garrett, Graham, Groogan, Hargey, Heading,  
Long, Lyons, McAllister, McDonough-Brown,  
Murphy, Nicholl, Pankhurst and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillor O'Hara.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;  
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Mrs. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;  
Mr. A. Thatcher, Director of Planning and Building Control; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

No apologies were reported.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd November, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.

### Declarations of Interest

Councillor Black declared an interest in respect of item 3a – Revenue Estimates and District Rate in that she was Manager of Grosvenor Road Community Centre and left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.

### Consultation on Council decision to erect bilingual/multilingual external naming and internal directional signage in Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore Leisure Centres – Special Meeting

The Committee agreed to hold a special meeting, if required, on Friday, 31st January, 2020 at 9.30 am to consider the results of the public consultation. The Committee

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agreed also, in view of the time within which decisions would be required, to the suspension of the call-in process.

**Presentations**

**Land and Property Services Presentation –  
Outcome of the Non-domestic re-evaluation**

In accordance with its decision of 22nd November, the Committee was advised that Mr. Stephen Fay, District Valuer for Belfast, was in attendance to provide a presentation on the outcome of the Non-domestic re-evaluation and he was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairperson.

Mr. Fay provided the background to the review. He stated that there were 74,000 non domestic properties in Northern Ireland, with a total net annual value of £1,1560 million, generating £640 million per annum in rates revenue. He advised that previous revaluation had taken place in 2015, with work on the 2020 revaluation having commenced in mid-2017.

He explained that a property tax system required frequent re-evaluations to be fair and to minimise excessive adjustments. They were about redistributing the rate burden and did not increase nor decrease the total Northern Ireland rates revenue. He then reviewed the outcome of the review and highlighted the Net Annual Value (NAV) growth and the changes, the growth by sector, that is, retail, offices, industrial and warehouses.

Mr. Fay then referred to the rate liability and stated that between January and March, 2020 the changes to individual NAVS compared to Northern Ireland and council averages would be used by Land and Property Services to give ratepayer an indication of their new liability. He pointed out that the entitlement to existing reliefs and exemptions remained unchanged. He concluded by outlining the key dates for the introduction of the new values.

Mr. Fay then answered a number of questions from the Members and then retired from the meeting.

**Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following 5 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 of these items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

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**Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2020/21**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on the 22nd November, it had noted the update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate, with an indicative rates increase for 2020/21 in the region of 1.99%, with a further update report to be submitted to the December meeting. Accordingly the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report in this regard.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. Agree that the following decisions should not be subject to call-in because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests in striking the rate by the legislative deadline of 15th February, 2020.
2. Agreed the following departmental and priority growth proposals, which were presented to the Committee at its meeting on 22nd November 2019 and amended following discussions at that meeting and party group briefings.

**Departmental Proposals**

3. Legal Staff: £102,864 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
4. Zoo Staff: £64,147 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
5. Waste Collection: £389,068 (People and Communities Committee)
6. Regeneration Officers: £117,700 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)

**Priority Areas**

7. Inclusive Growth: £611,500 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
8. Climate Mitigation / Resilience: £611,500 (Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)
9. Cultural Strategy: £394,491 (City Growth and Regeneration Committee)
10. Community Grants and Managed Facilities: £329,636 (People and Communities Committee). Agreed that the arrangements in place for independently managed centres would be reviewed in time for the 2020/21 revenue estimates and that in future years the arrangement would include an annual Consumer Price Index uplift.
11. Agreed the use of the unallocated funding of £220,000 and that it be allocated to part fund the shortfall in the Community Development Grants Programme and that the remaining shortfall of £150,595 be funded from the 2020/21 Belfast Investment Fund allocation.
12. Agree to recommend the following cash limits for 2020/21 subject to the impact of the decisions made on items 3 to 11 above.
  - a. A cash limit of £44,136,840 for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for 2020/21, including £3,270,000 for Belfast Investment Fund and £2,000,000 for City Deal.

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- b. A cash limit of £82,852,276 for the People and Communities Committee for 2020/21.
  - c. A cash limit of £17,267,724 for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for 2020/21.
  - d. A cash limit of £1,289,467 for the Planning Committee for 2020/21.
  - e. A Capital Financing Budget of £21,774,022 for 2020/21
13. Noted the next steps to setting the district rate outlined in paragraph 3.42 of the report.
14. Agreed to setting up a Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund of £8m and to consider a further report on the operating framework following party group consultations and on advice from the NIAO regarding any such framework.

**Proposed adoption of the Developer Contribution Framework**

The Committee was advised that the Council's draft Developer Contribution Framework had been subject to 12-week public consultation from August till November 2018. The Framework had been revised to take account of the feedback and was now being recommended for adoption by the Committee.

In this regard, the Director of Planning and Building Control submitted a report which included statistical information on the results of the public consultation; a summary of the key issues raised and recommended response; and a copy of the Developer Contribution Framework which was being proposed to be adopted. This report had been noted by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 10th December.

The Committee agreed to endorse the Developer Contribution Framework for adoption.

**Revised governance arrangements for spending financial Developer Contributions secured through Section 76 planning agreements**

The Director of Planning and Building Control submitted a report outlining proposals for revised governance arrangements for spending both pre-existing and future financial developer contributions secured through Section 76 Planning Agreements. That followed consideration of the original proposals by the Committee in August, 2019. At that meeting, the Committee had deferred the report pending a briefing session for the Members, which was subsequently held on 11th October 2019. The original proposals had been noted by the Planning Committee at its meeting in August, 2019.

The Director outlined the contents of the report, which included an update on the financial contributions secured to date through the planning application process. It also proposed that an Annual Monitoring Report on financial contributions was published each year.

After discussion, the Committee:

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- (i) noted the current position with regard to financial contributions;
- (ii) agreed the revised governance arrangements for spending pre-existing and future financial contributions secured through Section 76 planning agreements; and
- (iii) agreed to the publication of an Annual Monitoring Report on financial developer contributions each year moving.

