

Public Document Pack

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Tuesday, 3rd January, 2017 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council of 1st December, 2016 (Pages 1 - 8)
5. Official Announcements
6. Minutes of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 16th December, 2016 (Pages 9 - 54)
7. Minutes of the People and Communities Committee of 6th December, 2016 (Pages 55 - 78)
8. Minutes of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th December, 2016 (Pages 79 - 106)
9. Minutes of the Licensing Committee of 14th December, 2016 (Pages 107 - 132)
10. Minutes of the Planning Committee of 13th December, 2016 (Pages 133 - 150)
11. Notices of Motion
 - a) Irish Presidential Elections

Councillor Carson to move:

"This Council supports the call to implement the recommendation by the Constitutional Convention to extend the franchise to include all Irish citizens, regardless of their place of residency, to vote in the next and all future Presidential elections."

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Outcomes Based Accountability

Alderman Convery to move:

"Belfast City Council notes that the Programme for Government has been developed under the Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) principles.

Belfast City Council notes that two Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) pilots have been taken forward in Whiterock and Inner East, as part of the Belfast Agenda.

Belfast City Council agrees to embed the OBA principles in all Council decision making processes in the Council to make sure we achieve outcomes which show measurable improvements for people and communities in every part of the city.

(To be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

c) Donations to Political Parties

Councillor Nicholl to move:

"This Council notes a motion passed in March, 2016, regarding the transparency of donations made to political parties, recognises the importance which the citizens of Belfast place on being able to trust their Elected Representatives to work for the common good, further recognises the corrupting influence which money can have on the political decision- making process and considers it unacceptable that donations to political parties continue to remain secret in Northern Ireland.

The Council notes correspondence which was received from the previous Secretary of State, dated 5th April, 2016, stating that the time was not appropriate to move to full transparency, however, given current low levels of public confidence in transparency of Government, it calls on the new Secretary of State to immediately lift the exemption to reveal all declared donations to political parties since January 2014 and calls also on all political parties to voluntarily publish donations from this time."

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

Alderman R. Patterson to move:

"This Council notes the serious public concern amongst our constituents in relation to financial squander around the Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

The Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State, as public representatives, highlighting the huge public interest in relation to this matter and, accordingly, requests that he initiates a full public inquiry, pursuant to his discretion contained within Section 1 of the Inquiries Act 2005.

The Council agrees also to write to the Joint First Minister, Arlene Foster, expressing our belief, as a Council, that she should step aside pending a full public inquiry into this extraordinarily serious matter and the allegations of corruption which have been made by a former Government Minister from her own Party."

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Concessionary Travel Pass

Councillor Heading to move:

"This Council notes the recent establishment of the Smart Pass Equality Campaign, endorses its call for the full fare concessionary travel pass to be issued to all people who are unable to drive for medical reason and agrees to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Finance urging them to implement this extension as soon as possible."

(To be debated by the Council)

f) World Cup Boycott

Councillor Boyle to move:

"This Council notes the slaughter of innocent men, women and children in Syria (Aleppo) and the displacement of millions of people.

This Council calls for Northern Ireland and the other Teams playing in the World Cup from these Islands to Boycott the World Cup that is to be played in Russia".

(To be debated by the Council)

g) Citywide Tribunal Service

Councillor Collins to move:

"The Council notes that funding of the Citywide Tribunal Service ends as of December 2016. It recognises the important role this service has played in helping people across this city and understands that faced with the coming changes surrounding Welfare Reform, this service is needed now more than ever. The Council recognises also the ongoing efforts to secure alternative sources of funding, but also stresses the absolute necessity to continue this service and, therefore, pledges to retain Belfast City Council funding for this project until other sources of funding are secured."

(To be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne Welch', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Thursday, 1st December, 2016
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); the High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, R. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Bunting, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Reynolds and Walsh.

Reading of Scriptures

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Lord Mayor read a passage from the Scriptures.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman L. Patterson and Councillors Lyons and O'Neill.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston),
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 1st November be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st December, 2016**

Official Announcements

New Member of the Council

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Georgina Milne, who had replaced former Councillor Brown, to her first meeting and paid tribute to the former Councillor for the service which he had provided to the Council and his constituents during his time as an Elected Member.

Councillor Kyle

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, condemned those responsible for the recent assault on Councillor Kyle at the David Ervine Memorial in East Belfast.

Chief Executive

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that the Chief Executive had recently attained the Outstanding Business Woman of the Year Award at the 2016 Women in Business Awards and, on behalf of the Council, congratulated her on her success.

Congratulations

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed that a letter be forwarded to Ulster Rugby player, Mr. Rory Best, to mark his achievement in making his 100th appearance for Ireland and to the Chairman of Slaughtneil Gaelic Athletic Club in recognition of the club's historic success in winning this year's Ulster football, hurling and camogie titles.

Change of Membership on Committees/Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Democratic Unionist Party indicating that it wished:

- Councillor Dorrian to replace Councillor Reynolds on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- Councillor Craig to replace Councillor Hussey on the Board of Belfast City Centre Management; and
- Councillor Hussey to replace former Alderman Stalford on the Board of the Linenhall Library.

The Council approved the aforementioned changes.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st December, 2016**

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman Convery,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 11th and 18th November be approved and adopted.

**Request for Matter to be Taken Back
for Further Consideration**

**2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies –
Provisional Proposals**

At the request of Councillor Reynolds, the Council agreed that the minute of the meeting of 18th November, under the heading “2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Provisional Proposals”, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing omission, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 11th and 18th November were approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 8th November be approved and adopted.

**Official Recognition of the
“White Stone on Cavehill”**

Arising from discussion on the above-mentioned minute, the Council agreed, at the request of Councillor Copeland, that the Lord Mayor forward to Mr. Richard Lamont and Mr. David McCrum a letter commending them on the significant role which they had played in securing the rescue of a woman who had fallen whilst walking in the Cavehill Country Park.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 8th November were approved and adopted.

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Alderman McKee and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 9th and 16th November be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Heading and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 10th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 15th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Alderman Haire and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 21st November be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Metropolitan City Growth Deal

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Convery proposed:

“This Council notes that the British Government has agreed major City Region Deals in England, Scotland and Wales, including:

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- a £1.13 billion Glasgow and Clyde Valley Infrastructure Fund, in partnership with Scottish Government and local authorities;
- a £1.2 billion City Deal for the Cardiff Capital Region, in partnership with the Welsh Government and 10 local authorities; and
- a £315m City Region Deal for Inverness and the wider Highlands area with Scottish and UK governments.

The Council notes that these deals are based on the ability to increase productivity and also in many cases to ensure that many communities are not left behind. The ability of councils to contribute finance alongside the Treasury and the Northern Ireland Executive to fund major infrastructure, regeneration and skills development projects, in Belfast, will be essential to realising the executive's emerging economic and a social strategies.

The Council recognises that City Region Deals can have far-reaching impacts, not just on the economy, but on regional competitiveness, connectivity, infrastructure, housing, employment and lifestyle.

The Council welcomes the dialogue with neighbouring local Councils about promoting city region devolution deals and calls upon the Minister of Finance and the Northern Ireland Executive to prioritise City Region Deals and to actively facilitate negotiations between the Department of Finance, local authorities and the UK Treasury."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Boyle proposed:

"This Council, on 4th July, passed a resolution which called upon the Assembly to "engage with the British, Irish and Scottish Governments to find a way to accommodate the democratic will of the people of Northern Ireland/North of Ireland to remain a part of the European Union".

The Council recognises that 56% of the Northern Ireland electorate voted to remain in the European Union during the Referendum. The Council further recognises the direction of the High Court in

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London that the House of Commons must be consulted with before triggering Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

The Council agrees to encourage all of our Members of Parliament to respect the democratic mandate of the people of Northern Ireland as a member of the European Union during any debate or discussions in the House of Commons.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mullan.

On a recorded vote, thirty-two Members voted for the proposal and twenty-three Members against, with one ‘no vote’, and it was declared carried.

<u>For (32)</u>	<u>Against (23)</u>	<u>No Vote (1)</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Jones, Long, Magee, McAllister, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, and Walsh.	The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston); The High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers); Aldermen Browne, Haire, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, R. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Copeland, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.	Councillor Collins

Irish Presidential Elections

At the request of Councillor Carson, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the motion standing in his name be withdrawn from the agenda and be submitted to its monthly meeting in January.

Age Discrimination Legislation

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Corr Johnston proposed:

“This Council calls upon the Northern Ireland Executive Office to take immediate steps to extend Age Discrimination Legislation to include the provision of goods, services and facilities.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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On a vote by show of hands, thirty-one Members voted for the motion and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Attwood proposed:

“This Council notes with concern the decision of the High Court which decided that bulky goods only could be removed from the Belfast Metropolitan Area in relation to Sprucefield.

The Council notes that the Minister for Infrastructure, Mr. Chris Hazzard, agreed on a proposal to have BMAP adopted without the bulky goods restriction.

The Council notes that the Javelin report stated, in August 2016, that Belfast needs to improve the quality of its shops and that a John Lewis store would be seen as one of the major catalysts to rejuvenate Belfast City Centre.

Belfast needs to be a strong city in many ways to support the rest of Northern Ireland. This means that it has to have the right critical mass of offices, retail, residential, culture and arts to allow it to grow, not at the expense of other parts of Northern Ireland but in support of putting more money in everyone’s pockets and creating more jobs both in the city and in the many businesses in the external supply chain. Belfast needs to compete with other cities if Northern Ireland is to be more financially successful. This means that it needs more people living, working and visiting here. It should be (according to its size) one of the top 10 cities in the UK but is currently only 16th in the retail rankings. This is not good enough for Northern Ireland.

The Council believes that the decision of the High Court will have an adverse impact on Belfast and other town centres and supports the decision to appeal the decision of the High Court and will work with retailers and others to challenge this decision.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Transfer of Regeneration Powers

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McDonough-Brown proposed:

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“This Council expresses its profound disappointment in the decision of the Minister for Communities not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill and devolution of regeneration powers to local government.

The Council:

- (i) recognises that these powers would strengthen and enhance our ability to drive strategic regeneration activity, when used alongside community and land use planning;
- (ii) believes this decision to be in conflict with the entire direction and ethos of local government reform and to be a significant missed opportunity; and
- (iii) reiterates our support for the devolution of regeneration powers to local government; and calls for the Minister for Communities to meet with the Council with a view to reversing his decision and proceeding with the Bill.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howard.

Suspension of Standing Orders

At the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Council agreed, with all forty-eight Members present and voting supporting the proposal, to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to enable the Council to debate point (iii) of the motion.

After discussion, the Council agreed to adopt point (iii) of the motion and, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred points (i) and (ii), without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 16th December, 2016

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hussey (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers);
Aldermen Browne and Convery;
Councillors Attwood, Clarke, Corr, Craig,
Graham, Haire, Hargey, Hutchinson, Jones, Long,
McCabe, McVeigh, O'Donnell, Reynolds and
Walsh

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr .G. Miller, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor McAllister.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 11th and 18th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st December.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Restricted Items

The Information contained in the following four reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Revenue Estimates and District Rate

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the development of the revenue estimates for 2017/18 and the key issues which Members needed to consider as part of the rates settlement process.

After discussion the Committee:

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- Noted the update on the development of the revenue estimates and the setting of the district rate;
- Agreed to the next steps to setting the rate as outlined in paragraph 3.9 of the report; and
- Agreed that those areas for potential savings which had been identified by the Political Parties be considered in the first instance by the Budget and Transformation Panel.

City Centre Development

The Committee considered a report in relation to the potential acquisition of Commission House, Belfast as a Strategic Investment in line with the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategies.

The Committee agreed to the Council pursuing the potential acquisition of Commission House, on the basis of the Land and Property Services valuation, but subject to the Council obtaining its own independent valuation and undertaking other due diligence, with a further report to be submitted to the Committee prior to any final decisions.

IT Equipment

The Committee noted the contents of a report in relation to the Member's IT equipment package and agreed to hold party group briefings in January to consider its recommendations.

**Revisions to Management of City Hall
Function Booking Processes**

The Committee deferred consideration of a report in relation to the revision to the management of the City Hall function booking processes to enable the recommendations contained therein to be considered as part of the rate setting process.

