

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 31st July, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Black (Chairperson);
Aldermen Dorrian, Haire, Kingston and Sandford;
Councillors, Beattie, Bunting, Carson, Garrett, Groogan,
Heading, Lyons, McAllister, McDonough-Brown, McLaughlin,
Murphy, Nicholl, Spratt and Walsh.

Also attended: Councillors Kyle, McKeown, O'Hara and T. Kelly.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. A. Reid, Strategic Director Place and Economy;
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mrs. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported from Councillor Long.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Black, Bunting and Murphy declared an interest in agenda item 3b – Micro Grant Funding, in so far as they either worked for or were associated with Groups which had applied for funding, and left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.

Presentation

St George's Market Traders Committee – Re: St George's Market Update

It was reported that Ms. C. Laverty, Chairperson, Mr. M. Graham, Vice Chair, and Ms. H. Sharkey, Secretary, St. George's Market Traders Committee were in attendance and outlined the current position in relation to the Market and requesting the Committee to consider the waving of the stall fees for a period of time.

Subsequent to the presentation, the Committee considered the following report.

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on:

- The financial implications of any decisions to waive the stall fees for market stall holders at St. George’s Market
- The ongoing work between the Markets Team and the Traders’ Committee to assist with the economic recovery of the market.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the costs of waiving stall fees at St George’s Market – based on figures for three and six month periods
- Note the ongoing work between the Traders’ Committee and the Markets Management team to support the recovery of the market.

3.0 Main report

3.1 At the July meeting of Council, members agreed that the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th June, under the heading ‘Recovery Programme’, be amended in relation to the decision not to waive the stall fees for market stall holders at St. George’s Market.

3.2 Members asked that a report be brought back on the cost of waiving the stall fees for market stall holders at St George’s Market and to enter into discussions with the stall holders around their proposals to assist with the economic recovery of the market. They also agreed that the Council should invite a deputation of Market Stall Traders to discuss the issue at the next Committee.

3.3 Both Smithfield Market and St George’s Market closed to the public due to COVID-19 on 22 and 23 March 2020 respectively. In line with NI Executive guidance, both markets have since re-opened, with St George’s Market re-opening to the public on 3 July 2020. In preparation for re-opening, officers developed mobilisation plans and risk assessments, These took into consideration a number of factors to ensure the safety of staff, traders and customers and critically to give assurances to the public that the markets are safe buildings to enter. This includes arrangements to manage social distancing in open areas, engagement with traders to support them in ensuring compliance within their stalls and provision of additional equipment such as hand washing facilities and hand sanitisers as well as signage and messages to provide appropriate

levels of assurance to the public. Staff also developed guidance for traders and customers and worked with the Facilities team to ensure that social distancing can be maintained within staff and office areas.

3.4 Engagement with the National Market Traders' (NMTF) Committee was central to informing decisions around the operational elements of the re-opening of the market. This included discussions on the reduced level of capacity and how this could be managed; revised layouts to manage social distancing and changes to opening hours. Some of the key operational decisions include:

- **Reduction in the number of stalls: at a standard weekend market, St George's can accommodate up to around 200 stalls each day. The pre-COVID19 occupancy rates were 225 stalls on Friday, 189 on Saturday and 186 on Sunday. Taking account of social distancing measures, 84 stalls have currently been provided on the market floor**
- **Changes to opening hours: initial operating hours for each day were agreed as 10am to 3pm (note: current operating hours are: 6am-3pm on Friday; 9am to 3pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday). These mirror the reduced opening times in many retail units across the city centre**
- **Managing the movement of visitors: based on input from the council's Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU), a one-way operating system was put in place, with limited points of access and egress. Additional staffing, security and cleaning cover was put in place to provide additional levels of assurance to the public. No seating areas have been provided for customers at this point.**

3.5 It was agreed with NMTF that these decisions would be kept under regular review once the market was open. Any changes would be dependent on ensuring compliance with relevant NI Executive guidance and would be conditional on working within agreed financial projections.

3.6 In advance of the market opening in July 2020, the traders asked the council to provide an exemption period of six months from the payment of stall fees (currently £25 per stall for hot foot traders and £16 per stall for all other traders). St George's Market had budgeted for a small surplus (around £31,000) for the 20/21 financial year. Taking account of the loss of income during lockdown, the additional overheads required to operate the market post-COVID (in particular additional security and cleaning costs) and the reduction in income as a result of the social distancing constraints, the re-opening of the market will have significant financial implications for the council, with additional costs

estimated at £346,150. A six month stallage freeze would result in a total cost to Council of £550,408 which is an increase of £204,258 against the operating budget of £346,150 agreed at CMT in June 2020. A three month stallage freeze would result in a total cost to Council of £440,408 which is an increase of £94,258 against the operating budget of £346,150 agreed at CMT in June 2020.

- 3.7 Since the re-opening of the market, the NMTF Committee continues to work with the Markets Management Team to support the recovery of the market. In line with the rest of the city centre, footfall levels in the market are currently around 30% of the numbers in previous years. It is important to note that the market has only been open for three weekends up to this point and that, week on week, visitor numbers have increased incrementally. These are consistent with figures that have been monitored across the rest of the city centre – where retail units were open a number of weeks ahead of the market.
- 3.8 It is also important to note that the Committee and the Markets Management are working on plans to enhance the market, with new seating areas being introduced in the coming weeks (with additional management and cleansing regimes being put in place) and proposals for some animation and music to be re-introduced, once the regulations permit. There is also a phased plan to increase the number of stalls in the market once the social distancing guidelines are revisited. While indicative dates for these developments are in place, it is impossible to confirm these at this point, due to ongoing changes to guidelines and concerns about the possible need for additional restrictions at some point. There have also been negotiations around a revision to the initially-agreed opening hours, subject to support from all market traders.