**Review of the Scheme of Delegation for Planning**

The Committee was reminded that every three years the Council must prepare a Scheme of Delegation for planning which set out which decisions on local and minor applications which are delegated to officers. The current Scheme of Delegation had been implemented in June, 2017 and was due to be reviewed.

Accordingly, the Director submitted a report which had been prepared following a Planning Committee Workshop in October, 2019. The report included a review of the current Scheme of Delegation and proposed that the Council adopted some minor changes. The report had been noted by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 10th December, 2019.

The Committee agreed to the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation for Planning.

**Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council –  
Consultation on LDP Draft Plan Strategy**

The Committee was advised that Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) had published its draft Plan Strategy for public consultation in October, 2019, with a closing date for submissions of 10th January, 2020. The LCCC draft plan had been circulated internally within the Council for comment. The comments received related primarily to the following aspect of the plan:

- Land Supply and Housing Growth;
- Strategic Employment Allocations, including West Lisburn / Blaris mixed use site;
- Sprucefield Regional Shopping Centre; and
- Transport.

The Committee agreed to:

- the submission of detailed representations to address the main issues outlined in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.11 of the report; and
- delegated authority for the Director Planning and Building Control to complete the development and submission of detailed representations in respect of the key issues raised in this report to support participation at the Independent Examination of the LCCC draft Plan Strategy

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**Draft Resilience Strategy**

The Committee was reminded that the Belfast Agenda committed the City to the development of a Resilience Strategy “to take a targeted approach to addressing those issues which had posed the greatest risk to the City and its economy.” This was the first time that partners across the City had followed an established methodology, which had been developed by 100 Resilient Cities and funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, to identify a range of acute and chronic risks for Belfast. In publishing the strategy, Belfast would follow 80 other global cities, such as Barcelona, Boston and Cape Town, to publish a document aimed at future proofing the city. The draft Resilience Strategy had been circulated for discussion and approval, and to enable a public consultation to commence in the New Year.

After discussion, the Committee approved the draft strategy- including the proposed areas of focus and recommendations, the proposed approach to ensure equality of opportunity, good relations and rural needs are assessed and the proposed approach to public consultation.

It was agreed also that the primary goal be amended to include a reference to inclusive growth; and that the document reference not only the lack of housing in the city core but that it refers to the housing problems across the city.

**Matters Referred Back from Council/Motions**

**Motion - City Tree Initiative**

The Committee was advised that, at the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor O’Hara:

“This Council has ambitious plans to plant over one million trees over 15 years.

However, it acknowledges that there are several sites across Belfast that breach current legal guidelines in terms of air pollutants.

Air pollution is often hidden in plain sight, but it can have potentially life-threatening consequences. Exposure to high levels of air pollution can lead to chronic respiratory problems and increased risk of developing cancer. Having access to clean air is a human right.

To reduce levels of air pollution, we need to reduce our reliance on carbon as well as finding innovative solutions to air pollution.

One such innovative solution is to introduce the City Tree initiative, which is in many European cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels and London. The City Tree does the work of 275 trees in 1% of the space. Each tree holds 1,682 pots of moss, which extract particulate matter, soot, dirt and other pollutants from the air.

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This Council agrees that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which will identify sites in each quarter of the city that are heavily polluted, explore the costs associated with the purchase of the trees and the potential public-private partnership in regards to the advertising space which comes with the tree, which could be used to offset the cost of the purchase.”

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion had been referred without debate to the Committee.

The Committee noted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be brought back.

**Motion - Pridestrian Animation**

The Committee was reminded that at the meeting on 2nd December, the following motion had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Flynn, and, in accordance with Standing order 13(f), it had been referred without debate to the Committee:

“This Council recognises and values the huge contribution which our LGBTQ+ citizens make to the city of Belfast and beyond.

We commend the progressive approach taken by Belfast City Council in its support of Belfast Pride, the bid to secure Euro Pride, the illumination of and the flying of both the Rainbow and the Transgender Flags at the City Hall.

Building on this progressive approach and, as a demonstration of our continued solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community, including our commitments to create a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all, we call on this Council to follow best practices elsewhere throughout the world in the creation of permanent Rainbow Pride themed animation.

We call on this Council to directly engage with the Department for Infrastructure and other Government departments, where, in partnership with the Council, we create permanent animation at appropriate points along the Pride Parade route ahead of the 2020 Pride festival. This should include, but not be limited to, pedestrian crossing points and public realm points along the route.”

The Committee noted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be brought back.

**Motion – Homelessness**

The Committee was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd December, had referred the following motion, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), to the Committee for consideration. The motion had been proposed by Councillor Corr and seconded by Councillor Garrett:

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“This Council notes that today, 2nd December, marks the start of Homelessness Week and acknowledges the fact that the right to a home is a basic human right. It commends the ambition set out within the Belfast Agenda to build 1,800 social homes by 2021 and calls upon the Council to scope all publicly-owned sites and land within the city boundary, to ascertain their potential for building homes on them. We support that public housing continues to be a priority within the Belfast Agenda.”

The Committee noted the motion and agreed that it be considered in the context of Phase 2 of the Strategic Sites Assessment which had been agreed previously by the Committee.

**Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

**Delivering a Smart Belfast**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

**1.1 The Smart Belfast programme aims to foster greater collaboration between our universities, industry and the public sector. In doing so it seeks to develop innovative solutions to complex urban challenges while at the same time supporting local businesses to develop their capabilities in cutting-edge digital technologies.**

**Smart Belfast also seeks to influence initiatives of our partners to ensure that their investments (whether public or private) can maximise the opportunities of digital technologies. The Smart Belfast approach has greatly informed the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal and was an important element in securing this investment from Treasury.**

**1.2 Belfast City Council is now working directly with key partners to ensure that these digital investments will not only build the city’s resilience to technological change, but also position us as a globally significant location for private sector innovation.**

**1.3 This report provides a short update on a number of current Smart Belfast projects and seeks Members’ approval on a number of emerging opportunities.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked:**

- 1. To retrospectively approve the second-stage submission for the €7.5 million Hub-In Horizon 2020 project.**

2. To retrospectively approve support to the scoping stage of the £6 million Active & Empowered Community Innovation project (Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund).
3. To note that the second stage of the £213,000 'Amazing Spaces, Smart Places' project is now under way.
4. To approve a one-third contribution to a budget of approximately £150,000 for the development of the BRCD Digital Outline Business Case(s).
5. To note the role a proposed Digital Commissioner for Belfast and, subject to an assessment, approve a potential one-quarter contribution of approximately of £50,000 per annum for an initial two years.