Matters Referred Back From Council/Notices of Motion

Metropolitan City Growth Deal

The Committee was reminded that, in accordance with standing orders, the following notice of motion in relation to the Metropolitan City Growth Deal, which had been proposed by Alderman Convery and seconded by Councillor Attwood, had been referred to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes that the British Government has agreed major City Region Deals in England, Scotland and Wales, including:

a £1.13 billion Glasgow and Clyde Valley Infrastructure Fund, in partnership with Scottish Government and local authorities;
a £1.2 billion City Deal for the Cardiff Capital Region, in partnership with the Welsh Government and 10 local authorities; and

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a £315m City Region Deal for Inverness and the wider Highlands area with Scottish and UK governments.

The Council notes that these deals are based on the ability to increase productivity and also in many cases to ensure that many communities are not left behind. The ability of councils to contribute finance alongside the Treasury and the Northern Ireland Executive to fund major infrastructure, regeneration and skills development projects, in Belfast, will be essential to realising the executive's emerging economic and a social strategies.

The Council recognises that City Region Deals can have far-reaching impacts, not just on the economy, but on regional competitiveness, connectivity, infrastructure, housing, employment and lifestyle.

The Council welcomes the dialogue with neighbouring local Councils about promoting city region devolution deals and calls upon the Minister of Finance and the Northern Ireland Executive to prioritise City Region Deals and to actively facilitate negotiations between the Department of Finance, local authorities and the UK Treasury.”

The Committee was advised that the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had considered a report on the steps which had been taken to date advocating for a city growth deal. That Committee had agreed to commission a feasibility study on the detail of the growth deal, alongside developing a programme of work with London and Dublin. The feasibility study and associated work would seek to:

- Engage with partners, establishing governance and setting the geography for the deals;
- Determine objectives, prioritisation criteria and identifying schemes;
- Prioritise projects and funding/financing routes for delivery; and
- Provide economic analysis, financial modelling and agreeing performance metrics, for example, additional in tax-take or increase in sustained employment opportunities.

The Committee noted the contents of the motion and the decision which had been taken by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to progress the matter.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st December, had referred the following notice of motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Heading, to the Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes with concern the decision of the High Court which decided that bulky goods only could be removed from the Belfast Metropolitan Area in relation to Sprucefield.

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The Council notes that the Minister for Infrastructure, Mr. Chris Hazzard, agreed on a proposal to have BMAP adopted without the bulky goods restriction.

The Council notes that the Javelin report stated, in August 2016, that Belfast needs to improve the quality of its shops and that a John Lewis store would be seen as one of the major catalysts to rejuvenate Belfast City Centre.

Belfast needs to be a strong city in many ways to support the rest of Northern Ireland. This means that it has to have the right critical mass of offices, retail, residential, culture and arts to allow it to grow, not at the expense of other parts of Northern Ireland but in support of putting more money in everyone's pockets and creating more jobs both in the city and in the many businesses in the external supply chain. Belfast needs to compete with other cities if Northern Ireland is to be more financially successful. This means that it needs more people living, working and visiting here. It should be (according to its size) one of the top 10 cities in the UK but is currently only 16th in the retail rankings. This is not good enough for Northern Ireland.

The Council believes that the decision of the High Court will have an adverse impact on Belfast and other town centres and supports the decision to appeal the decision of the High Court and will work with retailers and others to challenge this decision."

The Committee was advised that the Council had become a notice party to the remedies hearing and had asked the court not to endorse the proposed removal of the bulky goods restriction as it believed it was inappropriate and unlawful for the court to do so.

Noted

Transfer of Regeneration Powers

The Committee was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 1st December, Councillor McDonough-Brown had proposed the following:

"This Council expresses its profound disappointment in the decision of the Minister for Communities not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill and devolution of regeneration powers to local government.

The Council:

- (i) recognises that these powers would strengthen and enhance our ability to drive strategic regeneration activity, when used alongside community and land use planning;
- (ii) believes this decision to be in conflict with the entire direction and ethos of local government reform and to be a significant missed opportunity; and

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- (iii) reiterates our support for the devolution of regeneration powers to local government; and calls for the Minister for Communities to meet with the Council with a view to reversing his decision and proceeding with the Bill.”

The motioned had been seconded by Councillor Howard.

The Committee was reminded further that, at the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Council had agreed, with all forty-eight Members present and voting in support of the proposal, to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to enable the Council to debate point (iii) of the motion. Subsequently, the Council had agreed to adopt point (iii) and, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), had referred points (i) and (ii), without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee was advised that, in considering the notice of motion, Members should be aware that in responding to the draft Programme for Government (PfG), which would be considered later in the meeting, the Council had formerly requested that the NI Executive commit within the PfG that the regeneration powers in-fact transfer and complement existing planning and economic development functions of councils. The benefits of transferring important place-shaping regeneration functions, including comprehensive development schemes and compulsory purchase orders, was a key aspect of the recent Westminster and Stormont engagement and lobbying events.

In the interim, direct engagement was also ongoing with the Department of Communities and the NI Executive to explore how the Council might utilise specific regeneration powers on behalf of the Department through an agency-type arrangement. Such an approach would help unlock and progress prioritised regeneration and development schemes within the city and secure the necessary funding to deliver such schemes through innovative funding models, including potential public and private co-financing. The Members would also be aware that a Memorandum of Understanding had been established between the Council and the Department for Communities to enable a joined up approach to be taken to development.

The Committee noted parts (i) and (ii) of the motion and that part (iii) had already been agreed by the Council and noted the information which had been provided in relation to the Programme for Government response.

**2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies –
Provisional Proposals**

The committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the consultation underway on the provisional proposals emerging from the ‘2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies’ and to outline for consideration a proposed response from Belfast City Council.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note

- the contents of the report and
- that November Committee agreed a Council response should not be submitted to the public consultation.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 The 2018 Review of Parliamentary constituencies started on 24 February 2016. In accordance with schedule 2 of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011, the number of Parliamentary constituencies across the UK will reduce from 650 to 600. In Northern Ireland, the decrease will be from 18 seats to 17 at the next Westminster elections, expected in 2020. This will mean redrawing the existing constituency boundaries. The Act requires that Northern Ireland's electorate (1,243,369 people at 1 December 2015) be divided into 17 constituencies utilising complete local government wards as building blocks. The electorate of each constituency must also be within a 5 per cent variance of the UK electoral quota of 74,769 (ie. no less than 71,031 and no more than 78,507 people).

3.2 A Boundary Commissioner for Northern Ireland published on 6 September 2016 provisional recommendations for the new Parliamentary Constituencies within NI. Responses are sought by 28 November 2016. The Commission is required to submit its report on final recommendations to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland no later than 1 October 2018.

3.3 Based on the proposals put forward, the current four Parliamentary Constituency covering Belfast will be reduced to three comprising of the following:

- East Belfast - the only Belfast constituency proposed to retain its name. Would cover those wards which lie between the River Lagan and the eastern boundary of the City. This would mean transferring out the wards of Dundonald, Carrowreagh, Grahamsbridge, Ballyanwood and Enler; and transferring in those wards from Belfast South which lie between the River and the City boundary (Hillfoot, Cregagh, Ravenhill, Woodstock, Ormeau, Rosetta and Belvoir). Would have an electorate of 72,001.
- Belfast North West - proposed new constituency which would retain Valley and Colinbridge from current

Belfast North, transfer from Belfast West the wards of Fourth River, Ballygomartin, Clonard, Beechmount, Falls and Shankill; and transfer out those wards lying outside the City boundary (Whitehouse, Rathcoole, O'Neill, Carmoney Hill, Glebe, Glengormley). Would have an electorate of 71,266.

- Belfast South West – proposed new constituency which would extend from the Lagan to the western boundary encompassing the whole of Dunmurry ward, Colin Glen, Turf Lodge, Ballymurphy, Falls Park, Blackstaff and Central. Would have an electorate of 73,643.

3.4 Elsewhere, eight constituencies would continue with minimal boundary changes; six new constituencies would be created, provisionally called Dalriada, Glenshane, North Tyrone, Upper Bann and Blackwater, West Antrim and West Down; and five names would disappear: Lagan Valley, East Londonderry, North Antrim, West Tyrone and Mid-Ulster.

3.5 Proposed Belfast City Council Response

Whilst recognising that individual Political Parties will clearly have their own views on the recommendations put forward not only for Belfast but for the wider region, Members may wish to consider submitting a short response from the Council outlining the following points:

- Given the significance of Belfast as the economic driver and capital city for the region, and its desire to become more competitive on a national, European and International level, the Council would be concerned about any proposal to reduce the number of MPs for the City. This is particular pertinent given the work underway by Council to develop a City Growth Deal for the city-region and the need to continue to lobby and influence regional and national government on city development related issues and seeking to ensure the continued social, economic and physical regeneration of the City and City-Region.
- As the proposed changes will not come into effect until 2020, the Council would highlight that they do not take account of the ambitious population growth targets set for the city over this period and the associated potential impact on the future electorate of the city. The Belfast Agenda (Community Plan for the City) includes a population growth target of an additional 70,000 new residents by 2035. Securing population

growth will also be a key feature of the Council's emerging Local Development Plan for Belfast.

3.6 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or Human Resource implications contained within this report.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

After discussion it was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Craig

That the Committee approves the proposed Council response to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Provisional Proposals as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report.

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

Belfast Agenda

**Programme for Government -
Consultation Response**

The Chief Executives submitted for the Committees consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 This report seeks to update Committee on the recent consultation on a further draft Programme for Government and a suite of associated draft delivery plans; and to enable Members to consider and agree a Council response to be submitted. The consultation ends on 23 December 2016.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of this report; and
- consider and agree the proposed Council response to the draft PfG Framework

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** The draft PfG is 170+ pages long and sets out 14 strategic outcomes, 48 indicators and is underpinned by 32 draft Delivery Plans, which the Executive states that when taken together, set a clear direction of travel and enable continuous improvement on the essential components of societal wellbeing and improve quality of life. They touch upon every aspect of government including, for example: securing economic success; supporting job creation and employability; attainment of good health and education; investment; and creating confident and peaceful communities.
- 3.2** Whilst welcomed, the new OBA format has introduced a new level of complexity into the PfG consultation process compared to previous years with the introduction of detailed delivery plans. For each of the PfG indicators, a named senior official has been identified who is responsible and accountable for leading the work to deliver the improvements identified and who will oversee the development of specific delivery plans. Each delivery plan sets out the key delivery partners involved, and their role.
- 3.3** The PfG will be supported by an updated Investment Strategy, an Economic Strategy and a new Social Strategy – these key strategies will also be subject to consultation and engagement which we understand will commence later in the month.
- 3.4** Council officers have reviewed both the draft PFG and associated Delivery Plans in the context of the previous response submitted to the first the PfG Framework (June 2016), and the ambitious set out for the city in the Belfast Agenda.
- 3.5** Attached at Appendix 2 for Members consideration is a proposed draft Council response to the PfG which is set out in two sections
- (i) The first relates to the overarching document and specifically the 14 listed outcomes and their associated issues, indicators and actions.
 - (ii) The second part sets out specific and detailed feedback on the emergent 'Delivery Plans' linked to the PFG outcomes and indicators. These comments will be submitted directly to the senior responsible officers for the relevant delivery plans.

3.6 (i) Overarching Document

The response to the overarching document includes the high level issues which the Council would like to see reflected in the PfG and naturally contains many of the 'key asks' which the Council has developed over recent months and opportunities to co-design and deliver in partnership with the Executive and other partners.

3.7 Where possible the response strives to reaffirm the importance of Belfast to the wider region and to demonstrate that a successful Belfast will result in a positive impact across many of the outcomes identified within the PfG and provide benefits to Northern Ireland as a whole. The response also outlines the complementarity between the ambitions set out within the PfG and the Belfast Agenda and emphasizes the importance of working in partnership with the Executive to co-design placed-based programmes and initiatives which will deliver common outcomes. It also outlines the need to consider innovative and new forms of finance and delivery models to unlock development, regeneration and infrastructure priorities within the city and across the region.

3.8 Members will note that summary of the key issues outlined in the Council response is set out in Page 3-4 of Appendix 2.

3.9 (ii) Delivery Plans

In terms of responding to the delivery plans, the Executive have requested that comments are submitted in writing directly to the named senior owner for each plan. These delivery plans have been assigned in turn to senior officers throughout the Council whose views have been sought on the suitability and effectiveness of the proposed actions as well as the planned partnering arrangements.

3.10 There is an expectation that the delivery plans will be somewhat fluid and the senior officers within central government responsible for each plan will lead on engagement with delivery partners on an ongoing basis in order to review their effectiveness. Senior officers within the Council are engaging directly with the identified SROs for each plan in order to ensure that they can influence the respective delivery plans as they evolve over the lifetime of the Programme for Government.