Financial and resource implications

- 3.9 St George's Market had budgeted to make a small surplus of £31,311 in this financial year. Taking account of the loss of income during lockdown, the additional overheads required to operate the market post-COVID (in particular additional security and cleaning costs) and the reduction in income as a result of the social distancing constraints, the re-opening of the market will have significant financial implications for the council, with increased costs estimated at £346,150.
- 3.10 A six month stallage freeze from 1 August 2020 would result in a total cost to Council of £550,408 which is an increase of £204,258 against the operating budget of £346,150 agreed at CMT in June 2020. There is currently no provision in any departmental budget to cover these increased costs and will increase the forecast corporate deficit by this amount.

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3.11 If a three month stall fee holiday was to be applied, from 1 August 2020, the cost to Council will increase by an additional £94,258 to £440,408. There is currently no provision in any departmental budget to cover these increased costs and will increase the forecast corporate deficit by this amount.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

No specific equality/good relations implications. No negative impact on rural areas.”

The Committee:

- Agreed to waive the stall fees at St George’s Market for a three month period; and
- Noted the ongoing work between the Traders’ Committee and the Markets Management team to support the recovery of the market.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 4 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 (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Finance Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th June 2020, an update was provided on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council’s financial position and a strategy to address the forecast deficit and the mitigation measures which had and will be taken as the situation evolves. Going forward it was agreed to provide Members with a monthly update on the financial position and specifically for the special July Committee meeting to provide further information on ongoing work in the following areas:

1. the financial impact of the re-opening of leisure centres;
2. the employee savings arising from the review of vacant posts;
3. the additional expenditure controls to be exercised by the Council as part of the financial strategy adopted at the June meeting; and
4. the specified reserve allocations which have previously received Committee approval.

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In addition, in order to provide all Members with up-to-date financial information it was being recommended that Financial Regulation G12 was enhanced to provide monthly updates to Standing Committees for the 2020/21 financial year.

Accordingly, the Director of Finance and Resources submitted a report in this regard.

The Committee:

1. Noted the contents of the report; and
2. Agreed that financial information be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a monthly basis, with the same report going to subsequent standing committees for noting only for the 2020/21 financial year.

Micro Grant Funding

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th June, it had agreed to establish a two strand funding programme (strategic funding and micro funding) which would be aimed at supporting both strategic community partners and grassroots organisations. This programme would be using the £636,097 of community provision funding not being distributed up to the end of September, 2020.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report which provided an update for Members with regards to the current position concerning the £150,000 micro funding programme which opened on 6 July. The report sought approval for groups that had been assessed as meeting the criteria being recommended for funding, agreeing that the deadline for activities be extended and seeking delegated authority for any future applications being assigned to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Department for approval.

The Committee:

- approved the current applications which have been assessed as meeting the criteria (as set out in appendix 1 to the report);
- approved an extension of the programme until the end of October;
- agreed, given the importance of timely awarding of funding to enable summer activity to take place, to assign delegated authority, under the Council's scheme of delegation, to the Director (Operational) City and Neighbourhood Services for future authorisation of funding allocations and extensions to the proposed October deadline under this scheme; and
- agreed that any future Department for Communities funding through the Community Support Programme, in support of COVID recovery, could be allocated to this programme.

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**Revised District Council's Good Relations
Action Plan 2020/21**

The Committee was informed that the Council had received a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office (TEO) towards the 2020/21 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) based on the action plan which had been submitted to TEO in February, 2020.

As a result of the impact from the COVID pandemic, a draft Revised Good Relations Action Plan for 2020/21 and associated programme budget had been drawn up and submitted to TEO by its stipulated deadline of 24th July 2020, with the caveat that Council approval was required.

This was the first of a series of revisions to the Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan in line with the direction of travel which had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19th June, 2020 and ratified at the Council meeting on 1st July, 2020. Specifically, the revision included the Good Relations contribution to the new Support to Community Partners Fund Summer 2020 and the continuation of support to thematic communities of interest which had been funded by the Council as part of the first tranche of COVID-19 emergency thematic funding.

Further revisions to the plan would take in to account emerging community need as part of overall community recovery across Belfast and would be brought forward in due course in that context.

The Committee:

- noted the award of £571,893.01 from The Executive Office towards the District Council Good Relations Programme 2020/21 and approved the associated draft Revised Action Plan;
- agreed the Revised Action Plan, with the following awards being allocated retrospectively from 1st July 2020:
 - Roma Helpline Project - up to £12,000 until 31st December, 2020 to Forward South, with the option to extend to March 2021 pending evaluation and funding being available;
 - Race Relations Coordinator Project – up to an additional £18,000 towards the cost of the Race Relations Coordinator post until 31st March, 2021 to East Belfast Community Development Association; and
 - Support to Refugee and Asylum Seekers Project – up to £15,000 to Embrace NI towards the provision of a bi-lingual helpline and outreach service to enhance and support the integration of refugee and asylum seeker communities in Belfast.
- Agreed that briefings be provided to those Parties who so wished on the Action Plan.

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**Department for Communities Covid-19
Town Centre Revitalisation Fund**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the recent announcement by the Department for Communities (DFC) to bring forward a Town Centre Revitalisation Fund and to obtain approval for priority areas to be considered for support under the programme. The report highlighted the background and purpose of the Fund, the proposed areas for support and the delivery arrangements/next steps.

Moved by Councillor Groogan.
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees that a review of the Stakeholder Group be undertaken with a view to broadening the membership to include such groups/organisations as the Public Health Authority, Sustrans, Trade Unions, the Federations of Small Businesses and community and residents groups.

During a lengthy discussion on the matter, several amendments and suggestions were made by both Members and officers as a means to progress the matter.

However, as there was no consensus, these were subsequently withdrawn and the Committee agreed to vote on the proposal standing in the name of Councillor Groogan, when ten Members voted for and nine against and it was declared carried.

The Committee also:

- (1) noted the work underway in support city recovery including the introduction of a DFC Town Centre Revitalisation Fund; and
- (2) agreed the priority areas and associated proposed budget allocations that will be supported through the Town Centre Revitalisation Fund subject to Department of Finance business case approval.

**Minutes of Party Group Leaders
Consultative Forum**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum of 24th July, 2020.