### 3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The Smart Belfast programme encourages greater collaborative innovation between our universities, industry and the public sector. Delivery is through a project 'pipeline' which, during its first two years, has proven to be a powerful mechanism for attracting co-investment (eg) funding for the establishment of the Commissioner for Resilience, £100,000 for the city's first Internet of Thing network, and over £150,000 for the development of a Business Rates tool which has subsequently led to the creation of commercially successful products by a local technology company. Members will find more detail on these and other projects at the Smart Belfast website: <http://smartbelfast.city>

Members are now asked to consider a number of current significant projects:

### 3.2 Entrepreneurship For the Transformation of Historic Urban Areas (Hub-In)

Working with six other European cities and the Connected Places Catapult, Belfast City Council was successful in a first-stage application to a €7.5 million Horizon 2020 project that proposes to work with local communities to develop entrepreneurial skills in relation to opportunities arising from the transformation on historic urban areas.

- 3.3 Focusing on the regeneration of the city's maritime port and harbour areas, Belfast has bid for €700,000 to assist communities and local partners (including Titanic Foundation, Tourism NI and Ulster University's Future Screens NI) to work directly with citizens over a four year period to create entrepreneurial opportunities using innovative digital technologies.
- 3.4 The proposal is now going through its second (and final) stage of approval with a decision expected in February 2020. Members are

asked to provide retrospective approval for this second stage submission (which due to time constraints could not be brought to committee previously). If successful, a report with proposals for next steps will be brought to Members in March 2020.

**3.5 Active and Empowered Community Innovation project**

Following workshops facilitated by Smart Belfast, a local consortium representing Cisco, Ulster University's Connected Health Innovation Centre, Clarion Social Housing and others have bid to the £98 million UK Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund for a Health Ageing project in Belfast.

**3.6** The first stage application (the closing date was 27 November) will establish a business case for a £6 million smart cities project that would allow planners and the city's health and social care partners to rethink how neighbourhoods are designed to help people remain active and productive in later life. The project would seek to utilise a wide range of emerging digital technologies, and fits well with the Council's aims to develop a Smart District and Testbed programme.

**3.7** Members are asked to retrospectively approve Belfast City Council's support for the scoping stage of the project. A decision is expected in February and, if successful, a report will be presented to Members with further details of the next steps.

**3.8 Amazing Spaces, Smart Places**

Members should note that Phase two of the 'Amazing Spaces, Smart Places' Small Business Research Initiative is now under way. The two-part project which was launched in October 2019, is receiving £215,000 funding from NI Government Departments. The aim is to work with innovative businesses to adopt technologies that can better inform how the Council manages its parks and open spaces.

**3.9** Working with the Department of Justice, Department for the Economy and Strategic Investment Board, and City and Neighbourhoods Services, the Council has now appointed two SMEs to collaborate with Parks and Community Safety staff on innovative technology and data-driven solutions that can help us manage safe, accessible and enjoyable parks and open spaces in Belfast. Phase two will continue until March 2021.

**3.10 Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal**

The Smart Belfast approach has been influential in shaping the design and content of the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City

**Deal.** The aim of this £150 million investment is to ensure that our city region is well-positioned to address the disruption that new technologies are likely to have on our economy and the way we design and deliver public services.

- 3.11** The Digital pillar is also being shaped to ensure that it will support businesses to build their innovation capabilities and therefore be better placed to exploit the opportunities that emerging technologies represent. It is also seeking to leverage co-investment from private sector partners on joint projects. Members will be aware this work is already underway with the renowned Fraunhofer Institute (via BABLE) to provide specialist advice and to facilitate this engagement with industry.
- 3.12** In addition to this programme development, the City Deal process also requires that each project requires HM Treasury Green Book compliant Outline Business Cases (OBCs). While the work that BABLE is undertaking will go some way to informing the content of the OBCs, further work is required to determine the financial and commercial elements of the projects and to produce the actual documents which will be submitted to UK Government and the Northern Ireland Civil Service.
- 3.13** It is therefore recommended that a tender is published to procure these services, which is estimated to be in the region of £150,000. Members should note that the cost of this will be split between the BRCD partners based on the EPP, with Belfast City Council paying approximately one third of the total cost.
- 3.14** **Belfast Digital Commissioner**
- Building on the Smart Belfast approach and the development of the City Deal Digital Pillar, work is now under way with the Vice-Chancellors of both local universities, Belfast Harbour and Catalyst Inc to develop a small number of transformative investments in the city – which collectively have the potential to secure Belfast’s position as a globally significant location for innovation-led investments.
- 3.15** Members will be aware of Belfast Harbour’s commitment to invest £254 million over the next five years to contribute to its aims to be the smartest regional port in the world. Partners are now considering opportunities to complement this investment with plans for an FDI- focused innovation district; and a Belfast City Council-led ‘Smart District’ (for which over £40 million has been identified in the City Deal Digital pillar).
- 3.16** The value of the Smart Cities market is estimated to be worth over £2 trillion within the next five years. Partners have agreed that

there is significant potential for Belfast to be part of this market if the city builds on a shared proposition around these three significant investments.