3.11 Members will also be aware that there has been intensive political engagement by the Council seeking to inform and shape the emerging PFG and associated strategies including the recent series of Ministerial meetings, the representation at

Westminster and Stormont and the briefings given to specific Executive Committees including the Committee for Infrastructure on 7 November.

3.12 NILGA Response

A copy of NILGA's response to the PfG document is attached at Appendix 3 for information only.

3.13 Financial and Resource Implications

None.

3.14 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee agreed the proposed Council response to the draft Programme for Government framework.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Capital Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council's Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- note the contents of this report and the major achievements delivered under the Capital Programme over the past couple of months which has seen over £50million of projects completed across the city
- note the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital programme project and in particular would advise Members to visit the new accommodation at 9 Adelaide, the new Olympia Leisure Centre and the Connswater Community Greenway

Project Updates

- note that the Council is progressing with Phase 4 of the Alleygating Programming and as part of this the supporting process of consultation is underway. The Council is aware that areas in the former Lisburn and Castlereagh areas were not part of the previous alleygating phases and is therefore looking at these areas to assess provision and it is recommended that consultation is undertaken in these areas as part of the process which will allow these gates to quickly progress if future funding is received (either Council or other funding). Members are asked to note at this stage there is no budget for a future alley gating programme
- Leisure Programme – agree to the demolition of the Clonduff Community Centre in line with the demolition works at Robinson given the reasons outlined in 3.2 below. Members are asked to note that officers will immediately progress discussions with the local community groups and Elected Members to ascertain the temporary provision that may be required to be put in place in the interim until the construction of the new centre.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council's rolling Capital Programme is a significant programme with over £185m of projects recently completed or currently underway. Members will be aware that when projects are completed they transfer from the Property & Projects Department to the relevant client Department (City & Neighbourhoods or Development) under the stewardship of the People and Communities and City & Growth Committees as appropriate. It is the role of the client department and the relevant standing Committee to manage the assets once completed.

Members are asked to note that over £50million of projects have either been completed in the past two months or are currently in the final stages of completion. This is a major achievement in terms of delivery and in terms of staff performance.

Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion

- *Council accommodation* – the new 9 Adelaide building, which will provide accommodation for over 800

officers, was officially handed over to the Council (Property & Projects Department) on 28th November. This development is significant as it is the first purpose built Grade A accommodation in the city centre since the economic downturn and is a significant sign of the Council's confidence in and commitment to the city centre soon to be followed by the All State building at Maysfield which the Department also facilitated. The £20m plus new build was delivered ahead of programme and within budget and Members are asked to note that the project itself took just under two and a half years from start to finish which is an achievement in itself for a building of this scale. The first staff from Development moved into the building on the 9th December with Planning, Property & Projects, Reprographics, HR and Legal services to follow in the coming months. The decants will be completed by March. Further Public Realm works on the adjacent footpaths are planned for the new year.

- *Olympia Leisure Centre* – the new Olympia, which is the first of our new redeveloped facilities under the £105m leisure transformation programme, was handed over to GLL who will operate this under the Better brand on the 28th November. Testing of the building is currently underway with a soft opening at the start of January. The new building will be officially opened on the 24th January and further details on the opening will be provided to Members in due course. The new centre is the most modern and advanced leisure facility in Northern Ireland and has some new and innovative technologies. Facilities in the new centre, which adjoins the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park, include
 - a 25m pool and teaching pool
 - 120 station gym
 - 4 court sports hall
 - a luxurious day spa
 - state of the art exercise studios
 - multi purpose rooms
 - coffee corner

£2.75m was provided by the Department for Communities as part of the NI Executive's Stadium Redevelopment Programme. The new centre is only the first phase of the £21.75million Olympia Sports Village development and in the New Year we will be demolishing the old leisure centre, creating an exciting new boulevard entrance, a new playground and additional outdoor sports pitches

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- **Connswater Community Greenway – on 22nd November the new CS Lewis Square, part of the £40m Connswater Community Greenway project, was opened. The Square, which has space for over 2000 people is the first dedicated outdoor space for activities and events. On the evening seven new sculptures were unveiled based on the characters from the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The Square, which have been very popular with tourists and locals since its opening, will be open 24/7 and well-lit. The Connswater project is now in its final stages with seasonal planting to be finished off in the Spring.**
- **North Foreshore – Works on the ERDF funded project were completed at the end of October. Work on the Film Studio is nearing completion and is due to be opened in the New Year. Work is continuing on the infrastructure required for the development sites. A leisure development brief for the north end of the site being put out to the market.**
- **New pavilion at Musgrave and pitch upgrades – part of the £15m Pitches Programme, the new changing pavilion and upgrade to the pitch has recently been completed. With the handover of this to the City & Neighbourhoods Departments this means that 8 out of the 10 projects under the pitches strategy have been completed with new facilities open at**

- **Musgrave – new pavilion and pitch upgrades**
- **Cliftonville – New 3G pitch, pavilion, floodlights, new fencing**
- **Woodlands – New 3G pitch, pavilion, floodlights, new fencing and car park facilities**
- **Ormeau – New pitch, floodlights and new fencing**
- **Victoria – New pavilion**
- **Dixon – New pavilion**
- **Ballysillan – New pavilion**
- **Waterworks – New pavilion**

Works at Falls Park are due to commence in the New Year and a planning determination for the new pitch and pavilion at Cherryvale is expected next year. In addition works are due to commence in the New Year on the new pavilion at Sally Gardens to compliment the pitch which was completed earlier this year.

- **MUGA at Springfield Avenue - handed over to the City & Neighbourhoods Department w/c 17th October. This has transformed a previously derelict area of land and a former anti-social behavior hot-spot into a new community facility**

- **Phase 1 - Whiterock Community Corridor Phase 1 – handed over to the City & Neighbourhoods Department on the 16th November. Phase 1, which included the development of a new playground and MUGA, together with the LIF funded project at Glor NaMona on the other side has transformed what was derelict and underused land at the front entrance of the site. In total there has been a Council investment in the area of nearly £1m. Phase 2 of the Whiterock project – the completion of the road to serve the new Falls Park pitch will commence in January along with a piece of public art.**

Project Updates

3.2 Leisure Programme – Clonduff Community Centre – Members will be aware that the Council is proceeding with the demolition works at the Robinson Centre in anticipation of going on ground with the new centre next Summer (subject to the outcome of planning). The contractors are currently mobilising on the site with demolition works due to begin in January. There are a number of reasons why it proposed that the demolition works at Clonduff are progressed in line with this

- 1. An overall cleared site will be better for the build programme of the new centre rather than trying to build around an existing facility – this will facilitate the quicker development of the new facility**
- 2. Members will be aware that asbestos has been discovered in the Robinson Centre and that a key part of the demolition contract is the removal of this. Members will be aware that issues may arise when asbestos is disturbed and therefore given the adjacencies and the arising health & safety implications it would be better to clear the overall site**
- 3. Invasive species have been discovered on areas of the site adjacent to the Clonduff Centre which will need to be cleared**
- 4. Demolishing the two centres under the one contract will also represent better value for the money for the Council**

Approval is therefore sought from the Committee to proceed with the demolition of the Clonduff Community Centre in line with the demolition of the existing Robinson Centre. Members will be aware that the current Clonduff Community Centre is still operational and that officers will work with the local Elected representative and community groups to ascertain the temporary provision that may be required to be put in place in the interim until the construction of the new centre.

3.3 Alleygates – Members will be aware that Phase 4 of the Alleygating programme is currently underway and as part of this the supporting process of consultation is underway. The Council is aware that areas in the former Lisburn and Castlereagh areas were not part of the previous alleygating phases and is therefore looking at these areas to ascertain if any alleygating provision is required. It is recommended that this is undertaken as part of this process which will allow these gates to progress if future funding is received. Members are asked to note at this stage there is no budget for a future alley gating programme

3.4 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The capital programme is a rolling programme of investment

Resources – Ongoing resources in terms of project operation

3.5 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

During discussion, the Director of Property and Projects provided the Members with an update in relation to the purchase of the Ulster Bank at the Andersonstown Leisure Centre.

After further discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations contained within the report, noted the update in relation to the purchase of the Ulster Bank at the Andersonstown Leisure Centre and granted approval to the Director of Property and Projects to vest the property if necessary.

Area Working Update

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Members on a number of area related issues for Members consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

AWG minutes

- approve the most recent round AWG Minutes (*South – 28th November and West – 24th November*) North and East AWG) Thursday 8th December

Local Investment Fund

- agree the recommendations from the West and East AWGs in relation to LIF funding (Section 3.2 – 3.3).
- note the additional projects which have been scored (Section 3.4) which have met the minimum threshold and agree that these are progressed to due-diligence

Belfast Investment Fund

- agree the recommendations from the East AWG in relation to BIF funding (Section 3.5)

3.0 Main report

KEY ISSUES

3.1 AREA WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Members agreed in June that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistency in approach to the other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round AWG Minutes (*South – 28th November and West – 24th November*) as attached at Appendix 1. Members are asked to note that the North and East AWGs held their meetings on Thursday 8th December – the minutes for this are not yet available however the relevant funding decisions from the meetings are included within this report.

LOCAL INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

- 3.2 WEST AWG - The West AWG at its meeting on 24th November, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their LIF subject to the required criteria being met.**

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Ref No	Project	Recommendation
WLIF2-13	Sliabh Dubh Playground	To be withdrawn from the LIF programme (£70,000)
WLIF2-06	Lamh Dhearg GAC	Additional £15,000 (reallocation from WLIF2-13) – overall in principle allocation of £60,000
WLIF2-14	MMA Regional Centre of Excellence	Additional £30,000 (reallocation from WLIF2-13) – overall in principle allocation of £70,000
WLIF2-23	Blackie River Community Group	£25,000 (reallocation from WLIF2-13) – New LIF proposal

3.3 EAST AWG - The East AWG at its meeting on 8th December, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their LIF

Ref No	Project	Recommendation
ELIF2-20	Tullycarnet Community Support Service	To be withdrawn from the LIF programme (£58,411)

The East AWG agreed that officers engage with a number of other projects which had been proposed in order to assess them for their feasibility with further details to be brought back to a future meeting.

Projects recommended to proceed to due-diligence

3.4 Members are asked to note that 4 LIF2 projects which had previously been agreed for in principle funding (*SLIF064 – Taughmonagh Community Forum; NLIF2-13 – Intercomm; NLIF2-14 – Star Neighbourhood Centre and WLIF2-22–Farset International*) have now been scored by officers (see Appendix 2) and have successfully met the minimum threshold. It is recommended that these projects now proceed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process

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3.5 BELFAST INVESTMENT FUND

EAST AWG - The East AWG at its meeting on 8th December, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their BIF

Ref No	Project	Recommendation
BIF28	Lagan Village Youth and Community Group	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted. Currently Stage 1

3.6 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- **Financial – £5m has been allocated to LIF 1 and £4m has been allocated to LIF2. A summary of the current position across the LIF programme is attached below for Members**

Local Investment Fund 1

Area	Project Details	Status
North £1,127,500	25 projects approved in principle - £1,127,500 in total Remaining allocation - £0	15 completed - £611,128 1 project on the ground - £50,000 4 at tender preparation stage - £137,000 5 not yet through due-diligence - £329,372
South £1,127,500	13 projects approved in principle - £1,083,600 Remaining allocation - £43,900	7 completed - £639,641 2 projects on the ground - £190,000 2 at tender preparation stage - £153,959 2 not yet through due-diligence - £100,000
East £1,127,500	8 projects approved in principle - £1,127,500 Remaining allocation - £0	6 completed - £627,500 1 project on the ground - £250,000 1 not yet through due-diligence - £250,000
West £1,127,500	17 projects approved in principle - £1,127,500 Remaining allocation - £0	15 completed - £1,057,500 2 projects on the ground - £70,000
Shankill £490,000	8 projects approved in principle - £490,000 Remaining allocation - £0	7 completed - £382,680 1 project on the ground - £107,320

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Local Investment Fund 2

Area	Project Details	Status
North £800,000	14 projects identified - £694,867 Remaining allocation - £105,133 3 projects under consideration	1 project on the ground - £100,000 4 at tender preparation stage - £118,200 9 not yet through due-diligence - £476,667
South £800,000	12 projects identified - £796,000 Remaining allocation - £4,000	1 completed - £75,000 1 project on the ground - £90,000 8 at tender preparation stage - £511,000 2 not yet through due-diligence - £120,000
East £1,200,000	13 projects identified- £1,200,000 Remaining allocation - £0	1 project on the ground - £208,300 5 at tender preparation stage - £679,069 7 not yet through due-diligence - £312,631
West £1,200,000	19 projects identified - £1,200,000 Remaining allocation - £0	2 completed - £325,000 1 project on the ground - £60,000 5 at tender preparation stage - £366,000 11 not yet through due-diligence - £449,000

- **Resource - Officers time to deliver projects.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

LIF has been equality screened.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Asset Management

Percy Street Community Centre – Lease Renewal

The Committee approved the renewal of the Lease for Percy Street Community Centre for a further 5 years with the Trustees of Lower Shankill Groups Welfare Committee.