Strategic Issues/Belfast Agenda

Leisure Services Reopening Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members' on the remobilisation of GLL staff and the reopening of Leisure Services as permitted by the Executive Office (TEO) within the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to:

- Note the information provided below and the centre re-opening plans as detailed.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 All BCC indoor leisure centres and associated outdoor facilities closed on 16th March 2020 due to the Covid-19 outbreak and in response to government restrictions.

3.3 The easing of TEO Covid-19 restrictions has been delivered in phases with announcements relating to different aspects of leisure services released continuously since mid-June 2020.

3.3 Reopening approval has been built around a large number of TEO and industry/sport National Governing Body (NGB) guidelines. The key measures required include revised protocols and assurances in relation to:

- 1. Social distancing (reduced capacities)**
- 2. Enhanced air handling and fresh air intake levels (indoor spaces)**
- 3. Hand sanitising and enhanced cleaning regimes**
- 4. Customer behaviour instructions and enforcement**
- 5. Track and trace data capture**

3.4 To date TEO has approved the reopening of:

3.4.1 OUTDOOR PITCHES

BCC pitches opened for booking on 29th June and have been available for use since 6th July. This has included synthetic pitches at eight leisure centres (see table below) managed by GLL.

The service currently allows for pitch hire only with no changing or toilet facilities available.

Use is restricted to club and community sports programme use and is subject to compliance with TEO approval and team sport NGB Covid-19 secure guidelines.

Pitches are open at peak hours only. Typically 5.00pm – 10.00pm Monday to Friday and 10.00am – 3.00pm Saturday and Sunday.

Opening hours remain under review and will be amended on a site by site basis subject to demand and further easing of Covid-19 restrictions and associated operating guidance.

3.4.2 FITNESS SUITES AND STUDIO CLASSES

Fitness suites and group exercise classes opened on 14th July at nine leisure centres (see table below) managed by GLL. Fitness suite opening hours are typically as they were before lockdown.

Group exercise class timetables have been amended and in most cases reduced to comply with social distancing protocols and permitted 'Covid secure' activities/exercises).

Access is restricted to registered members only and on a pre booked basis. This is essential to comply with TEO track and trace data capture requirements.

Booking slots are currently restricted to one hour to allow for 50 a minute workout

A rolling entry system is in place controlled by 'queue marshals'. Reception desks have been closed but a welcome host/queue marshal is on duty in each reception area.

All bookings and payments must be made online (mobile App, PC or at the 'in centre' kiosks)

Machines/exercise station availability has been reduced to comply with social distancing guidance. This, along with customer behaviour changes, has significantly reduced gym capacities.

Significant capacity reductions are in place based on 2m social distancing criteria. For example, at the centres we have recently reopened, fitness suite capacity is at approximately 50% of pre lockdown level.

Some gyms were not reopened in phase 1 as, due to room size and air turnover rates, they cannot comply with Covid Secure operational guidelines. This impacted on centres with smaller fitness suites of less than 350m². This size restriction dictates a maximum customer capacity that does not justify the cost of opening the building solely for the fitness suite and classes. Some of the smaller fitness suites will be considered for opening in phase 2 (early August) at which point centres may open up main halls, courts and swimming pools. At that stage the buildings will be opened and staffed anyway, thereby allowing the fitness suites to be open at little or no additional cost. Even with very low

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customer capacities. Fitness suites at the following centres fall into this category:

Table 1

Centre	Justification for not opening fitness suite and group exercise classes in phase 1
Ballysillan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small fitness suite (adapted original café space) • Inadequate air handling potential • Low customer capacity • Under consideration for opening at phase 2 in early August
Girdwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small narrow fitness suite • Low customer capacity • Under consideration for opening at phase 2 in early August
Ozone/ Tennis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small fitness suites (2) (both narrow and not designed for the purpose) • Inadequate air handling potential • Low customer capacity • Under consideration for opening at phase 2 in early August
Whiterock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small fitness suite (adapted 1st floor space from original purpose) • Inadequate air handling potential • Low customer capacity • Under consideration for opening at phase 2 in early August
Belvoir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small fitness suite • Inadequate air handling potential • Low customer capacity • Restricted general customer circulation areas with narrow corridors

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May remain closed until Covid-19 restrictions are removed
Loughside	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two very small fitness suites (converted office/storage spaces).• Low ceilings with inadequate air handling potential.• Extremely low customer capacity.• Restricted general customer circulation areas with narrow corridors• May remain closed until Covid-19 restrictions are removed

Changing and shower facilities are not currently available and only designated toilets are open. This will remain under review and subject to future TEO approvals and industry lead body guidance amendments.

Hand sanitising points and equipment/supplies/instructions for workout station self-cleaning by customers is in place.

Substantially enhanced cleaning regimes are now the norm with regular deep cleans scheduled throughout the day.

Shift patterns have been amended to increase fitness suite staff cover in order to ensure compliance with social distancing and appropriate customer behaviours.

Air handling has been reset to meet 'fresh air' intake requirements and increased 'turn over' rates.

Group exercise class capacities have been allocated 9m² per person with grids marked on all floors. Some classes have been moved from studios to main halls to facilitate larger participant numbers,

3.4.3 BROADER INDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES (EXCLUDING SWIMMING POOLS)

An EO announcement in June indicated that a broader range of indoor leisure services would be permitted from 7th August 2020. Within the NI leisure industry this was generally interpreted to include swimming pools along with main halls, courts, etc.

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TEO subsequently announced, on 9th July, that indoor leisure centres (excluding pools) would be permitted to open from 17th July.

It is hoped that a further EO announcement will approve the opening of swimming pools. BCC/GLL are planning for the widening of the leisure offer, including swimming pools, from early August, subject to TEO approval. It is anticipated that the initial reopening of pools will be for lane swimming only with casual/family swimming and learn to swim lessons to follow as soon as operational guidance is agreed.

At this stage it will not be possible to open our leisure water facilities at Shankill and Andersonstown. Leisure water has not been included in TEO approval at this stage. The new £25m centre at Andersonstown was due to open just after the lockdown was announced. Formal commissioning was interrupted by the Covid-19 restrictions and in particular because the supplier/installer of the leisure water features is based in Canada and to date has not been in a position to arrange for the required technical commissioning team to travel to Belfast. This will remain under review pending TEO approval and formal commissioning of the Andersonstown leisure water zone.