- 3.17 In support of this aim, the Council is working with the universities and Harbour on proposals for a Digital Commissioner who would work with industry to grow the city's strengths and reputation as a place to invest in technological innovation. This type of position has been a critical factor in other smart cities (including Eindhoven, London, Helsinki and Amsterdam). Initial work is under way with the Strategic Investment Board to identify the specific roles that a Commissioner could play in Belfast, and to consider the most appropriate mechanisms through which this person could deliver the most benefit for the city.
- 3.18 Members are asked to note the importance of a Digital Commissioner role for Belfast and, subject to a further assessment, approve a potential one-quarter contribution of approximately of £50,000 per annum for two years to the establishment of the post.

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.19 At this development stage the Hub-In and Active & Empowered Community Innovation Testbed projects require an in-kind contribution of officer time only.
- 3.20 The £150,000 for the Digital BRCD Outline Business Cases will be split across the six partner councils. The council's contribution will be met from the City Deal Budget.
- 3.21 When confirmed by partners, the budget for the Digital Commissioner will be split across four organisations with Belfast City Council making a one-quarter contribution to the total cost for two years (approximately £50,000 per annum). This is included within the City Deal budget.

#### **3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment**

None."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

#### **Proposed adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan**

The Committee considered the following report.

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

- 1.1 The Council’s draft Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) was subject to public consultation from June to September 2019. This consultation was in tandem with the draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS), which is being led by City and Neighbourhood Services Department. It is proposed to make some minor revisions to the draft GBIP to take account of consultation feedback prior to the adoption and publication of the GBIP.

Proposed responses, actions and changes are set out at Appendix 1.

- 1.2 It is anticipated that the BOSS will be considered for adoption early in 2020.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to

- note the update on the draft GBIP consultation process and to agree to revise the GBIP in accordance with the proposed responses, actions and changes set out at Appendix 1.

**3.0 Main report**

**Background**

- 3.1 The Council agreed to the draft GBIP for consultation purposes in June 2018. The GBIP is a high level plan that recognises the many functions, including for health, biodiversity and environmental resilience, of our green areas and water features. It represents an over-arching strategy that will guide more detailed strategies and action plans over time. These include the new BOSS, which was prepared in tandem with it. A draft BOSS was agreed for public consultation purposes by the Council in April 2019.

- 3.2 The BOSS, including the data collected during its preparation, forms part of the evidence base for the Local Development Plan (LDP). The GBIP also supports the LDP and represents supplementary planning guidance it once the LDP is adopted.

**Consultation Process**

- 3.3 Given the linkages between the GBIP and BOSS, it was agreed to undertake a joint public consultation exercise and the consultation questionnaire allowed respondents to comment on either document or both. Analysis of the responses to the draft BOSS is being undertaken by the City and Neighbourhood Services

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Department. Analysis of the draft GBIP has been undertaken by the Development Planning and Policy team. The consultation period was from 17th June to 20th September 2019, during which officers attended 6 events across the city to raise awareness and get feedback from a wide range of interests.

3.4 The events were:

- Summer Rose Fair - Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
- Sounds from Bank Square
- Summer Fun Day - Mount Eagles
- A World Of Rhythms - CS Lewis Square
- Summer Fun Day - Waterworks
- Pride - Village at Custom House Square

3.5 Consultation was also undertaken with the Youth Forum and a group from Age Friendly Belfast. At all events people were asked to fill in a brief postcard questionnaire on what comes to mind when thinking of green and blue infrastructure in Belfast how can we make these spaces better. A total of 337 postcards were completed.

3.6 During the consultation period we received a total of 96 detailed responses:

- 67 responses via Citizen Space
- 16 hard copy questionnaire responses
- 13 general written submissions

68 responses were from individuals, with 28 from groups/organisation.

Consultation findings

3.7 High-level findings are outlined below and further details and proposed responses and actions are attached at Appendix 1.

3.8 The Vision

86% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the draft vision that *'By 2035 green and blue infrastructure will be strategically planned to enhance ecosystem services that benefit all living, working in and visiting Belfast.'* However, a significant number of respondents were concerned with the 2035 timeframe for the vision, particularly given the declared climate emergency. In this regard, the vision date aligns with the vision dates for the Belfast Agenda and new Belfast Local Development Plan and is considered appropriate. Nevertheless, this does not mean that the principles set out in the GBIP will not be realised until 2035. Rather,

these principles will immediately start to inform council operations and decision-making.

### **3.9 The Strategic Principles**

The draft GBIP has five strategic principles to provide the framework for achieving the vision:

- SP1: Biodiverse
- SP2: Planned, interconnected networks
- SP3: Integrated into the urban environment
- SP4: Well designed and managed
- SP5: Appropriately funded

**3.10** 87% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the draft Strategic Principles are the correct ones to achieve the vision. However many respondents were concerned at the apparent lack of actions or clear commitments and targets arising from the Plan. In this regard, the GBIP is not intended as an action plan. Rather, it is an over-arching strategy recognising the many benefits of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) and how these can be incorporated into projects across the city. Its implementation will be through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new Local Development Plan and decision-making and council investment in projects.

### **3.11 Other Feedback**

In line with the strong level of agreement for the vision and principles, many respondents commended and supported the council for developing the plan, particularly its clear recognition of the critical role of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) in addressing climate change and enhancing biodiversity and ecosystems services. The linkages to the BOSS were welcomed as it can play a major role in integrating and protecting vital city assets. In addition, respondents recognised the importance of certain areas for biodiversity and the need for special protection/management measures. There was also support for sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), opportunities for de-culverting and the use of green roofs to benefit the city and help address climate change.

**3.12** A number of respondents thought that the GBIP should include more detail or further emphasis on certain issues, such as the duty to further biodiversity and need to urgently address climate change. Many suggested additional wording. Others sought greater clarification of some of the main terminology or concepts, including 'ecosystem services'. Many of such comments have merit and it is proposed to amend the wording of some sections

accordingly. Nevertheless, such changes are minor in nature and do not represent any change to the overall direction of the Plan.