10-18 Cromac Street and 33-37 Market Street Belfast – Disposal of Ground Rent Interest

The Committee approved the disposal of the Council’s ground rent interest in land at 10-18 Cromac Street and 33-37 Market Street, Belfast.

**Stewart Street – Proposed Agreement for Easement
with Northern Ireland Electricity at Stewart Street**

The Committee granted approval to enter into an Agreement for Easement with NIE in respect of land at Stewart Street for the purposes of facilitating the development of a community garden and to provide potential pedestrian access to the Council's Gasworks Estate.

Acquisition of Springfield Dam

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to transfer to the Council land at Springfield Dam which was owned by the Department for Communities (DfC) following expenditure of c £0.5m by the DfC on capital work to upgrade the area.

The Committee was advised that the DfC owned land at Springfield Dam. It had commissioned AECOM to undertake a feasibility study in partnership with the Council to develop high level concept plans for the site. The Springfield Dam site shared a boundary with the Council's Springfield Park and there was an opportunity to create a larger enhanced and integrated open space at the location. The feasibility study produced two options; the estimated construction cost for Option 1 was £448,513.71 and for Option 2 was £1,215,511.01. The Department had advised that it had funding available in the current financial year for Option 1 and it was keen to start spending the estimated total construction costs for Option 1 before 31st March, 2017. If expenditure was committed and commenced prior to that date, it had advised that the full cost could be accrued by the Department for Communities in the financial year 2016/17. There was no funding currently available for option 2.

The Director of Property and Projects reported that Option 1 comprised the basic framework to improve access and provide for recreational use of the site. The proposed paths would provide for circulation between the Dam and Springfield Park and also link into proposed new entrances to the site. That would facilitate 'loop' walks in the locality. The proposed recreational facilities included a proposed building for classroom/training/recreational use, fishing stands and an activity trail.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting of 21st October, it had agreed in principle to the transfer of land and property assets from the Department of Communities, or other central government bodies as appropriate, upon completion of identified projects, subject to the conditions of transfer as set out in the report and specifically on agreement on revenue budgets at the time of transfer, with up to three years agreed maintenance costs being provided as a minimum, depending of the nature of the asset.

The following Heads of Terms had provisionally been agreed with DfC in respect to the transfer of Springfield Dam to the Council, subject to Committee and subsequently Council approval:

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- DfC to provide BCC with copies of satisfactory title and confirmation that there are no restrictions, onerous conditions or charges in the title which would preclude the proposed works.
- BCC will appoint consultants to design Option 1 of the Springfield Dam project.
- BCC will secure planning approval and statutory approvals as required for the scheme.
- BCC will appoint the contractor to complete the works.
- DfC will fund all costs including design, statutory approvals and construction.
- BCC will agree to take ownership of the site at nil cost to the Council on completion of Option 1 of the works.
- BCC to be represented on the design group for the project to ensure that the future maintenance and management of the Springfield Dam is properly reflected in the designs.
- DfC will fund the Council's maintenance costs for a period of three years following handover of the site to the Council.

The Committee was advised also that the transfer would be at nil cost to the Council and would only take place following completion of capital expenditure of c.£0.5m. The maintenance cost for three years following completion of the capital works and hand over to the Council would be covered by DfC; and staff from Legal Services and the Estates Unit would complete the transfer of land and staff from the Project Management Unit would deliver the project on behalf of DfC, with design and maintenance advice from the City and Neighbourhoods Department.

The Committee granted approval to accept the transfer of land from the Department of Communities on the terms and conditions as outlined in the report.

Exhibition Area – Changes to Layout and Pricing

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of report or summary of main issues

1.1 To seek the Committee’s approval to implement the proposals set out below in relation to the operation of the new Exhibition Area in City Hall.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Adopt the proposals in respect of the operation of the new Exhibition Area as set out at below**
- **Agree to charge an entrance fee for commercial bookings broadly in the order of £2 per person, but with discounts available in respect of the provision of multi-**

lingual head-sets when booked as a group, in order to encourage use and enhance income.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Members will be aware that a paper was presented to the Committee in November 2016 seeking approval for a new Reception arrangement for the Exhibition. This proposal involved the removal of the former PUP room area as the main reception for the Exhibition, to be replaced by a bespoke new facility on the main floor inside the front entrance.

3.2 Following some discussion on the matter concerns were expressed by some members that the proposal may create unnecessary bottlenecks on the main marble area, and it was referred back for officers to re-consider the proposal to see what alternatives may exist. Officers had also noted that there would be noise impact on the Livery Room.

3.3 Officers have reviewed the proposals as requested, but have concluded that in any event insufficient time now remains to prepare alternative proposals and get furniture etc ordered. Consequently the original proposal, which uses the former PUP party room as the main entrance and reception area, must be re-instated on the basis previously agreed.

3.4 The proposal to create a new reception area on the marble was developed primarily to enhance the potential income to be derived from the sale of merchandising.

By contrast, using the original reception area will mean that no merchandising can be sold at all on Saturdays or Sundays or on any evening (because any such sales will now have to be carried out by staff at the main Reception as opposed to the dedicated Exhibitions facility). Therefore it is likely that overall merchandising sales will be adversely affected.

3.5 There remains a concern that the original proposal will itself inevitably create bottlenecks, given that it is only 1.4m wide at its narrowest point and must provide for disabled access etc. while the proposal in relation to the marble would have allowed for more effective management of a build-up of visitors (including the use of the former PUP room and the room opposite for waiting areas), and the council's principal consultants Redhead Ltd had expressed their agreement with this approach.

3.6 However, as outlined above, the facility is due to be complete and to initiate a series of 'soft' opening events during April 2017, and consequently officers do not believe that it is

now feasible to develop alternative options, obtain Heritage Service approval and amend the overall project plan in order to deliver a new option in the time remaining.

The Committee is therefore requested to approve the reversion to the original reception location in the former PUP offices.

- 3.7 Members will also be aware that in the previous proposal entrance to the exhibition was free, although charges will be levied for head-set hire, souvenir booklet and app downloads etc. Officers considered recommending a general admission charge of £1, but concluded that the administration associated with this would outweigh the benefit. However there would be the opportunity to introduce a charge for Commercial Tour Groups and this is considered below and the potential for donations remains.
- 3.8 Commercial Tour Groups - It is also proposed that separate entrance charges be introduced for commercial tour groups (e.g. cruise-ship bookings etc), where each participant pays a significant premium to the relevant tour operators. This mirrors the approach recently adopted by the Committee in relation to the council's standard public tour offer and which has produced additional income of £12,067 in the 2016/17 financial year to date (1st 6 months).
- 3.9 It is proposed to adopt the same approach to charging for the new Exhibition Area, and would involve a charge broadly in the order of £2 per person, but with discounts available in respect of the provision of multi-lingual head-sets when booked as a group, in order to encourage use and enhance income. This would generate estimated additional income of £61,425.
- 3.10 Following a discussion at the party group leaders' forum the overall logo and strap-line to be used for the Exhibition Area is to be changed from the previous 'City Hall for All' approach simply to 'Belfast City Hall' and using the same graphic as previously agreed.
- 3.11 This new logo - which will be used on associated signage, promotional material and merchandising etc – is set out for note by the Committee in Appendix 1(a). Also included for note at Appendix 1(b) is the artwork to be used for the refurbished Bobbin coffee-shop area (which is intended to be operational by early March 2017).

3.12 Finance and Resource Implications

- Levying the recommended charge for commercial groups would generate additional estimated income of £61,425, based on anticipated visitor numbers

3.13 Equality & Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Mid – Year Treasury Management Report 2016/17

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee’s information the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report presents the half year treasury management position for the Council as at the end of September, 2016/17.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the report.

3.0 Main report

Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011

3.1 The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011, and the supporting Prudential and Treasury Codes introduced a new capital financing system and legislative framework within which the Council manages its finances.

3.2 The Council’s Treasury Management policy, developed in response to the new legislative framework, states that the Council will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy, a mid-year review and an annual report after the close of the financial year.

3.3 This report represents the mid-year review as required by the policy and is structured to highlight key changes to the

Council's capital activity and the actual and proposed treasury management activity.

Prudential Indicators

The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and CIPFA's Prudential Code require the Council to set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators (PIs). The key objective of which is to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the Council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

3.4 Capital Expenditure Prudential Indicator:

	Original	Revised
Indicator	£'000	£'000
Estimates of Capital Expenditure 2016/17	48,529	51,797

The original estimate reflects the capital budgets that were approved by the Council on 22 March 2016, whilst the revised estimate reflects the capital expenditure that is forecast to be spent by 31 March 2017. The increase in the forecast for this year is mainly due to the re-profiling of the capital programme. As the overall total has not changed this does not affect the financing of the capital programme.

3.5 Other Prudential Indicators

	Original Estimate	Current Estimate
Indicator	£'000	£'000
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	110,727	114,825
Borrowing Within CFR	yes	yes

As can be seen above the CFR estimate has increased. This is due to the increase in the revised estimate of capital expenditure in the current year's capital programme. The Council is forecast to remain within the Authorised Borrowing Limit, and the CFR indicates that over the medium term borrowings will only be for a capital purpose.

3.6 Treasury Management

The Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy adopt the key principles of CIPFA's Code of Practice and have

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taken account of the guidance issued by the Department of The Environment on Local Government Investments.

- 3.7 Debt Activity:** During the first half of 2016/17 the Council has taken advantage of internal borrowing, i.e. cash surpluses, to fund capital expenditure.
- 3.8** In addition, loan principal repayments of £1,573,854 have been made during the same period.
- 3.9** The level of external borrowings at 30 September 2016 is £33,188,655.
- 3.10 Investment Strategy 2016-17:** The primary objective of the Council's investment strategy is to safeguard the repayment of the principal and interest of its investments on time. Investment return being a secondary objective.
- 3.11** The current investment climate is one of overriding risk consideration, particularly that of counterparty risk. As a result, officers continue to implement an operational investment strategy which maintains investments short term with high quality counterparties.
- 3.12** The Council has earned £66,486.63 in interest in the period from 1 April to 30 September 2016.
- 3.13** During this period the Council has placed deposits with Bank of Scotland, Santander UK, HSBC and Barclays. All four institutions meet the council's approval criteria.
- 3.14** The Council's limit for total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is £2,000,000. As at 30 September 2016, the Council has not made any investments which are for periods longer than 364 days.
- 3.15 Other Treasury Management Indicators:** Two other Treasury Management indicators were set at the start of the year as follows: -
- Upper Limits for Fixed and Variable Rate Borrowing
 - Limits on the Maturity of Fixed Rate Borrowing
- 3.16** Officers can confirm that the limits set have not been breached and no changes to the current limits are required.
- 3.17 Bank Tender**

Approval was sought through SP&R Committee on 24th June 2016 to seek tenders for the provision of banking and

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merchant services with a contract period of three years and the option to renew for two further periods of one year. Following a tender process the contract has been awarded under delegated authority to the Barclays, who are the Council's current bankers.

3.18 The contract shall be for a period of three years with the option to renew for two further periods of one year.

3.19 Financial & Resource Implications

All finance implications are dealt with in the report

3.20 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- (1) approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in appendix 1, table 1 below, through the Council's electronic procurement system; and
- (2) granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender, and allow extensions where contracts were under review as per table 2:

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tender for supply, fitting and maintenance of fire extinguishers	Gerry Millar	3 years
Tender for provision of minibus/coach service (with driver)	Gerry Millar	1 year plus option to renew for a further 3 years
Tender for provision of employment agency services	Jill Minne	1 year plus option to renew on an annual basis for a further 2 years
Tender for the supply, delivery and management of pyrotechnics	Donal Durkan	3 years with options to renew for a further 2 years

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Tender for financial appraisals	Gerry Millar	3 years plus option to renew on an annual basis for a further 2 years
Professional services to develop a full feasibility study for the City Growth Deal	Suzanne Wylie	Up to 18 months

Table 2 - Contracts for extension of contract period

Title of tender	Director Responsible	Proposed extension
Tender for supply of general uniforms for stores	G Millar	Month by month until new contract is in place

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership held on 5th December, 2016.