Centre pools we are not intending to open are as follows:

Table 2 Justifications for not planning to opening specific pools at phase 2.

Centre	Justification for not opening the swimming pools at phase 2
Ballysillan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only four 25m lanes available allowing for the operation of 2 double lane width programmable spaces in line with current Covid safe guidance.• Although this could work from an operational perspective, swimmer numbers would be low and may not justify the financial cost of lifeguarding and pool water treatment.• Adequate ceiling height and air circulation.• Difficulty to function on the same operating model as other centres.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No access to the poolside from spectator gallery (closed in café area) thereby not allowing for the one way customer flow principle.
Brook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only four 25m lanes available allowing for the operation of 2 double lane width programmable spaces in line with current Covid safe guidance. Although this could work from an operational perspective, swimmer numbers would be low and may not justify the financial cost of lifeguarding and pool water treatment. Difficulty to function on the same operating model as other centres. No access to the poolside from spectator gallery thereby not allowing for the one way customer flow principle.
Shankill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure features not approved for opening at this stage. Only three 25m lanes available meaning that only one double lane width could be utilised.

Broadening services to include the opening of additional spaces and activities requires substantial planning and staff training. The lead in time required for detailed risk assessments and staff training rendered 17th July impractical.

Table 3 below sets out the current reopening plans at 20th July.

Centre	Fitness & Classes	Synthetic Pitches	Main Hall	Swimming Pool
Andersonstown LC	Opened 14/07/20	5-a-side not currently open	Not applicable	Preparing for opening in early August
Better Gym Belfast	Opened 14/07/20	Not applicable	Not applicable	Dry centre
Better Gym Connswater	Opened 14/07/20	Not applicable	Not applicable	Dry centre
Brook LC	Opened 14/07/20	Opened 06/07/20	Preparing for opening in early August	Not planning to open at phase one due

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		(5-a-side not currently open)		to Covid-Safe considerations and financial sustainability
Falls LC	Opened 14/07/20	Not applicable	Preparing for opening in early August	Preparing for opening in early August
Grove LC	Opened 14/07/20	Not applicable	Preparing for opening in early August	Preparing for opening in early August
Lisnasharragh LC	Opened 14/07/20	5-a-side not currently open	Preparing for opening in early August	Preparing for opening in early August
Olympia	Opened 14/07/20	Opened 06/07/20	Preparing for Opening in early August	Preparing for opening in early August
Ozone & Tennis Centre	Not currently open. Under consideration for next phase	Opened 06/07/20	Preparing for opening in early August	Dry centre
Shankill LC	Opened 14/07/20	Not applicable	Preparing for opening in early August	Unable to meet Covid-Safe protocols
Ballysillan LC	Not currently open. Under consideration for next phase	Opened 06/07/20	Preparing for opening in early August	Not planning to open at phase one due to Covid-Safe considerations and financial sustainability
Girdwood CH	Not currently open. Under consideration for next phase	Opened 06/07/20	Preparing for opening in early August	Dry centre
Whiterock LC	Not currently open. Under consideration for next phase	Opened 06/07/20	Preparing for opening in early August	Preparing for opening in early August
Belvoir AC	Unable to meet Covid-Safe protocols	Not applicable	Unable to meet Covid-Safe protocols	Dry centre
Loughside RC	Unable to meet Covid-Safe protocols	Grass pitches will open in line with BCC seasonal schedule	Unable to meet Covid-Safe protocols	Dry centre

3.4.4 SWIMMING POOL SERVICE IMPACTS

Subject to TEO approval, when swimming pools reopen, the service offering and customer restrictions will result in a very

different pool experience for most users. Social distancing, pool capacity restrictions and limited shower/changing availability will impact on the customer experience for clubs, learn to swim lessons, fitness lane swimmers and casual/family users. Within the anticipated Covid safe operational requirements, casual swimming, general customer behaviours and shower/changing provision present the main challenges. It is anticipated that pool capacities will be at less than 50% of pre lockdown numbers. Key points for swimming pool operations include:

- Lane swimming and club coaching are the most controllable and therefore safest pool activities
- Clubs will be required to comply with published Swim Ireland guidance
- Casual/family use presents the greatest challenges
- Changing and showering will be discouraged and at best will be restricted. Pool users will be encouraged to arrive 'pool ready' and plan to shower at home.
- Advanced booking for registered users only will become the norm for the foreseeable future.
- Booking slots (session duration) will be restricted to facilitate a 'roll in roll out' capacity management system.

In the first phase of reopening pools, only the main pools will be open. Minor pools and pools with restricted access options will remain closed until all operational systems have been fully tested or until further restriction easing is announced.

3.5 OPERATIONAL AND BEHAVIOURAL GUIDANCE

Reliance on Sport National Governing Body (NGB) and industry lead body operational guidance will be a key requirement. For both wet and dry facilities, clubs will be required to comply with their respective sport NGB Covid safe guidance. Sports will not be permitted to recommence until their NGB has Sport NI approved Covid safe protocols in place.

3.6 DIRECT DEBIT/INCOME IMPACT

A substantial percentage of the leisure income is derived from Direct Debit pre-paid monthly membership payments. 14,000 Health and Fitness members were contacted on 2nd July informing them that their Direct Debit payments would be reactivated from 14th July. This was done on an 'opt out' basis whereby members could (a) allow their payments to restart without taking any action, (b) freeze their membership at no cost or (c) choose to cancel. At 17th July circa 1,000 members had opted to freeze their memberships with a further 700 choosing to cancel. This 12% loss is lower than expected but is an ongoing process and expected to

increase. Set against the loss of existing (pre lockdown) members, over 300 new Health and Fitness membership have been sold since reopening the gyms on 14th July. Up to date figures for freezes, cancellations and new member sales will be verbally presented at the meeting.

Since lockdown almost all GLL staff have been on furlough with only 26 of 600 team members working to deliver essential building checks. To facilitate reopening staff are being brought back off furlough on a phased basis. At 17th July circa 120 staff are back in work delivering outdoor pitch and fitness products. This number will rise as additional services are reopened.