- 3.13 The responses received through the public events postcards raised a number of issues, including the need to provide more open space and improve biodiversity. Other issues raised generally related to operational matters, such as maintenance and provision of facilities.
- 3.14 Overall, some of the other key messages in responses included:
- Need to protect existing green and open spaces from development.
  - Need to create new open spaces, especially city centre green spaces.
  - Council should include commitment to lead by example throughout its own estate.
  - Importance of green active travel and interconnecting of assets.
  - Suggestion that a natural capital accounting approach should be adopted.
- 3.15 Many of the above matters are included the GBIP and are being addressed by the Council, including through other plans and strategies, including the new LDP and the BOSS. As regards the Council leading by example, the final BOSS will address operational matters and there are ongoing inter-departmental discussion around a co-ordinated approach to maximise GBI benefits to the city, including through its emerging Resilience Strategy and Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan.
- 3.16 In summary, the wide support for the GBIP is welcomed, including the very strong support for its vision and strategic principles. A number of the comments received suggested some additional or revised wording of parts of the draft GBIP, either by way of emphasis or clarification. Following analysis, and having regard to the high-level nature of the GBIP and its influence on other emerging plans and strategies, the overall approach in the draft GBIP remains appropriate. Nevertheless, some revisions are proposed to improve or clarify draft wording and some of the accompanying maps and diagrams. These are summarised at Appendix 1 of this report and do not change the direction of the GBIP or its strategic principles.
- 3.17 It is understood that any proposed revisions to the draft BOSS will be brought to the Council in the new year. In this regard, as the GBIP is an over-arching framework its principles help to inform the BOSS. The BOSS will include more detail and actions that will help deliver the GBIP principles.

**3.18 Equality screening and rural need assessment**

A draft equality screening and a rural needs analysis were completed and were included in the public consultation. There were 10 responses on the equality screening and rural needs assessment. The issues raised generally related to the protection of open space, health & wellbeing and addressing disadvantaged communities. As with the general responses to the draft GBIP, some specifically related to the loss of green space at Glassmullin (Andersonstown). One respondent said a full equality impact assessment should have been undertaken. The feedback provided will be summarised and the final screening and assessment will be updated for publication with the final GBIP.

**3.19 Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no resource implications directly associated with the GBIP. Its principles will help inform other council plans, strategies and projects and should be taken into account in the relevant budgetary considerations at that time.

**3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment**

The final GBIP will be subject to an equality screening and rural needs assessment in line with the Council's process."

**Appendix 1**

Key Issue Raised	Council Response and Action
Commend and support BCC for developing the plan which provides clear recognition of the critical role and benefits of GBI, including for ecosystems services, health and wellbeing and biodiversity.	We welcome the support given to our vision, together with the constructive comments and suggestions put forward in the responses we received.  <b>No action required.</b>
Concerns were raised regarding target date being too long in the future. Some respondents	<b>Comments noted.</b> The vision date aligns with the Belfast Agenda (BA) and new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) timeframe and is considered appropriate. The principles set out in the Green and Blue

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suggested 2031 or sooner to reflect the climate emergency.	<p>Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) will immediately start to inform council operations and decision-making.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
Concern raised over the implementation and delivery of the GBIP and its lack of actions and targets.	<p><b>Comments noted</b></p> <p>The GBIP is not intended as an action plan. It is an over-arching strategy recognising the many benefits of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) and how these can be incorporated into projects and plans across the city. The effective delivery of the vision and principles will be implemented through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new LDP, Belfast Open Space Strategy (BOSS) and Local Biodiversity Strategy and council investment in projects. Also through engagement with other Government departments and bordering local Councils who have similar responsibility and functions.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
Greater emphasis should be given to benefits of biodiversity and the council's duties in furthering biodiversity.	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Add reference to the WANE Act 2011 and the council statutory duty to further biodiversity, along with minor consequential wording edits in relevant sections of document.</p>
Clarification required on definitions of ecosystems and their services.	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Definitions of ecosystems and ecosystem services to be included in final GBIP.</p>
Suggestion made for specific recognition of ancient woodland and long established woodlands and the multi-benefits associated from trees and hedges relating to biodiversity, air quality and flooding.	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p> <p>Trees are mentioned throughout the GBIP. It is accepted that ancient trees and hedges are not specifically referred to and it is agreed that mention should be made. However, the GBIP is a strategic framework document and is unable to include every possible natural asset for detailed discussion in the Plan.</p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Add references to ancient trees/hedges in introductory text.</p>
Various suggestions for minor rewording	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p>

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<p>to help clarify or emphasise key points throughout draft document.</p>	<p><b>Proposed action:</b> Minor wording amendments throughout document to aid clarity or emphasis that do not alter the overall direction or strategic principles set out in the draft document.</p>
<p>Suggestion that some of the mapping could be improved.</p>	<p><b>Comment noted and agreed</b> The GBIP is a strategic framework and the mapping is illustrative and not site-specific. Nevertheless, it is accepted that the environmental designations map may be confusing and could be simplified.</p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Simplification of the environmental designations map.</p>
<p>Suggestion that the diagram showing LDP and Belfast Agenda (BA) linkages could be improved.</p>	<p><b>Comment noted.</b> This diagram illustrates the potential linkages between GBI and the priorities of the BA and LDP. It is illustrative only. Nevertheless, it is agreed that a clearer description should be added, along with footnotes for data sources.</p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Revise the diagram description/heading and add footnotes.</p>
<p>Suggested that council should lead by example in GBIP.</p>	<p><b>Comment Noted.</b> The effective delivery of the vision and principles will be implemented through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new LDP, the BOSS, Local Biodiversity Action Plan and council investment in projects.</p> <p><b>No further action required</b></p>
<p>Suggestions to revise the wording of the vision to simplify it and make it more explicit in relation to Biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted.</b> The vision statement is concise and considered appropriate, given the nature of the document. It should be read in the context of the entire GBIP. Nevertheless, the proposed changes to clarify definitions and emphasise biodiversity outlined above will also help address suggestions made.</p> <p><b>No further action required</b></p>
<p>Comments stress the need to protect, enhance and preserve existing open spaces and</p>	<p><b>Comments noted.</b> This is addressed in the GBIP, which includes specific reference to opportunities to green the city centre. This will be delivered through other plans,</p>