Request for the Use of the City Hall

The Committee was advised that an application had been received from the 36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Association Arts and Cultural Society for the use of the City Hall for a lecture and exhibition to mark the centenary of the role of the 36th (Ulster) Division and the 16th Irish Division in the Battle of Messines.

The Committee was reminded that, where a proposed event could be held to impact upon the Council's programme in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, then the opportunity was normally taken to seek the views of the Diversity Working Group before presenting the request to the Committee. However, the Working Group was currently not meeting whilst discussions took place on its future role and remit. Accordingly, the request was being presented to the Committee.

The Democratic Services Manager pointed out that the Council's policy on use of the City Hall, whilst not specifically ruling out exhibitions and lectures, did not encourage such use as the functions rooms were not seen as being ideal for that use. However, given that the request was to mark a significant centenary, the Committee might feel that the request should be acceded to. The cost of the provision of tea, coffee and biscuits for guests was estimated at £750 and that could be met within existing budgets.

The committee agreed to accede to the request and approved the provision of hospitality as outlined.

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Operational Issues

Information Governance Training for Elected Members

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided information in relation to Information Governance training for Elected Members which would take place in February, 2017.

Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 8th December, 2016.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 6th December, 2016.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Board of 5th December, 2016.

Minutes of Meeting of Member Development Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Member Development Working Group of 21st November, 2016.

Requests for the use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality

The Committee adopted the recommendations for the requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality as set out below:

Appendix

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
The Drascombe Association	Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Drascombe Lugger 25th March, 2017 Approximately 60 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will celebrate the work of the Association while acknowledging the nautical heritage of the City. This is the first time the event has been held outside Great Britain and delegates will be shown the many sights and places of interest within the City. This event would contribute to	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception Approximate cost £300

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			the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better Opportunities for Success Across the City'	
Tennis Ulster Branch Ireland	Belfast City ITF Junior Tournament 2017 Celebratory Event 23rd July, 2017 Approximately 205 attending	The use of the City Hall	The Ulster Branch of Tennis Ireland recently received a grant from the Council's Development Department to provide hospitality in the City Hall. This event will celebrate the achievements of their junior members throughout the past year and promote Belfast regionally and internationally in terms of sport and tourism. Approximately 130 athletes and their families will be travelling from across Europe and the USA and will be staying in accommodation within the city for up to 6 nights. This event will contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better Care for Belfast's Environment', 'Better Opportunities for Success Across the City' and 'Better Support for People and Communities'.	The use of the City Hall
Ulster Journals Limited	Ulster Tatler Dinner and Awards 2017 14th September, 2017 Approximately 360 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event aims to highlight and recognise those individuals who have excelled in their chosen field. The awards ceremony will recognise and acknowledge those individuals who have demonstrated significant achievement in categories such as Business Man/ Woman of the Year, Arts Personality of the Year and Hotelier/Publican of the Year. The event will also pay tribute to an individual by way of the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' previous recipients have been Michael Longley, Barry McGuigan, Dame Mary Peters, Sir James Galway, Brian Friel, Phil Coulter, Gloria Hunniford and Terri Hooley.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500

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			<p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.</p>	
<p>Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry</p>	<p>The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual Lunch 16th June, 2017 Approximately 400 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall.</p>	<p>The Annual Lunch aims to provide a networking opportunity in order to encourage investment and business development opportunities for Belfast and beyond. The event, which will include representatives from both Local and Central Government, also seeks to facilitate discussion on economic and social regeneration.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall.</p>
<p>Belfast Pride</p>	<p>Launch of Pride 2017 and Awards Presentation 28th July, 2017 Approximately 350 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception</p>	<p>This event will be the first official event of 2017 Belfast Pride Festival. The Festival will promote awareness of the arts, cultural heritage, history and experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered communities in Belfast and advance equality by offering a diverse and inclusive Festival open to all citizens of Belfast.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception Approximate cost £500</p>
<p>Northern Ireland Children's Enterprise</p>	<p>Celebration of Volunteers 13th April, 2017 Approximately 70 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>	<p>This event will highlight and celebrate the work of the volunteers and the benefits gained over the years through the organisation's many community relations programmes.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>

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			would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
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The Committee approved, in principle, also a late application which had been submitted by An Droichead for use of the City Hall for a 25th Anniversary dinner on the basis that it meets criteria.

Proposals for the Updated NI Multiple Deprivation Measure

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- Update members on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency's (NISRA) current consultation on proposals to update the Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2017).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the details of the consultation, the deadline for responses and the event in Belfast on 19 December; and
- Consider the initial observations at paragraph 3.6 which will form the basis of the council's response to NISRA's consultation. A copy of the draft response will be brought to January's SP&R committee.

3.0 Key issues

Background

- 3.1 The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) has been commissioned by the Statistics Co-ordinating Group (SCG) of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, which comprises senior policy officials from Government Departments, to undertake an update of the current Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure (NIMDM 2010).**

- 3.2 The updated measures will be hugely important to a wide variety of interested parties and users. They will continue to play a pivotal role in both informing the targeting of resources to the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland and the monitoring of the spatial impact of policy interventions. The current aim is to publish the updated measures in mid-2017, which will be referred to as NIMDM 2017 throughout this report.
- 3.3 In arriving at the proposals, consideration has been given to each of the 36 recommendations that arose following the last update in producing the NIMDM 2010. Positive action has been taken in respect of 17 recommendations, which it is considered will improve the updated measures. Six recommendations cannot be advanced at present due to data availability and/or quality issues and will be carried over. One recommendation was considered out of scope for this update, and a further 9 recommendations were rejected by the domain expert groups as not aligning with the agreed indicator principles. The remaining 3 recommendations will be addressed after the initial dissemination phase of the project.
- 3.4 In summary, the NIMDM 2010 consisted of 30 indicators, 20 of which are proposed to be retained in the updated measures. A further 7 are proposed to be modified in line with newly available data, while 3 are proposed to be omitted due to data quality and/or availability issues. A total of 12 new indicators are also proposed, as a result of addressing the 2010 NIMDM recommendations or as a result of new information having become available.
- 3.5 The consultation will run for 8 weeks and closes at midnight on 15 January 2017. Should members be interested they can [register](#) to attend a supporting Information Session that is being held in Belfast on Monday 19th December (venue to be confirmed).
- 3.6 Council Observations
- The consultation document states that this is an update to the 2010 measure of deprivation and any significant revisions to the methodology are outside of the scope of this work. The council would suggest that with 12 new indicators and 7 existing indicators being modified, there are significant revisions, particularly around the 'Income' and 'Access to Services' domains.
 - In order to be considered for inclusion, indicators have to be 'as up-to-date as possible'. The council would request clarification on this definition as the use of 2011 Census data does not fit well with this.

Furthermore, it would be helpful if all indicators could be updated on a frequent (over a reasonable short period of time) and regular basis.

- The council would suggest that the Income domain may also benefit from a housing-cost or affordability indicator.
- The council is concerned with the Access to Service domain in that there appears to be a misconception that 'distance' is equivalent to 'access'. Two of the three indicators include travel time analysis using private and public transport. The Council would contend that this method of measurement needs to take into consideration the congestion within Belfast and other urban areas, especially during peak travel times.
- The Council would again highlight comments made in previous responses to MDM consultations that a measure of distance to a service is not necessarily a measure of accessibility of that service given the community geography of Belfast. The segregated patterns of life in the city are marked at all levels and the perception of territory and safety have an impact on residents' access to services. The Council believes that this domain should therefore take peace lines and physical barriers into account when measuring these indicators.
- The Access to Services domain includes an indicator which measures the proportion of properties with a broadband speed below 10 Mbs. It should be noted that schemes such as the Northern Ireland Broadband Improvement Project and the Superfast Extension Programme are rapidly expanding the availability of high speed broadband across the region, which may make this measure irrelevant in the short-term.

3.7 Geographies Consultation

In April, the council submitted a response to NISRA's consultation on the output geography upon which the updated NIMDM 2017 would be produced, recommending that the new measure should be based on geographies that nest within the new 462 Electoral Wards. While NISRA recommended Super Output Areas as the output geography for the updated NIMDM 2017, they did recognise the user need for deprivation statistics for the new Electoral Wards and will endeavour to create deprivation measures for this geography.

3.8 Financial Implications

There are no specific financial or resource implications.

3.8 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no specific equality or good relations implications.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and that a draft response would be submitted to the Committee for consideration in January.

Apprenticeship Levy Consultation

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To seek Members’ approval of the council’s response to the Consultation on Northern Ireland response to the Apprenticeship Levy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve the council’s consultation response for submission to the Department for the Economy in order to meet the response deadline of 23 December 2016.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Apprenticeship Levy will impact on private and public sector employers in Northern Ireland with a pay bill of over £3million. The levy, which is set at a rate of 0.5 per cent of an employer’s pay bill, will be payable along with income tax and National Insurance through a PAYE system on a monthly basis from May 2017. Large employers such as Belfast City Council will have a levy allowance of £15,000 per year to offset against the levy that they have paid

3.2 The consultation exercise seeks employers’ views on five questions:

Q1. What do you think are the main issues for Northern Ireland employers from the introduction of the Levy?

Q2. As a result of the Levy, what factors should the Department take into account to ensure appropriate training support is available in Northern Ireland?

Q3. Will the Levy have an impact on your recruitment of apprenticeships? In what way?

Q4. As a result of the Levy would you be more likely to use the programmes described in Annex B? In what way?

Q5. Do you have any further comments on the introduction of the UK wide Apprenticeship Levy?

3.3 The council's draft responses to these five questions are set out in Appendix 1, but the key overriding message set out in this proposed response is that since 2005, Belfast City Council has offered 37 full apprentice opportunities for electricians, fleet technicians, joiners, painters, gardeners and since the launch of our Investment Programme in 2012, the council has provided over 1000 work placements and delivered 6 pre- recruitment and training programmes for job opportunities ring fenced to the long term unemployed. We are working to build on this success by co-designing and working with community planning partners and central government through a 'local works' approach to remove the barriers of those furthest removed from the labour market into employment – a key strand of the Programme for Government.

3.4 and the Council's community plan around economic inactivity and inequalities will however require significant resources and this new, mandatory taxation could negatively impact on the ability of the council to do this work.

3.5 Funds should therefore be devolved locally in order to ensure that people get the right skills, experience and advice to move into and progress in work, helping to remove inequalities and deprivation where it is most needed, particularly important given the likely impact of welfare reform.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.6 Belfast City Council's levy is estimated at £455,000 per annum. In financial terms, however, its description as 'Apprentice Levy' is debateable, as the consultation document highlights that the levy will not result in any noticeable additional funding

being made to Northern Ireland Block. The levy is therefore essentially an additional employee overhead cost.

- 3.7 As the amount of the levy directly correlates to the organisation's pay bill (calculated as 0.5%) it could also potentially discourage the creation of new jobs, as that would increase the value of the levy paid.**
- 3.8 The Levy will therefore mean an additional uncontrollable cost to Belfast City Council which will have to be passed to the ratepayer or be financed by diverting funds from front line services. The additional financial burden of the Apprentice Levy will also limit the ability of the council to fund investment in the key priorities for the city as set out in the 'Belfast Agenda', in particular that of improving employability and skills in the city.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

Given the indication that the levy will not result in any noticeable additional funding being made to Northern Ireland Block, and is essentially an additional employee overhead cost, the potential negative impact of the levy on Council's ambition for inclusive growth for the city must be highlighted."

The Committee approved the Council's consultation response on the Apprenticeship Levy for submission to the Department for the Economy in order to meet the response deadline of 23rd December, 2016.

Consultation Response on Future Delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland

The Democratic Services Manager reported that the Northern Ireland Office and the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland were currently consulting on the options for the future delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland. He reminded the Members that the Chief Electoral Officer, Mr. Graham Shields, had attended a special meeting of the Committee on 11th November to answer Members questions on the consultation exercise. The Committee had agreed at that meeting that a draft response be prepared and submitted for consideration.