3.7 BCC APPROACH AND ALIGNMENT WITH OTHER NI COUNCILS

It should be noted that BCC/GLL have set exemplary standards in Covid Safe planning for leisure operations. BCC officers are actively engaged with industry lead bodies and TEO advisory panels. BCC intervention (including a fact finding tour of Olympia LC) was instrumental in ensuring that local authority fitness suites were included, along with private sector gyms, in the EO approval announcement and that group exercise was included in the permitted services.

The BCC approach set out above is in line with other NI Local Authorities. Most of the eleven NI Councils are working to a similar timeline with three scheduling their phased reopening approximately four weeks later.

3.8 BUSINESS RISK AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

The reopening strategy is not without risk. As we continue to reopen additional services and move towards normal operations, we assume liability for all/most of the associated fixed costs. Income has always been a key driver in the business model and in maintaining a sustainable net deficit. In the current climate, income is very much an unknown variable and at best, for the foreseeable future, will be restricted by capacity reductions and the loss of income from services that will remain closed. The main areas to be aware of include:

- Pre-paid monthly membership reactivation percentage and the impact on income.
- Possible second wave of membership freeze/cancellations when service restrictions become clear and customers experience the 'new norm'.
- Reliance on public confidence and the desire to return to indoor fitness and leisure.

- Customer behaviour and resulting PR for BCC (social media).
- Covid-19 infection spikes and any future reintroduction of restrictions or return to lockdown

3.9 SUMMARY

The key message is that we are working hard to restore services with the number one priority being the safety of our customers and staff.

Our ability to return to normal is almost entirely subject to TEO approvals and the associated operational guidance. This is a rapidly moving environment with announcements and clarifications emerging on a daily basis.

The reopening schedule is not without both financial and reputational risk. In a very uncertain environment BCC officers continue to work closely with GLL to identify risks and to agree and implement appropriate mitigations to minimise any impacts.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

The financial impact of the lockdown period has been significant.

- During this period there has been £0 taken in income.
- Note that during the lockdown period the overall membership base reduced by 20%, and this has decreased by a further 12% since opening.
- During this four month period the centres were forecast to take £2.8m in income and therefore a financial gap was created.
- All staff have been paid fully during the lockdown period and the majority of staff have been on furlough.
- This has allowed GLL to process furlough claims for staff not working and therefore recoup some of this financial gap. The monthly job retention scheme claim is circa £450k.
- During lockdown maintenance of the centres and a steady state of operation as has been maintained therefore while utility bills have reduced costs still exist in each centre.
- There were a team of 20 staff that have also been paid in full throughout lockdown that were not part of the furlough scheme as they supported daily building checking and maintenance checks.
- The job retention scheme has minimised the impact to date in drawing any further pressure on mgt fee payments, however the scheme does reduce from August to October on an incremental scale.

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- In relaunching the centres from the 10th July, 120 staff are now working and no longer can be included within the job retention claims to government and therefore are fully costed.
- The income modelling has been based on a cashless model and membership only approach, with a focus on the gym sim and group ex activities from August.
- At this stage the modelling for August based on the proposal of openings could ensure a break even position which is essential as centre gradually reopen.
- The goal is to balance the reopening of centres and volume of staff return, in line with the covid secure requirements to ensure centres could return to a 'new normal' by October.
- During this period GLL will minimise all non-essential expenditure to protect any financial risk to council.
- Once a full 4- 6 weeks of opening has been achieved a more robust forecast can be developed based on the actual return of members and real costs. A further report will be provided to Members detailing the overall financial implications in September.

4.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Open Ormeau and Temporary
City Centre Road Closure Proposals**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 **Belfast City Council have received a proposal entitled Open Ormeau. The aim of the proposal is to provide sufficient space for people to walk on the pavements whilst socially distancing, provide space for queues outside shops at peak times and to provide space for businesses/organisations, particularly restaurants, cafes and bars to expand outside so that it is viable for them to open on a table-service-only model whilst upholding social distancing requirements. In order for this proposal to be fulfilled, a number of temporary road closures will be required. A further revised proposal was received on 27th July (Appendix 1).**

At its meeting on 19th June this Committee and as ratified by Council on the 1st July:

'agreed to write to the DfI seeking it to expedite the temporary closure of the following roads under the Road Traffic Legislation Order (3A):

- Donegall Place;
- Castle Place;
- Church Lane;
- Brunswick Street; and
- James Street South.

And to also seek the weekend closure of Ormeau Road and to further explore the weekend closure of other arterial routes throughout the city to enable hospitality and assist retailers. It was agreed that the proposals on road closures would be subject to consultation with stakeholders including at the Stakeholders Group Meeting on Friday, 26th June. The correspondence would also include consideration of resident's car parking permits;'

Council further agreed that the list of temporary road closures be amended to also include Union Street.

The purpose of this report is to update members on Belfast City Council's financial and regulatory position in regard to the proposed road closure on Ormeau Road. The report will also provide information on the timelines and requirements associated with an application for an event road closure licence.

The report also provides an update on the other temporary road closures as proposed by Committee and Council.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1

- Note receipt of the proposal for Ormeau Road with amendment submitted on 27th July
- Note the time implications for applying for a licence for the required road closures and the consequent resource implications of the current proposals.
- Agree that officers continue to work with Open Ormeau promoters to aid the design and facilitation of a singular future trial recognising the significant lead time and consultation demanded by the legislation, subject to council approval and budgets constraints and consideration of a satisfactory approach to road closure.
- To note concerns expressed by business community representatives around further temporary pedestrianisation in the city centre and to note that officers will continue to work with DfI and stakeholders to seek to bring forward satisfactory proposals in a future report.