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create new open spaces, especially a city centre green space.	strategies and projects by the council and its partners.  <b>No action required</b>
Suggestion regarding management principles for a healthy public realm and natural environment.	<b>Comments Noted.</b> The LDP includes planning policies in relation to the natural environment and public realm, which will address the concerns highlighted.  <b>No action required.</b>
Comment that the rural portion of the area deserves a much more prominent and detailed emphasis.	<b>Comment noted.</b> It is considered that this strategic framework document, including associated illustrative mapping, clearly shows how the urban area sits with its countryside setting and that all areas have a part to play.  <b>No action required.</b>
Comment that sustainable transport should have greater emphasis and the importance of connectivity and to include wildlife corridors between green spaces.	<b>Comment noted.</b> It is considered that this strategic framework document, including associated illustrative mapping, clearly recognises the opportunities for, and importance of, sustainable and active travel, including greenways. The GBIP aims to improve sustainable transport means and connectivity between greenspaces where possible and this will be implemented through the existing planning policies and the new LDP.  <b>No action required.</b>
A number of respondents raised concern over the loss of green open space to development of 3G pitches - in particular Glassmullin Green.	<b>Comments noted.</b> This is a site specific matter that is not directly relevant to the GBIP, which is a strategic framework document. This specific matter was subject to due planning process.  <b>No action required</b>

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Physical Programme and Asset Management**

**Physical Programme Update**

The Committee considered the following report:

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

1.1 The Council's Physical Programme covers over 150 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation Programme, Belfast Investment Fund, Local Investment Fund, Social Outcomes Fund and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This report provides an update on significant milestones achievement and progress on movements.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

Movements under the Capital Programme

- *Leisure Transformation Programme* - agree to move the redevelopment of Avoniel to Stage 3 – Committed under the Capital Programme

Project Updates

- *Fleet Replacement Programme* - note the proposed new 4 year lease term for the Lord Mayor's Car with the replacement of the current car with a new hybrid model
- *Connswater Community Greenway* - agree to the allocation of the additional £200,000 residual balance from the Big Lottery contribution to CCG to be included as part of the previously agreed legal agreement with Eastside Greenways and to note the arrangement for the Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Eastside Greenways in relation to the management and delivery of an animation programme along the Greenway

3.0 Main report

3.1 *Leisure Transformation Programme – update*

The new centres at Lisnasharragh and Brook have now both opened. This represents a major milestone in the delivery of the Leisure Transformation programme. These new facilities have received an overwhelmingly positive response from the media, key stakeholders and centre users. During the first week of opening, an average of over 100 members per day were joining the two centres. See Appendix 1 for photos. Members will be reminded that dates for the official launch for both centres have now been agreed as 8th January for Lisnasharragh and 17th January for Brook. Members will receive an invitation in due course.

3.2 The development of Andersonstown is continuing on schedule. The new centre is due to complete in late February, with a view to

an official opening in early April. Procurement of a contractor for the redevelopment of Templemore is currently underway and works are currently forecasted to commence in August 2020.

- 3.3 As of 1st December, Avoniel Leisure Centre is now officially closed and currently undergoing demobilisation. Members will be aware that Heron Bros Ltd will take forward the construction works at Avoniel with demolition works due to commence on site in January. Avoniel is currently at Stage 2 on the Capital Programme. Given that works are due to commence on site after Christmas it is recommended that this is moved to Stage 3 – Committed. Members will be aware that £8million has been committed to the redevelopment of Avoniel under the Leisure Transformation Programme.

*Fleet Replacement Programme - Replacement of the Lord Mayor's Car*

- 3.4 In 2015 the SP&R Committee agreed to enter into a 4 year lease for the Lord Mayor's car on the basis that leasing provided better value for money than the purchase of a similar vehicle. The current 4 year lease is a fixed term arrangement which expires in February 2020 and is for a BMW 7 Series (diesel model).
- 3.5 Members are asked to note that it is proposed that a new lease is taken out on a like for like basis to the previous terms. It is proposed that the replacement car will be a similar model and size to the current vehicle. However it is proposed that the new model will be a hybrid model with a combined 99mpg, and cleaner lower emission CO2 level of 52 g/km.
- 3.6 All costs for the Lord Mayor's car are included within the Fleet Replacement Programme which is at Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme.

*Connswater Community Greenway*

- 3.7 The Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) is being developed and managed through an innovative partnership between EastSide Greenways (formerly CCG Trust) and Belfast City Council within the context of the Belfast Agenda. In this next phase of the Greenway's life, the Council in partnership with EastSide Greenways (ESG), will bring forward innovative proposals that seek to ensure its sustainability, enhancing the current asset and generating income. In keeping with The National Lottery Fund's ambitions for Living Landmark projects, a continuing focus on community engagement, involvement and ownership is fundamental.

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- 3.8** In November 2018 SP&R agreed that the £1m balance remaining as part of the Big Lottery capital contribution be allocated as an endowment to the CCGT for the delivery of an annually agreed animation programme for the greenway. The Committee further agreed that the Council entering into a legal agreement for a period of 10 years with CCGT for the delivery of an annual animation programme funded by Big Lottery, subject to a legal agreement being drawn up by the City Solicitor in agreement with the Strategic Director of CNS.
- 3.9** During the process of developing the above legal agreements Officers prepared a final account relating to the CCG project and agreed this with the Big Lottery Fund. The final account showed an additional balance of £200k (in addition to the £1m) which Members are now be asked to agree should be included as part of the endowment agreement. To date negotiations have been ongoing with EastSide Greenways and the initial legal agreement is yet to be executed. Subject to Members agreement it is proposed that the additional 200K will now be encompassed as part of this agreement and executed as one agreement.
- 3.10** To ensure the sustainability of the Greenway, the Council has agreed with the National Lottery to utilise unspent Lottery monies to fund EastSide Greenways as set out in the legal Agreement. EastSide Greenways will be delivered through a set of strategic objectives which will be subject to review on an annual basis as a response to need identified through research carried out by the Partnership. EastSide Greenways will submit an Annual Activity Plan to the Council each year setting out its proposed activities in the following year. The Annual Plan must be approved by the Council before any of the activities outlined in it occur.