The Democratic Services Manager pointed out that it was acknowledged that there might well be different views amongst the political parties as to whether or not the options for consideration in the review would be acceptable in a regional context and, therefore, the response dealt only with the practical issues which would arise for Belfast City Council should the proposals contained in the consultation paper proceed. A copy of the draft response is set out below:

Belfast City Council Response to the Consultation on the Future Delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland

Introduction

Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the consultation on the future delivery of electoral services in Northern Ireland.

The Council recognises that there may well be different views on the regional impact of the proposals amongst the political parties in Northern Ireland. The Council notes that the Northern Ireland Assembly passed the following motion in June, 2016:

“This Assembly notes with concern the proposals from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to close regional electoral offices in Ballymena, Banbridge, Londonderry, Newtownabbey, Newtownards and Omagh; believes that this will damage democracy in Northern Ireland, lead to fewer people on the electoral register and to a diminished role for the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland in local schools and communities; and calls on the Secretary of State, the Northern Ireland Office and the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to retain and fund all regional offices currently under threat of closure”.

Accordingly, this response is from Belfast City Council alone and should not be taken to represent the views of all or any of the political parties represented on it.

Digital Registration and Enhancing Local Services

The Council welcomes the proposals to move to digital registration in Northern Ireland as it considers that this has the potential, combined with the traditional methods of registration, to maximise the opportunities for citizens to participate in the future elections and referendums. This will be particularly attractive to younger people.

The Council would urge that all reasonable steps must be taken when designing the digital registration system to provide reassurance that electoral fraud will be eliminated.

The Council notes that the proposals do not envisage the provision of counter services in Belfast, unlike other parts of Northern Ireland where several District Councils may be required to undertake the provision of advice and support. Should this change and should the Council be requested to provide this service, then the Council would strongly be of the opinion that the necessary financial and human resources must be transferred or made available to it on an ongoing basis. The transfer of the proposed functions from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI) must not impose additional costs on the Council.

An Increased Role for the Council at all Elections and Referendums

The Council agrees with the assertion in the consultation document that it has the relevant expertise to assume greater responsibility for all elections and referendums in Northern

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Ireland, including Parliamentary and Northern Ireland Assembly elections. Belfast City Council is well placed to manage the delivery of the nomination and local count functions outlined in paragraph 2.5.3.

The Council welcomes the guarantee that it will be fully funded for taking on these additional responsibilities through the UK and NI Consolidated Funds and that there will not be any additional costs to local ratepayers. The Council would request that this guarantee is enshrined in any new legislation required for the transfer of functions so as to provide assurance for it and for local ratepayers that there will not be any additional financial burden to be borne at a local level.

The Council does not have any concerns that its Chief Executive or other senior officers involved in the delivery of elections will be subject to any political interference in undertaking these roles. This has not been the case during many local elections where the Chief Executive has acted as the Deputy Retuning Officer under the direction of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Conclusion

The Council believes that the reform proposals have the potential to normalise local democratic processes and bring Northern Ireland more in line with neighbouring jurisdictions. The Council will stand ready to work closely with the Northern Ireland Office and the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland to ensure the future delivery of efficient, effective and accessible electoral services.

The Committee approved the consultation response on the Future Delivery of Electoral Services in Northern Ireland.

Consultation Response to the Education Authority's Providing Pathways Draft Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020

The Chief Executive had submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- **Update members on the Education Authority's (EA) current consultation on their draft strategic area plan for school provision.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note the details of the consultation and approve a high level response as detailed in paragraph 3.10.**

3.0 Key issues

3.1 The Education Authority (EA) has launched a consultation on Northern Ireland's first regional area plan for education, 'Providing Pathways 2017-2020'. The plan aims to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs in sustainable schools that are of the right type, of the right size, located in the right place. It sets out the key priorities and objectives for the EA, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and other sectoral bodies, in light of the Department of Education's goals to create sustainable schools throughout Northern Ireland.

3.2 The Area Plan for 2017-2020 establishes Local Planning Districts which align with the 11 Local Government Districts, allowing education to make a contribution to the 11 LGD Community Plans.

3.3 For each Local Government District the plan sets out:

- Population projections;
- Summary data for Primary Schools;
- Summary Data for Post-primary schools;
- Key issues emerging from analysis of current local provision;
- What will we do?

3.4 The Belfast LG district data is set out below:

- The population in the age range 0-15 years is projected to increase by 7.6% by 2024.
- The population in the age range 16-19 years is projected to decrease by 1.4% by 2024.

3.5 Summary Data for Primary Schools

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Management type	Number of schools	Total approved enrolments	Total actual enrolments	Super-numerary admissions	Number of available places	Number of schools with > 5% surplus or > £75,000	Number of schools with > 5% deficit or > £75,000
Controlled	44	16,031	11,884	506	4,642	22	4
Catholic Maintained	36	18,050	14,618	530	3,963	19	1
Irish Medium	9	1,617	1,204	32	445	2	3
Controlled Integrated	2	678	619	17	76	-	-
Grant Maintained Integrated	3	1,015	1,044	46	17	-	-
Totals	94	37,373	29,369	1,131	9,143	43	8

3.6 Summary Data for Post-Primary Schools

Management type	Number of schools	Total approved enrolments	Total actual enrolments	Super-numerary admissions	Number of available places	Number of schools with >5% Surplus or >£75,000)	Number of schools with >5% Deficit or >£75,000)	Entitlement Framework - Number of schools compliant KS4	Entitlement Framework Number of schools compliant Post-16
Controlled	7	5,670	5,894	233	124	3	1	5	4
Voluntary	14	15,106	15,113	306	351	n/a		12	8
Catholic Maintained	11	9,654	7,575	465	2,571	6	2	5	3
Irish Medium	1	600	605	24	19	1	-	-	-
Grant Maintained Integrated	2	1,650	1,491	98	257	n/a		1	1
Totals	35	32,680	30,678	1,126	3,322	10	3	23	16

3.7 The Plan identifies the following key issues emerging from their analysis of current provision across Belfast:

- Number of available places
- Location of available places
- Schools facing sustainability challenges
- Equitable access to Entitlement Framework pathways
- Potential for Irish Medium and Integrated school development
- Potential opportunities for shared education
- Need to establish learning support provision in mainstream schools

3.8 In order to address the issues, the EA says that it will develop proposals to:

- ensure that school places are located as required;
- address school provision where sustainability is an issue (primary and post-primary) - (reviews will take account of six Sustainable Schools criteria – see below);
- establish additional learning support and autism specific provision within primary and post-primary schools;
- ensure equitable access to the Entitlement Framework pathways at Key Stage 4;
- reconfigure primary school provision to reduce the number of available places in schools;
- reconfigure post-16 provision to give pupils equitable access to the Entitlement Framework pathways in collaboration with the Further Education sector;
- encourage and facilitate sustainable Irish Medium and Integrated schools; and
- promote shared education solutions which provide sustainable schools.

3.9 Sustainability criteria

The six criteria of the Sustainable Schools policy are:

1. Quality educational experience
2. Stable enrolment trends
3. Sound financial position
4. Strong leadership and management by Board of Governors and principals
5. Accessibility
6. Strong links with the community

The documents also provides a profile of current special school provision across the EA and proposals.

3.10 Proposed feedback

It is proposed that the Council makes the following comments in relation to the Draft Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020.

3.11 Belfast's community plan – the Belfast Agenda

Education is at the heart of Belfast's new community plan – the Belfast Agenda. It is seen as fundamental to removing barriers to opportunity for people across the city, reducing life

inequalities and ensuring our young people fulfil their potential.

- 3.12 The Council notes the Area Plan's alignment with the Programme for Government and in particular – its contribution to improving educational outcomes; addressing educational inequalities; improving the quality of education and improving child development.
- 3.13 The Council, with its partners, which include the Education Authority, CCMS and the Department for Education has just begun public consultation on the Belfast Agenda. The Agenda also prioritises addressing educational inequalities and improving educational attainment within Belfast. Some of the starkest figures with respect to educational inequality are within Belfast, with figures for achievement of at least 5 GCSE Grades A*-C (including English and Maths) ranging between 19 per cent and 100 per cent between wards (2014/15). There is a significant gap in attainment between those children entitled to free school meals and those who are not.
- 3.14 The Council therefore welcomes the intention to align the area planning process with the community planning process from 2017 onwards and would like more detail and discussion as to how it is intended this will be progressed; in particular whether it is intended that local government districts will be represented in area planning structures going forward or whether community planning structures will play a specific role. A partnership approach will be important so that we maximise the benefit of the school estate and other complementary local investment at a local level. The council notes that at present there is no local government district representation within the support structures for area planning.
- 3.15 Evidence and information emerging from the Local Development Planning process should also inform the development of local area plans.
- 3.16 Population Projections

As noted in paragraph 3.4 above, the official 2014-based population projections identify a 7.6% increase in the Belfast population in the age range 0-15 years and a 1.4% decrease in the age range 16-19 years by 2024. However, the Council's own research found that the continuation of existing demographic trends would serve to restrain economic and employment growth.

3.17 The council has undertaken its own population modelling work to inform the preparation for the new Local Development Plan for the City. This is reflected in the Belfast Agenda's aspiration to grow the population of the city so that by 2035 Belfast will be home to 70,000 more people. This would represent a total increase in the Belfast population of more than 47,000 above the official 2014-based projections produced by NISRA, which if achieved would have significant implications for population profile and consequently the education provision required.

3.18 Details of the projected population change as a result of these policy aspirations, including the growth within the 0-15 and 16-19 age groups, should therefore be taken into consideration when finalising the area plan.

3.19 Proposal to reconfigure primary school places

The council is unclear about the impact of the proposal to 'reconfigure primary school provision to reduce the number of available places in schools' in Belfast which is included within section 4.9 'Emerging Issues and Proposed Actions for each Local Government District'. The council would like clarification of this statement given the Education Authority's own projection of population growth of 7.6% within the age-range 0-15 to 2024 and given community planning partners' ambition to grow the population of the city by 70,000 by 2035.

3.20 Special Education Needs Categories

The Council notes in section 5.3 of the document with respect to special schools which support pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD). The draft plan states that with respect to SLD schools, '...work will be required to bring enhanced consistency across the Belfast City Council area in particular'. The council would welcome further information about this and about the development of any regional model with respect to special schools, particularly where this impacts on Belfast.

3.21 Financial Implications

There are no specific financial or resource implications.

3.22 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no specific equality or good relations implications."

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The Committee approved the consultation response to the Education Authority's Providing Pathways Draft Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 6th December, 2016

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
the High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers);
Aldermen McKee and Sandford; and
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Copeland, Corr,
Heading, Jones, Lyons, Magennis, McCabe, Milne,
Newton and Nicholl.

Also attended: Councillors Attwood and Collins.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mrs. S. Toland, Assistant Director;
Mrs. C. Taggart, Community Development Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors McCusker and O'Neill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st December.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Austin, Beattie, Corr and Magennis declared an interest in respect of item 7 (b) Community Development Grant Programme 2017/18, in that they were associated with organisations that received grant funding from the Programme.

Councillor Magennis declared an interest in respect of item 5 (b) Review of Management Arrangements for the pitch at Sally Gardens, in that he was a member of the organisation's management committee.

New Member of the Council

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Georgina Milne, who had replaced former Councillor Brown, to her first meeting.

Items Withdrawn from Agenda

**Request for Approval of World Celtic Spey
Casting event at the Waterworks Park**

The Committee noted that the above item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Noted.

Presentation

Presentation – City Wide Tribunal Services

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. Maria Morgan and Mrs Sinead McKinley who were representing the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (BCTS).

Mrs. Morgan thanked the Members for the opportunity to present. She reported that she wished to raise the awareness of the valuable work of the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service and highlight the potential impact that the impending withdrawal of funding could have.

The representative reported that the citywide model had proven to be very successful over the past 3 years and highlighted that it had greatly enhanced all front line services and helped build capacity within the sector in Belfast.

Mrs. Morgan outlined that BCTS had two fundamental elements:

1. anti-poverty project – it helped Belfast citizens to claim back benefits and entitlements; and
2. enabled people to exercise their right to appeal – the right to a fair hearing and tribunal representation.

The representative concluded her presentation by advising that it was anticipated that there would be a dramatic rise in the number of appeals with the introduction of welfare reform. She reiterated the worthy work of the Service within the whole community and asked the Council to consider extending the funding to enable the Service to look for other avenues of funding.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Attwood addressed the Committee and asked the representative to provide some case examples to the Committee to help them better understand the work of the service.