- Note the status and stakeholder feedback on the temporary city centre road closure and pedestrianisation proposals as ratified by Council on the 1st July 2020 and to note that officers will continue to work with Dfl and stakeholders on these, with a future report to be brought back to Committee.
- On the basis of the concerns expressed by stakeholders including the business community representatives in respect of the temporary closure of Donegall Place, agree that this is not progressed in the immediate short-term but that the proposal is instead considered through an accelerated Phase 2 of the Bolder Vision Connectivity Study;

3.0 Main report

3.1 Open Ormeau Proposal

Belfast City Council have received a proposal entitled Open Ormeau. The aim of the proposal is to provide sufficient space for people to walk on the pavements whilst socially distancing, provide space for queues outside shops at peak times and to provide space for businesses/organisations, particularly restaurants, cafes and bars to expand outside so that it is viable for them to open on a table-service-only model whilst upholding social distancing requirements. In order for this proposal to be fulfilled, a number of temporary road closures will be required.

- 3.2** This Committee agreed to write to the Dfl seeking it to expedite the temporary closure of a number of roads at roads under the Road Traffic Legislation Order (3A). Subsequent to this, officers have been liaising with representatives from the Ormeau to determine the exact nature of the proposal and with Dfl to seek to work out a way to close Ormeau road to traffic to facilitate the proposal
- 3.3** To this juncture through engagement with the Department for Infrastructure there has been no indication that the department will seek a road closure order under article 7 of the Road Traffic Regulations Order. It is our understanding that the Department can use Article 7 Temporary Traffic Regulations to manage the safety of the public attending significant large off-road events if requested to do so and if it is satisfied that there is a potential risk to the public and some form of traffic control is needed to manage traffic entering and leaving the event.
- 3.4** The original proposal involved the closure of inner lanes to expand the walkways along this section of the road, but still permitted some traffic through at reduced speeds during certain times over a number of weekends (17th July – end of September). The proposal received significant attention in local press and social

media outlets. As a result the promoters and Belfast City Council received a number objections from local business, elected representatives and city stakeholders. As a result the promoters adjusted their proposal with the salient detail of a new revised proposal provided below and the complete proposal contained within Appendix 1.

- Reduced to three August weekends in a row trialling different time slots to test out the impacts (positive and negative) in a controlled manner:
 - Sunday 16th August 1pm to 10pm
 - Saturday 22nd 9am to 11pm
 - Saturday 29th 4pm to 11pm and Sunday 30th all day until 11pm
 - Possible bonus evening on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in August to help restaurants take advantage of the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme

3.5 Legislative & Regulatory Context

The proposal in its current format will require a road closure application, as under current guidance any activity that will prohibit or restrict traffic on a public road, would necessitate a road closure order. There are currently two routes to secure a road closure order.

- Event Road Closure Order – managed by Belfast City Council
- Emergency Road Closure Order – managed by Dept. for Infrastructure

This process and requirements for an Event Road Closure Order managed by Belfast City Council is summarised below.

- 3.6 The Roads (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 defines special events as any sporting event, social event or entertainment which is held on a public road or the making of a film on a public road.
- 3.7 The Council can make an Order to restrict or prohibit temporarily the use of the road, or any part of it, by vehicles or by pedestrians.
- 3.8 To close a public road for a special event, the event organiser must apply to the Council's Building Control division and is required to provide a traffic management plan and depending on the nature of the proposal, also provide a full management plan, stewarding plan, etc.

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- 3.9 The Council must publicly advertise the proposed road closure and place a 21-day Notice in the newspaper for public notification**

The notice must

- (a) identify the promoter of the special event;
 - (b) identify any affected road;
 - (c) specify any restrictions or prohibitions which the relevant authority proposes to include in the order;
 - (d) specify the dates on which and times between which the restrictions or prohibitions would apply;
 - (e) specify any alternative routes for traffic or pedestrians;
 - (f) state where the application may be inspected;
 - (g) state that representations are sent to the council within 21 days from the date of the notice
- 3.10 A 21 day period must be allowed for representations, objections or comments of support to be submitted. The Council must also consult with statutory bodies – DfI Roads, PSNI, NIAS and NIFRS and the Council also consults with Translink. After receiving the consent of the DfI, the Council can determine if a Road Closure Order is to be made**
- 3.11 An application must include a Traffic Management Plan, and possibly depending on the nature, an event management plan. Therefore there will most certainly be a requirement to engage a traffic management company.**
- 3.12 The proposers of Open Ormeau do not feel that they have the resources to apply for the Road Closure Order and so have asked BCC to take this responsibility on.**
- 3.13 The project promoters include the Ballynafeigh Community Development Association and Ciaran Fox from the RSUA. The promoters state they have engaged in substantial consultation with residents and businesses and the response has been largely positive with a few objections. However as already referenced Belfast City Council officers have received submissions from other parties opposing the proposal, including Victoria Square who have described the proposal as a ‘major concern’. Concerns have been voiced via politicians, and correspondence from businesses in the area indicate that the proposals will significantly affect passing trade and access.**
- 3.14 Given the objections already received to the road closure Belfast City Council is obliged to discuss and attempt to resolve before any notice can be published. Thereafter, in all likelihood a decision to grant the order would need to be placed before Licensing Committee for a decision on whether to grant the Order.**

3.15 Ministerial Communiques

On June 12th 2020 Infrastructure Minister Mallon sent a communique to all councils suggesting that as planning authorities, councils take a flexible and pragmatic planning approach to the use of on-street seating for cafes and bars, beer gardens and similar outdoor areas to accommodate physical/social distancing. To date Belfast City Council Building Control have waived all fees related to Pavement Café Licensing and have received 40 applications as of 24th July 2020.

3.16 On the 23rd July 2020 further correspondence was received from Nicola Mallon confirming that officials will work closely with Councils regarding any closure applications being taken forward by or through councils.

3.17 As members may be aware on the 27th July the Infrastructure Minister announced that a review of the special events legislation is live. However the closing date for consultation on this review of the legislation is not until 24th September 2020.

3.18 In considering the support agreed by this council in July and the time constraints implied by the legislation and the objections received it is proposed that officers to continue to work with Open Ormeau promoters to aid the design and facilitation of a singular future trial recognising the significant lead time and consultation demanded by the legislation. This is subject to council approval and budgets constraints and consideration of a satisfactory approach to road closure.