**3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

*Financial –*

- Leisure Transformation Programme – Avoniel - £8m as agreed under the LTP
- Fleet Replacement Programme – Lease of the Lord Mayor’s Car – costs are covered under the Fleet Replacement Programme
- CCG - the balance on the capital funding has been agreed with Big Lottery and the project finalisation has now concluded with a balance of £1. 2m funding to support the annual animation programme over the next 10 years as per the legal agreement and MOU developed with Legal Services and C&NS

*Resources – Officer time as required.*

**3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Assessment**

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendations in relation to the Leisure Transformation Programme and the Connswater Community Greenway but agreed to defer consideration of the fleet replacement programme to enable a further report to be submitted on other possible options.

**Assets Management**

**I. Dunmurry Station Footpath – Temporary Licence**

The Committee approved a temporary licence agreement between Belfast City Council and John Graham Construction Ltd for their proposed closure, use and part development of the Dunmurry Station Footpath in connection with the wider Blacks Road improvement scheme on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure.

**II. North Queen Street Community Centre – Holy Family and Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club – New Licence**

The Committee approved the grant of a new Licence to Holy Family and Golden Gloves Amateur Boxing Club, subject to detailed terms being agreed to by the Estates Unit and Legal Services.

**III. Plot 84 Balmoral Estate – Proposed lease extension**

The Committee approved the extension of the current 99 year ground lease to Killultagh Estates Limited in respect of Plot 84 Balmoral Estate to 125 years, with effect from 1 January 1975 subject to the payment of a premium of £5,000.

**Finance, Resources and Procurement**

**Contracts Update**

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1);
- approved the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2); and
- noted that the Committee had delegated authority in relation to the award of contracts:

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**Table 1 – Publically Advertised Tenders**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
Tender for the provision of Residentials for groups of youths on the PEACE IV programme (T2032)	Nigel Grimshaw	From award until 31st December 2020
Tender for provision of energy management services (T1991)	Ronan Cregan	Up to 5 years
Tender for Provision of Civic Dignitaries Car (T2031)	Nigel Grimshaw	4 year lease
Tender for the manufacture, supply and installation of signage (T1943)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Tender for the supply, fitting and maintenance of fire extinguishers	Sinead Grimes	Up to 3 years
Tender for Consultancy Services to Provide a Programme OBC for the Digital Projects within the Belfast Region City Deal	Ronan Cregan	Up to 1 year

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

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Annual estimate</b>
T1998 (b) - Tender for the Provision of Catering at Belfast Zoo	USEL	Up to £500,000 turnover per annum at the venue.

**Brexit Committee – Commissioning of a Report**

The Committee was reminded that the Brexit Committee, at its meeting on 7th November, 2019, had agreed the following:

“The Committee requests that a report be commissioned to examine the opportunities for co-operation in economic development supporting good growth, inclusive growth and to outline an ambition to a just transition to a zero-carbon economy and economic infrastructure that could be developed in an all-Ireland context. This report should examine this having regard to relevant scenarios post Brexit or those that remain in play up to the date of withdrawal and also address the island of Ireland as a single economic unit.”

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At that meeting the Committee had noted that it didn't have a budget and any expenditure would have to be approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The decision had been ratified by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the Committee agrees that Council officers research the issue and bring back a report on how it would be developed, resourced and led.

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

**Equality and Good Relations**

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

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 2nd December, 2019, including:

**PEACE IV**

**CYP1 Tech Connects**

That pending receipt of information from SEUPB in relation to CYP1, delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, to agree the approach required to enable a timely action to be taken.

**CYP3 On the Right Track**

To note the challenges, affecting project delivery, agreed the revised delivery target for 2020 and agreed to request to SEUPB to engage more fully with the 3 main codes.

**BPR4 Belfast and the World**

To approve a maximum of 45 people (40 participants and 5 support staff, including the attendance of a maximum of 2 Council staff) to attend the EU study visit to Ypres, Belgium.

**Notice of Motion – Srebrenica**

That a programme be drawn up which would involve inviting suitable representatives to Belfast, as recommended by Remembering Srebrenica, to engage with a number of stakeholders about Srebrenica, acknowledgement and justice, and the importance of anti-prejudice work.

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**District Council Good Relations Action Plan**

To note the update in relation to delivery and spend and the following funding allocations under the Shared and Safe spaces themes

To approve that identified underspend of £23,000 in both of these programmes be allocated to the following proposals;

- £5,000 for inspection and site recommendations reports for the provision of bonfire beacons
- £5,000 towards an programme focusing on prejudice and marking 25th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide with remembering Srebrenica UK
- £5,000 contribution to a significant piece of cross sectoral work to secure collective agreement on the strategic vision for the 'clean, green and safe' elements of work in the city centre.
- £3,000 towards review of approach to supporting positive cultural expression
- £5,000 to support the city wide initiatives which seek to inspire people from across the city to transform it for the peace and prosperity of all.

**International Women's Day 2020**

The Committee noted the contents of a report and provided an update regarding the International Women's Day event, which would be held on 7th March, 2020. It noted also that the Council's funding contribution would be allocated to cover costs of a temporary stage and sound system for the public rally and a lunch for 200 participants in the City Hall following the rally. The budget of £6,500 would be provided through the Gender Action Plan budget.

**Equality and Diversity: Quarter 2 Equality  
Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided Members with a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessment for Quarter 2 (July till September 2019).