The representatives proceeded to explain the appeals process in detail to the Members and then addressed a number of questions.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance at the meeting.

Noted.

Update Report on Citywide Tribunal Service

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the findings of the evaluation of the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service and to present options for consideration in relation to the future funding support of the programme.

1.2 Members will be aware that this report was deferred at the November committee pending party group briefings. Maria Morgan, Ligoniel Improvement Association, will present to the meeting of this committee.

1.3 By way of update the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services wrote to officials in DfC to seek any opportunity for sufficient funding to allow the Service to continue to the end of the financial year, which would allow a little more time to work with groups to secure sustainable external funding. They responded that there was no funding available and they had already provided additional funding for generalist advice in year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Note that funding for the citywide Tribunal Service will cease in December 2016. Members are aware that it is unlikely council will be in a position to re-allocate any forecast in-year underspend for non-recurrent purposes in 2017/18. Officers are currently working with BAG in order to review their service delivery requirements, to identify alternative potential funding sources and to use the evaluation to support any subsequent funding bid**
- **Note the Deloitte MCS report which recognises the success to date of the Belfast Tribunal Service however recommends that, for the model to continue to be effective, it must adapt to the changes in the advice environment notably the next phase of welfare reform, the DfC investment in regional mitigation measures and the introduction of the Mandatory Reconsideration Step.**

3.0 Belfast Tribunal Service Evaluation

Introduction

3.1 The Belfast Advice Group was established in 2012 to develop proposals for a citywide tribunal representation service. Ligoneil Improvement Association (LIA) was appointed as Lead Partner for the Belfast Advice Group (BAG) and entered into a Funding Agreement on behalf of the BAG to:

- Develop and deliver a citywide, free, independent, confidential and accessible tribunal service to all residents in Belfast and
- Develop other areas of partnership work pertaining to the advice sector in Belfast to establish common practices and processes across Belfast, subject to the terms and conditions contained in The Funding Agreement.

3.2 The Council agreed to fund the 2 year project to the total value of £426,209.60 to provide free effective representation for people appealing disallowed Social Security Agency decisions in regard to benefit entitlement. The service includes a senior tribunal representative, four tribunal representatives and two tribunal assistants. All staff are based in LIA and the project services the entire city: North, South, East, West and Central Belfast. Referrals to the service primarily come from all 21 Belfast City Council funded advice centres and external organisations including healthcare professionals, support organisations, MLAs and councillors.

3.3 Council agreed to extend the programme to the value of £175,000 in March 2015 and further additional resources made available through the Community Support Programme secured the programme to 31st December 2016.

3.4 In order to evaluate the impact of the work to date and to inform any request for sustained funding, the Council adopted Deloitte MCS to complete an independent review. The terms of reference for this work involved:

- Review the effectiveness of the Tribunal Service in meeting its objectives and targets and any additional benefits that the service has achieved.
- Consideration of the governance arrangements of the programme and in particular the Belfast Advice Group (BAG) and the future need for a strategic body in light of changes to the Advice sector and Welfare Reform.

- The examination of the impact of the Council's investment in the project and to determine the need for future funding in the context of the Council's Generalist Advice Programme, the New Advice Strategy for NI and Welfare Reform.
- The identification of options and make recommendations options for future funding needs and levels, future delivery methods in the context of the Generalist Advice Programme including Welfare Reform mitigation programmes.

Key Findings

- 3.5 **Rationale:** In summary, Deloitte MCS report that the key rationale to establish the Citywide Tribunal Service was to increase support to those appealing benefit decisions in the wake of Welfare Reform. As Members are aware, the implementation of Welfare Reform was delayed in Northern Ireland. Welfare Reform has now been agreed as part of the Fresh Start agreement and Implementation Plan (November 2015) and substantive changes will be rolled out during the second half of 2016. The Deloitte review notes that the context in support of the original need to establish the CTS remains evident, however, if the programme is extended, the ongoing strategic need should be reviewed periodically as it may change, for example, depending on the success of the regional mitigation measures at delivering results for clients.
- 3.6 They further note the NI strategic focus is shifting from attaining the correct decision for benefit appellants at Tribunal, to reducing the number of appeals by making better decisions earlier in the process (e.g. via the use of the Mandatory Reconsideration Step). They summarise these key strategic, policy and sectoral issues impacting on the Citywide Tribunal Service and the Advice sector as a whole:
- 3.7 **The Fresh Start Agreement** means significant welfare reform, i.e. changes to people's welfare benefits, overcoming months and years (not least the move from DLA to PIP).
- 3.8 **The Mandatory Reconsideration Process** which is being introduced by the Social Security Agency is being put in place. In part this is seeking to reduce the number of cases going to appeal. The Mandatory Reconsideration Step means that someone wanting to review a decision must give the social security office the opportunity to formally review the decision and resolve welfare decision disputes quicker without the need to go to appeal. This process is due to commence in December 2016.

3.9 **The Belfast Agenda:** There is an alignment between the Citywide Tribunal Service and outcomes within the Belfast Agenda, most notably reducing poverty and reducing health inequalities.

3.10 **Mitigation Measures Welfare Reform:** there is an agreed regional approach to mitigating welfare reform under Strands one and two of the Evason Report. The detail of the strands are summarised as:

Strand 1 – The provision of a centralised telephone service. A joint bid to the value of £2.5 million has been submitted by the regional consortium (Citizens Advice Bureau as lead partner, Law Centre & Advice NI) to establish a helpline. Ten staff will be employed directly by Advice NI. The Department for Communities (DfC) are currently finalising the assessment of this proposal and hope to award a contract over the coming weeks.

Strand 2 – The provision of independent face to face services (additional advisors) This will result in 35 additional advisors regionally across the eleven council areas: 25 will be employed by CAB and 10 by Advice NI. This resource will be deployed across the city, however, the number of staff allocated to Belfast has not yet been finalised.

Strand 3 – Welfare Reform Support Programme (contract via local councils) There are two elements to the agreed DfC support programme:

3.11 **Welfare Reform Readiness Programme:** At its October meeting, Committee accepted additional funding of £203,677.26 to provide support to front line advice organisations currently funded through the council's Community Support Advice grant. The programme will ensure that advice organisations are prepared to assist customers through the implementation of Welfare Reform.

3.12 **Welfare Reform Training Programme:** A further additional £65,400.00 was agreed to support access to training support for all front line generalist advisers and volunteers. The programme will enable front line advice organisations to complete immediate training requirements related to Welfare Reform.

3.13 Operation & Governance

Deloitte MCS summarise the operation of the Citywide Tribunal Service as follows:

- The need for representation at appeal was demonstrated through consultations with a wide range of stakeholders.
- According to statistics provided by the Lead Partner, the Service achieves a higher appeal success rates (65% to 54%) than a 2013 benchmark noted in a study by Citizens Advice report which highlighted the value of representation, making a significant difference to the likelihood of success at appeal.
- The monetary value added by the service has been calculated at £5.4 million (after the exclusion of the proportion of successful appeals which would have occurred anyway without Tribunal Service intervention). A significant Return on Investment of 12.79 shows that the Service is achieving high returns for its clients when set against the level of investment from the Council.
- The service has progressed well against the objectives set. Statistical targets have been exceeded in appeal representation and pre-appeal revised decisions. However, there is a need to revise these objectives in line with changes to the benefit system associated with Welfare Reform, including more of a focus on achieving better decisions before requiring a tribunal. This could mean increasing the target for pre-appeal revised benefit decisions.
- The service is currently wholly reliant on funding from Belfast City Council. Funding to support the service has come through various mechanisms – the investment programme and non recurring revenue estimates. The funding for this project is not mainstreamed into the annual revenue estimates programme. Given the time limited nature of BCC funding commitment, officers are supporting BAG to identify other funding sources when the BCC financial supports comes to an end in December.
- Over the summer period, steps have been taken by BAG, with Council officer support, to examine other potential avenues for funding. Council Officers and representatives from the Big Lottery People and Communities Programme have had an initial meeting to determine the potential for funding the Citywide Tribunal Service. BAG is to commence a pre-

application process with Big Lottery with the aim of securing funding from this programme.

3.14 **3. Deloitte MCS's Identification and Analysis of Options**

Deloitte presents four options based on their analysis, and has shortlisted two of those options for further consideration. These are summarised below:

(1) **Cease the Tribunal Service**

This option would see the Council end its support for the Tribunal Service. This would mean that the ability of Belfast citizens to receive representation in appealing a benefits decision would be reduced and would be largely limited to the tribunal support offered by generalist advice workers. (Deloitte have not shortlisted this option)

(2) **Continue, however, apply an alternative delivery model**

This option would see an alternative delivery model introduced. BAG would continue to support representation at Appeal, but delivery would be the responsibility of each Belfast Advice Consortium geographically. BAG would seek ongoing funding to resource a Tribunal Representative within each consortium who would represent citizens referred to it by its consortium members. (Deloitte have not shortlisted this option)

(3) **Continue under the current model**

This option would see the continuation of the Tribunal Service through the current delivery model. BAG would source ongoing funding and continue to provide the service through a Lead Partner. Under this option, it is recommended that proportionate change is made to some aspects of the Service, including governance and monitoring as outlined in the Deloitte report. The funder (yet to be secured) would consider a more committed funding period as was the case during Funding Stage One. (This has been shortlisted for further consideration)

(4) **Continuation of the model**

Continue the current model but responding effectively to the impact of regional changes and widening the funding mix. (This has been shortlisted for further consideration). This option sees the continuation of the service using the same delivery model (i.e. a dedicated team located together) and has two dimensions. Firstly, there are a series of regional changes that

should have an impact on the need for the tribunal service. These include the recent implementation of the Mandatory Reconsideration Step by the SSA, and the additional resources being invested in the advice sector through the mitigation measures (set out in Section 2.2.2). These should support clients and therefore reduce the need for tribunal representation. If the need for the service is demonstrably reduced through these (and evidence should be collated on what the impacts are), the funding support should be changed to reflect this. Secondly, a key theme within the evaluation has been a reliance on the single funder: BCC. They note the risk associated with any transition away from this single funder arrangement. They welcome the initial steps which BAG are taking with BCC officer support to address this.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no resource implications attached to this report as the time-limited BCC funding expires on 31st December 2016.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

The programme is Citywide and open and accessible to all sections of the community.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed that, given the timescales, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Service would write immediately following the meeting seeking permission for an all-party deputation from the Council to meet with the Minister for Communities, and the Minister for Justice to discuss the funding shortfall.

Community Development Grant Programme 2017/18

The Committee considered a report which had been presented by the Community Development Manager in relation to the budget deficit in the Community Development Grant Programme 2017/18.

Several Members voiced their concern that there would be insufficient funds to support an extension of contracts across the grant categories.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services reiterated that there was no additional non-recurrent resource available from the Council to extend the existing grants programme and he drew the Members' attention to the details of the Council's deficit position in regards to the rates settlement with the Land and Property Services agency.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to refer the matter to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration within the context of the overall rate setting process.

Matters Referred Back/Notice of Motion

Comber Greenway

The Committee was advised that, at the Council meeting on 1st November, the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Newton and seconded by Councillor Kyle, had been referred to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for consideration:

“This Council notes the benefits which the Comber Greenway facility has created in allowing Belfast’s citizens and visitors to the City the opportunity to become increasingly active and to promote increased health benefits.

The Council calls upon the Department for Infrastructure to develop, through a collective approach, a strategic, political and costed plan for the Comber Greenway, as part of the recently launched Strategic Plan for Greenways within Northern Ireland.”

At the Council meeting, the proposer, with the consent of the Council, had agreed to amend his motion to include provision for Council officers to submit to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee a report outlining the active role which the Council could take in progressing the issues raised within the motion. It had also been agreed at this meeting that the Department for Infrastructure would be requested to bring forward a strategy for delivering a cycle network in Belfast.

The Members were advised that officers felt that, given that the Comber Greenway had already been considered by the People and Communities Committee, that the Motion should be considered by that Committee instead of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

The Committee agreed that the notice of Motion regarding the Comber Greenway be considered by the People and Communities Committee instead of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and that a report be submitted to a future meeting.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

William McFadzean Memorial

The Committee was reminded that a request had been received from the McFadzean VC Memorial Committee on behalf of Cregagh and Clonduff Community Associations: Museum of Orange Heritage and local ex-servicemen’s groups, for permission to place a Victoria Cross Commemorative Stone in the area of Cregagh Road/Cregagh Park, in memory of William McFadzean VC.