3.19 Other City Centre Road Closures

Council Officers, in collaboration with the DfI, have engaged with various stakeholders in relation to the proposed city centre temporary road closures as proposed via Council. A City Re-Opening Stakeholder Group, led by the Council, includes representatives from Belfast Chamber, the three BID areas (BID One, Linen Quarter and Cathedral Quarter), BCCM, PSNI, Translink, local traders, Victoria Square and Castle Court, Retail NI and Hospitality Ulster.

3.20 Donegall Place

Stakeholders collectively raised a number of concerns on the proposal for immediate temporary closure of Donegall Place. Concerns related to the disruption that this proposal would have to the city centre trade at a time when businesses are focusing on survival, and the potential negative impacts to the public

transportation system should these services be removed and relocated without detailed consultation, and without a planned alternative transportation network and provision of adequate associated infrastructure and timetable scheduling. A strong view was expressed that this proposal should not be progressed in the immediate short-term but that the proposal is instead considered through an accelerated Phase 2 of the Bolder Vision Connectivity Study

- 3.21 The stakeholders did however acknowledge, and support, the need to have a holistic and informed discussion regarding the future infrastructure provision for the Primary Retail Core and arterial routes connecting the city centre to the local communities, and that these discussions would be best served through the next stages of the Connectivity Study.

3.22 Castle Place

The Stakeholder Group acknowledged that the temporary measures introduced to Castle Place during the road closures of the Bank Buildings fire had a positive impact on the area, and brought forward the discussion of how we use the city centre going forward. The Stakeholder Group were supportive of incorporating temporary meanwhile use within the Castle Place area, noting that the access requirements of local businesses and blue badge users would need to be considered and addressed. Stakeholders within this Group were however of the view that a joint closure now of Donegall Place and Castle Place together could not be supported due to the collective impact that both closures would have for diversion routes and, in particular, the potential impact on the public transportation network.

- 3.23 Council officers are continuing to engage with the BIDOne team and local traders to identify potential proposals that could be delivered in Castle Place although Members should note that concerns have been raised by local traders and city stakeholders, including the PSNI and Extern. These concerns, in particular, relate to the increasing levels of anti-social behaviour within the area, and the potential for this issue to escalate should any meanwhile use provision become a focal point for ASB. Officers continue to work through the issues with city stakeholders and will report back to subsequent committee meetings.

3.24 Brunswick St from Franklin St to James St South & Union St

The Linen Quarter Bid and Cathedral Quarter BID, in collaboration with council officers and DfI, are bringing forward proposals for a social distancing hub on Brunswick Street from Franklin St to James St South, and at the Union Street area to enable local

hospitality traders to utilise the space for pavement cafes and enhanced outdoor social distancing measures and details of the scheme will be brought to subsequent committee meetings when finalised.

3.25 Financial and Resource Implications

For Belfast City Council to apply for an event road closure license at Ormeau it would imply the following requirements and associated approximate resource implications per closure. These are analogous estimates based on other similar road closures.

- Production/event management - £2,000
- First aid - £2,000
- Waste Management - £2,000
- Insurance - £3,000- £5,000
- Stewarding Costs to manage ingress/egress - £3,000 - £4,000
- Approximate total per closure - £15,000

Currently there is no budget provision within Place & Economy Departmental annual budget.

- 3.26 Given the complex nature of the proposed road closure at Ormeau and the significant concerns realised by a number of parties it is reasonable to expect that a considerable amount of officer resource would be required to deal with engagement, consider that feedback and possibly amend designs and ultimately organise and manage the road closures.

3.27 Equality & Good Relations Implications

All applications for Road Closure must show that the applicant has carried out neighbourhood notification along with consultations with all residents, businesses, bus and taxi companies which may be affected by the proposal. The proposers of Open Ormeau indicate that they have carried out some initial engagement and consultation with residents and businesses, however, if BCC decide to act as the applicant for this Road Closure it would need to satisfy itself that all possible engagement that should be done, has been done. This could result in a significant time and staff resource implication.”

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 200 projects under a range of funding streams together with the projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. This report outlines a proposed movement under the Capital Programme together with a proposed realignment of BIF funding.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to –

- agree to the inclusion of a new IT project under the council’s IT Programme due to business criticality– Enhanced, additional telephony licensing for telephony environment - and move to Stage 3 Committed with a maximum £80,000 budget allocated.
- Note the reduced scope of the Royal British Legion BIF proposal (from £500k to £300k) and to agree, in the absence of the West AWG, to reallocate £115,000 of this reduced scope towards two previously agreed LIF projects which have significant funding deficits (Berlin Swifts – additional £65,000 and St. James’s Farm – additional £50,000) in order to allow these projects to be fully delivered. Both projects are at/nearing contract award stage

3.0 Main report

Capital programme 2020/21 - Project movements

3.1 *IT Programme – Additional licensing for telephony environment*

Under the Council’s IT Programme of work, additional licensing for the telephony environment has been identified as being business critical and opportunity to ensure continuity of service provision. With almost all staff home working as a result of Covid 19, one of the key lessons learned from a business continuity perspective, is the need to extend and enhance telephony features for remote workers to allow operations to continue unhindered.

3.2 The Council is already in the process of upgrading the telephone system, as part of programme of work to improve the system in terms of resilience but also introduce enhanced features and

services being delivered as part of the council's extensive Customer Focus Programme. The go-live is expected in coming months. The new telephony system will allow contact centre and switchboard features to be made available remotely, but it requires further licensing for increased numbers of home workers. This will support a sustained period of home working / recovery plans and provide improved business continuity while overall recovery and continued service delivery management takes place. Members are asked to note that this is required to be undertaken now as part of the ongoing Customer Service Programme as this will save significant time and effort by procuring and applying the licenses in advance of the upgrade work already in motion.

- 3.3 Members are asked to agree that this project moves to Stage 3 Committed in order to expedite the necessary procurements and it is recommended that a maximum budget of £80,000 is allocated. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed the affordability of these projects due to the corporate criticality requirements and to ensure business continuity is maintained.

Area Working Groups - BIF realignment

Members will be aware that the Area Working Groups are currently not sitting due to the ongoing impact of Corona and associated resource impacts. All decisions regarding BIF and LIF allocations are normally taken via the AWGs with the resultant recommendations being brought into SP&R. However due to time pressures Members are being asked to consider and agree a proposed realignment of BIF/LIF funding from the West AWG.