**Operational Issues**

**Requests for Use of City Hall  
and the Provision of Hospitality**

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 2nd December, 2019, as set out in the undernoted appendix:

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NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
Compassion Belfast	8 January 2020	<b>2020 Clearing the Vision –</b> Launch of collaborative working across 5 Christian denominations to develop a clear vision for engagement with the Belfast Agenda.  Numbers attending – 500	B, C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Herstory	2 February 2020	<b>Herstory International Light Festival Reception –</b> Welcome reception to mark the illuminate event celebrating women through history taking place at City Hall, pending approval at December SP&R.  Numbers attending – 60	C	No (Voluntary)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Equality Commission for Northern Ireland	26 February 2020	<b>Recognition Event to mark 20th Anniversary –</b> celebratory event to recognise the achievements	C	Charge £300  <i>(Public Body)</i>	No Hospitality  <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality

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		of the organisation over its 20 year history.  Numbers attending – 150 – 180				
Dementia NI	28 February 2020	<b>5th Anniversary Celebration</b> – celebration event to mark achievements of the charity over its five year history.  Numbers attending – 150	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
European Youth Parliament	2 March 2020	<b>NI Regional Session of Youth Parliament</b> - teams of secondary students debate and present their ideas and solutions on current topics.  Numbers attending – 60	B & D	No (Charity)	No (they provide their own lunches for attendees)	Approve No charge No hospitality
Dunlewey Addiction Services	5 June 2020	<b>Celebrating Recovery</b> – Dinner to mark achievements of service users who have recovered from addiction through services offered by the organisation.	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Soft Drink Reception	Approve No Charge Soft Drink Reception

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		Numbers attending – 300				
Suicide Awareness & Support Services	6 or 13 June 2020	<b>20th Anniversary Celebration</b> – dinner to mark the successful work of the organisation over its 20 year history.  Numbers attending – 400	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Labour Relations Agency	9 September 2020	<b>International Labour Relations Agencies Pre-Conference Reception and Dinner</b> – reception and dinner to mark start of a one day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 50	A & B	Charge £300  <i>(Public Body)</i>	No Hospitality  <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
<b>2021 EVENTS</b>						
British Nuclear Medicine Society	25 May 2021	<b>BNMS Annual Awards Dinner</b> – welcome dinner linked to 3 day conference taking place in ICC Belfast.  Numbers attending –150	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No Hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

**Herstory International Light Festival 2020**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To consider a request for the Herstory International Light Festival for the use of City Hall façade and grounds for an illumination project on Sunday 2nd February 2020.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to;

- approve the application for use of the City Hall for this unique illumination and projection event.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 Background**

The Herstory Light Festival is an annual global event celebrating women and equality. The 2020 Herstory Light Festival takes place over Friday 31st January – Monday 3rd February 2020.

- 3.2 The 2020 Herstory Light Festival will feature a special celebration of Northern Ireland’s peace heroines and the United Nations Headquarters in New York will be illuminated in their honour.

- 3.3 ‘Women's achievements and struggles have been lost in the shadows for too long, resulting in global inequality and a regression of women's rights. That's why Herstory is harnessing the alchemical power of light, to celebrate women and equality, spotlight inequality, and create visions for a World of Equals.’ - *Melanie Lynch, Founder of Herstory*

- 3.4 The project will:

1. raise awareness of the achievements of women in Northern Ireland
2. encourage support for women in Northern Ireland
3. inspire and motivate young people
4. bring community groups together
5. increase an appreciation for the role of the arts

**3.5 Key Issues**

Herstory organisers seek permission to project portrait façade on the evening of 2nd February 2020.

- 3.6 A specialised company called Nightlight from Dublin will manage the project and linked in with Council’s Property Maintenance Unit in terms of the Council’s illumination system. A special 10,000

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lumen laser projector will be placed in City Hall grounds and a small crew will be onsite to manage the projection from 6pm to 10pm.

- 3.7 The portraits for illumination are the creation of artists, Belfast College of Art students and school children in NI. The artwork will cover the following themes: mythology and ancient goddesses; remarkable NI women from the sectors of science, arts, sport; 'everywoman' the unsung heroines of our everyday life- mother, grandmother, aunt, friend; and the NI Peace Heroines.
- 3.8 The final illuminations will be based on the quality of the artwork and the technical illumination process.
- 3.9 Renowned local artist Colin Davidson has confirmed his involvement with the project and some of his famous portraits will be illuminated and projected onto City Hall.
- 3.10 The project and event will be supported by a marketing campaign with public along with participating groups and schools invited to City Hall grounds to view the portraits projected onto City Hall.
- 3.11 Herstory organisers, along with Women in Business, hope to host a reception in City Hall on the evening of 2nd February 2020 to acknowledge the support and involvement of various group to deliver Herstory. An application for use of City Hall function rooms has been received and will be presented in the monthly function report for committee approval.
- 3.12 **Financial and Resource Implications**
- There will be no cost to the Council in approving this request and no charge to the organisers for use of the City Hall grounds and façade.
- 3.13 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/  
Rural Needs Implications**
- This proposal will assist the Council meeting its equality and diversity aspirations."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Request for use of City Hall by  
Belfast Children's Festival**

The Committee was reminded that a request for the use of the City Hall was normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using criteria agreed for that purpose. Occasionally, however, it was

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necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, for example, for large scale events in the City Hall or its grounds and the following request fell into this category.

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from Belfast-based Young at Art, for the use of City Hall on 8th March, 2020, for the purpose of hosting free events programmed as part of the Belfast Children's Festival 2020. The Council had granted permission for a similar event in previous years.

The event would be free to participants and the organisers estimated up to 500 people, the majority of which would be families, would be in attendance.

The Committee:

1. Authorised Young at Art to use the City Hall on 8th March, 2020 for activities programmed as part of Belfast Children's Festival; and
2. Agreed to waive the fee for hire for this event.

**Audit and Risk Panel Report and  
Minutes of Meeting of 3rd December, 2019**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 3rd December, 2019.

**Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Leaders' Consultative Forum of 9th December, 2019.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board of 9th December, 2019.

Chairperson