The SP&R Committee has previously agreed an in principle allocation of £500,000 towards the Royal British Legion project (BIF29) in October 2016. Members will be aware that in the last round of the AWGs an update on all projects under LIF, BIF and SOF programmes was provided. It was agreed by each AWG that a letter would be issued to those groups where there had been no information or progress for some time. This included the Royal British Legion project. The Group subsequently confirmed that they wished to remain part of the Programme but with a reduced project scope to a maximum of £300,000. This would allow for a £200,000 reallocation which is below the minimum threshold for a BIF project.

There are two LIF projects within West which have previously been agreed by the SP&R Committee – WLIF2-08 Berlin Swifts (£65,000 agreed in September 2015) and WLIF02-10 St. James's Community Farm (£82,000 agreed in October 2015). Since this time both projects have been worked up in detail and both have funding deficits (Berlin Swifts - £65k and St. James's - £50k) due to a number of reasons including raising construction costs,

unforeseen issues etc. Officers have worked very closely with both projects on trying to secure match funding but this has proved unsuccessful to date. This has meant that both projects have to be substantially value-engineered which is hampering their ability to be able to deliver on the full scope of the projects. With a reallocation of funding from the unrequired portion of the RBL project funding both projects could be delivered to their full scope. Members are asked to note that this is being brought forward now as both projects are at an advanced stage in terms of the tendering process. Members are therefore asked to agree the reallocation of an additional £65,000 towards the Berlin Swifts project and an additional £50,000 towards the St. James's Community Forum project.

Members will note that this leaves a residual amount of £85,000 which will be brought back into the next West AWG for consideration in terms of reallocation. This is in other line with the other AWGs that have reallocations to consider.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial –

- IT Programme – Additional licensing for telephony environment, with maximum £80,000 budget allocation.
- West AWG – realignment of unrequired amount from BIF12 will allow two LIF projects to be fully delivered. These projects have both previously been considered by the AWG and recommended for funding and have been through the full due diligence process. This is not additional overall funding but is a reallocation.

Resources – Officer time to deliver as per project requirements.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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**)

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- Approved the **addition to table1** and the use of Standing Order 56 for internal internet provision;
- Approved the award of Single Tender Actions in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (**Table 2**)

Table 1 – Publically Advertised Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	Senior Responsible Officer	Short description of goods/ services
Measured Term Contract for building repairs including plastering & brickwork	Up to 3 years	£60,000	S Grimes	Building repairs including plastering & brickwork
Measured Term Contract for new metal fencing installations	Up to 3 years	£60,000	S Grimes	New metal fencing installations
Measured Term Contract for new soft flooring installations	Up to 4 years	£80,000	S Grimes	Soft flooring installations
Measured Term Contract for swimming pool filtration & Ozone generation, callouts, repairs, planned maintenance & minor works	Up to 4 years	£150,000	S Grimes	Swimming Pool maintenance
Measured Term Contract for mechanical services, callouts, repairs & planned maintenance	Up to 4 years	£600,000	S Grimes	Mechanical services, callouts, repairs & maintenance
Measured Term Contract for pitch lighting callouts,	Up to 3 years	£50,000	S Grimes	Callouts, repairs & planned maintenance for pitch lighting

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repairs & planned maintenance				
Measured Term Contract for building repairs including plastering & brickwork	Up to 3 years	£60,000	S Grimes	Building repairs including plastering & brickwork
Brook Changing Pavilion, Existing pitch lighting LED replacement	Up to 3months	£40,000	S Grimes	Replacement of pitch lighting
Duncrue Complex, Building Energy Management System Trend IQ installation for unsupported Software - All sites	Up to 3months	£30,000	S Grimes	Building Energy Management System - All sites
Henry Jones Changing Pavilion, upgrading pitch lighting including columns	Up to 3months	£41,000	S Grimes	Pitch lighting including upgrade columns
Tender for the procurement and implementation of enhanced used licensing on the corporate telephone system	One off Purchase	£80,000	R Cregan	Licensing on the corporate telephone system
Peace IV Delivery of Events as part of wider Peace IV Programme	Up to 2 years	£70,000	N Grimshaw	Delivery of events as part of the Peace IV programme of work
Procurement Cards	Up to 2 years	£240,000	R Cregan	Use of CPD framework for the use of procurement cards for lower value transactions not covered by SRM ordering system.

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Addition to Table 1 – Tenders:

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	Senior Responsible Officer	Short description of goods/ services
Internet Service Provision	1 year	£51,000	R Cregan	Internet Service Provision for internet connectivity for the council.

Table 2- Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

Title of Tender	Supplier	Total Value
Event management and support services to deliver a collaborative PPP programme to attract real estate investors, developers, occupiers and funders & provide sustainable inclusive growth.	Lanyon Communication	£60,000
Specialist advice on rating matters including a review of the Council's Assessments in the Valuation List	Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV	£90,000

Issues raised in advance by Members

Light up the City Hall Request - World AIDS Day, 1st December (Councillor Nicholl to raise)

The Committee noted the request by Councillor Nicholl to light up the City Hall on World Aids Day on 1st December, noted that request would coincide with the Christmas lights and that such requests could not normally be accommodated at that time and agreed that the City Solicitor explore how the Council could facilitate some type of lighting up or recognition and report back to the Committee.

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Roselawn Cemetery (Councillor McLaughlin to raise)

The Committee agreed that a further equality screening be undertaken in relation to the proposed new 2 chapel crematorium and refurbishment of the existing crematorium at Roselawn refurbishment, with the outcome reported back to the Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group in the first instance.

Frederick Douglass Statue (Councillor Beattie to raise)

The Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Department for Communities requesting it to consider the installation in Rosemary Street of a statue in remembrance of Frederick Douglass, a slavery abolitionist.

New Lodge Bonfire (Councillor Beattie to raise)

The Committee agreed that Council officers examine alternative means to manage the New Lodge bonfire site and to report back to a special meeting of the Committee to be held the following week.

Chairperson