The officer reported that the request had been referred to the East Area Working Group for its consideration and a consultation exercise had been undertaken. She reported that in general the feedback received had provided a positive endorsement of the proposal, however, the family of the late Mr. W. McFadzean had stated clearly that they did not wish for the proposal to progress.

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The Assistant Director reported that correspondence had since been received from a representative of the Memorial Committee accepting that the project would not progress but raising concerns about the level of support for the project, she detailed that a suggestion had been made regarding the installation of an alternative memorial on the site.

Following consideration the Committee approved:

- the recommendation of the East Area Working Group that the project would not be progressed in keeping with the views of the McFadzean family; and
- agreed that the matter would be referred back to the East Area Working Group for its consideration regarding an alternative memorial on the same site.

**Review of Management Arrangements
for the pitch at Sally Gardens**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the management arrangements at Sally Gardens. The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in April 2016 it agreed to operate a 3 month pilot scheme with Poleglass Community Association (PCA). The 3 month pilot scheme has operated from 5th September 2016 and the association has been paid a monthly fee of £3666.67.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Agree to extend the pilot agreement on a month by month basis for a maximum of 3 months to potentially cover the period December 2016 – February 2017.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Committee is reminded that, at its meeting in April 2016, it agreed to operate a 3 month pilot management arrangement at Sally Gardens. Essentially the Poleglass Community Association would carry out a range of duties.

3.2 The Association had indicated in discussions prior to the agreement that it had aspirations for a wide use of the facility beyond the normal bookings of training and matches. The Association had prepared a Sports Development Plan which identified a number of objectives. By meeting these

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objectives the Association would encourage greater use of the facility and generate increased income which would meet the fee cost of the management arrangement.

- 3.3 A brief summary of the figures from September and October are given below:**

	August	September	October
Bookings	77	72	91
Full Pitch	50	40	46
Half Pitch	22	32	45
Adult	28	22	29
Concession	41	50	62
Income £	3,875	2,924	3,766

Note: Matches and Match rates are not included

- 3.4 It is the view of officers that 2 months of information are insufficient to make a decision regarding whether the scheme should be continued or not. Officers will be meeting with the Association by the end of November to review the arrangements and to review the sports development plan and consider how the use of the facility can be increased.**
- 3.5 In relation to the upkeep of the facility, it is kept clean and tidy in accordance with the agreement.**
- 3.6 Members are asked to note that Council will meet the cost of the maintenance of the pitch and the utility costs associated with it. Within this context the facility is currently operating at a loss as a monthly payment of £3,666.67 is made to PCA. Previously it had been anticipated that the facility would generate sufficient income to meet the cost of the fee, while this was achieved in October it was not met in September and in aggregate over the 2 months the agreement has had a net cost of £642 which excludes utility and ongoing maintenance costs. However, if the ambitions in the Sports Development Plan can be realised not only will it result in improved levels of activity but it will result in increased income.**
- 3.7 Financial & Resource Implications**

The monthly cost of fees to manage the pitch facility will be £3,667 per month.

3.8 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relation implications at this time.”

Following a query regarding difficulties with the booking system at the facility, the Assistant Director advised that she was aware of some issues and she assured the Committee that matters would be resolved.

The Committee adopted the recommendations as set out within the report.

Connswater Community Greenway - naming of bridge structures at Dixon Playing Fields, The Hollow and Flora Street Walkway

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th September, it had agreed to proceed with the second phase of the consultative naming process to name a further four new bridges structures which were being constructed as part of the Connswater Community Greenway.

She advised that the naming process had involved a three week consultation period in October, during which the public had the opportunity to submit ideas for the names for each bridge in line with the Council’s naming policy. Following that, a panel of judges had met at the end of the month and considered the submissions and shortlisted two or three for each structure. The public then had the opportunity to vote for its favourite between 1st and 16th November, during this process a total of 1801 votes were cast.

The Members noted that the final bridge name proposals had been determined by the majority votes for each and within the context of the Belfast City Council Naming Policy.

The Committee approved the following bridge name preferences that had emerged from this consultative naming process:

1. **‘Grace Bannister Bridge** - connecting Dixon Playing Fields to Grand Parade;
2. **‘Shannon Bridge’** - connecting Dixon Playing Fields to Dunraven Gardens;
3. **‘Hutchinson Bridge’** connecting Linen Gardens to Abetta Parade (The Hollow);
and
4. **‘Mill Bridge’** connecting Flora Street Walkway to Bloomfield Parade.

Environment

Leading the way - Active Workplace Travel Programme

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 progress made to date in engaging and supporting staff to change their travel behaviours, including reported barriers to adopting more sustainable travel behaviours and proposed recommendations to increasing the number of staff currently using sustainable travel options.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the progress made to date in supporting staff to choose more sustainable travel options.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Following the launch of the Belfast Active Travel Action Plan in 2015, which Council supported through the Belfast Strategic Partnership (BSP), the Public Health Agency (PHA) commissioned Sustrans to deliver a three year active travel workplace programme called ‘Leading the Way’, in which Council were invited to participate.

3.2 ‘Leading the Way’ has been integrated into and forms a key part of Council’s staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy and complements a range of other initiatives being taken forward under the theme of ‘Better Mind and Body’. The programme also demonstrates Council’s role as an exemplar to the city, in changing the culture of how people travel to work.

3.3 The primary focus for this programme is to improve staff health and wellbeing, by engaging and supporting staff working within city centre locations to choose more sustainable travel options, with emphasis placed on promoting active travel options (walking and cycling).

3.4 Sustrans are providing direct support to Council, through Claire McLernon, Active Travel Workplace Officer. Claire has recently taken up a one day per week placement within the City and Neighbourhood Services Department, to provide additional support to staff including the delivery of lunch time walks and cycles, promotion of sustainable travel options and general staff engagement around barriers to active travel.

3.5 'Leading the Way' is approaching the end of its second year of delivery and, as part of the programme, considerable staff engagement has taken place through online surveys, focus groups and individual conversations. Comparable data is now available across years 1 and 2 of the programme, on the positive changes to staff travel behaviours and reported barriers to adopting more sustainable travel options.

3.6 Changes to staff travel behaviours during the time of 'Leading the Way'

- **Car usage:** There has been a reported reduction in staff car usage for journeys to and from work of 6%, taking the percentage of staff travelling to work by car from 42% to 36%.
- **Cycling to work:** The percentage of staff working in city centre locations and cycling to work has increased by 1% from 12% to 13%. This is significantly higher than the Belfast average for cycle to work journeys (4%).
- **Walking to work:** The percentage of staff working in city centre locations and walking to work has increased by 3% from 6% to 9%.
- **Active Belfast Challenge:** The percentage of staff participating in the Active Belfast Challenge (sustainable journey challenge delivered throughout May) increased from 1% in 2015 to 6% in 2016. This increase led to Council winning the Challenge award for best large organisation.

3.7 Reported barriers to adopting more sustainable travel options

- **Knowledge barriers:** The highest reported barriers to travelling to work by bicycle continues to be safety and confidence, with 57% of those who do not cycle to work stating safety as the primary reason and 41% reporting that they do not feel confident enough to cycle to work.
- **Practical barriers:** Bicycle ownership levels for council staff (37%) are below the average level of ownership reported across Belfast (45%). The lack of facilities including showering, changing and storage (31%) is also reported as a significant barrier to walking or cycling to work.
- **Socio-cultural barriers:** Culturally, there is a reliance on travelling by car due to it taking too long to travel actively to work (42%), having to travel elsewhere after work (39%) or having to leave / collect children from school (36%).

3.8 A programme of work to support more staff to adopt sustainable travel options has been developed in partnership with Sustrans and linked to the work of the Council's staff Health & Wellbeing Strategy. The programme of work follows the 3 core pillars set out within the Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland. These include:

- **Build:** The inclusion of 40 new bicycle parking spaces within 9 Adelaide demonstrates Council's commitment to supporting staff to travel more sustainably. Currently 161 city centre based staff report that they cycle to work. As this number increases so too will the demand for bicycle parking spaces. Information relating to the trends around the number of staff cycling to work will be shared across Council and relevant external partners, to ensure adequate and appropriate bicycle parking spaces are available within the city centre.
- **Support:** Increasing the skills and confidence of staff to cycle to work and addressing the issues of safety and confidence is fundamental in encouraging more staff to cycle to work. In Spring 2017, supported by Sustrans, a programme of staff activities will commence, including teaching basic bicycle handling and maintenance skills, a series of lunch time walks and cycles and advice on journey planning using quieter travel routes.
- **Promote:** Travelling actively will not be for all staff. The promotion of more sustainable travel options is required for those staff who live too far away to walk or cycle or who require their car for a part of their journey. Work has already commenced on increasing awareness and uptake of sustainable travel options, such as the TaxSmart scheme, through Council's internal communication channels.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no Financial or Resource Implications at this stage.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no known equality and good relation implications."

The Committee noted the update report.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Financial Reporting - Quarter 2, 2016 – 2017

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 2 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. He advised that the detail included the Quarter 2 position for the Committee which showed an under-spend of £819k or (2.2%) of the budget, with the forecast year end position being an under-spend of £601k (0.8%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Director reported that, as referred to earlier in the meeting, the Land and Property Services agency was forecasting a district rate claw back position of £2,154k, resulting in the Council having to find an additional £658k above the forecast departmental positive balance to fully finance the rate claw back.

The Committee noted the contents of the Quarter 2 financial update and that the Strategic Policy and Resources had agreed, that in order to limit the impact on the Council's reserves position, departmental cash limits would be capped at their forecast position and that officers would review the planned capital programme and non-recurrent work programmes to secure the £658k balance of the rates claw back from the capital financing budget.

Analysis of Cost of Pitch Hire

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 At the People and Communities Committee meeting in November 2016 it was agreed that a report be brought back to Committee to assess the charges applied to grass and 3G pitches and to clarify the engagement and support provided to clubs.

1.2 The report was available which sets out pitch hire rates and provides benchmark information for hire rates in the region.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked;

(a) To note that the current charges do not cover all of the costs of maintenance nor provide funding for capital replacement but are in line with other benchmarks within the Greater Belfast Area.

(b) To note the engagement and support provided to clubs.

3.0 Main report

Grass Pitches

3.1 Currently there are 112 grass pitches available for booking across the City. On average each pitch should be played no more than 80 times in a season to ensure the pitch continues to be usable. Taking the highest charge of £25.75 per hour (x2 hours for an average booking) and the maximum usage capacity this would generate a maximum income of £4,120 per annum.

3.2 In terms of the costs of each grass pitch the following maintenance is required:

Maintenance requirement	Frequency
Verti-draining	2 times per season
Aeration of pitch through September - April	17 occasions
Over seed of pitch at end of season	Once a year
Cut playing surface	40 occasions
Supply and apply 50 tons of top dressing	Once a year
Fertilize with controlled release	4 occasions
Marking of pitch	40 occasions
Supply and apply 1 ton of top dressing sand	30 tonnes per year
Treatment of selective weed killer	Once a year

3.3 On average the cost of staff, supplies and services to maintain each pitch is £8k per annum. These costs are for direct maintenance only and do not include other running costs to support match play such as:

- Staffing and maintenance of pavilions
- Booking administration
- Fuel costs and vehicle capital costs or any vehicle replacement costs
- Sports Development Costs.

3.4 The above analysis shows that the income generated from the use of our pitches covers on average 50% of the direct costs of maintenance.

3.5 **3G Pitches**

Currently there are 11 3G pitches available for booking across the City within the Parks Estate. Six of these are managed as part of the partnership with GLL with income going to GLL. Assets are all Council assets and all maintained by Council staff. Income for Council 3G pitches in 15/16 is in the region of £70k.

3.6 3G pitches are designed to intensify use and our 3g pitches are used at peak times in the following percentage capacity:

	Woodlands	Sally Gardens	Marrowbone	Dunville	Cliftonville
% Bookings at Peak Times	99%	88%	99%	85%	98%

**Peak times are Monday – Friday 12-2pm, after 5pm and all day Saturday and Sunday*

3.7 Assets are all Council assets and all maintained by Council staff. Our 3G pitch carpets are not all the same and are maintained as specified by the manufacturer’s recommendations at installation. The average life of an artificial pitch is 10 years with costs of replacing the surface estimated at £150k depending on size. However in general in terms of the costs of routine maintenance for each pitch the requirements are:

Maintenance requirement	Frequency
Litter removal	Daily
Brushing	Once a week

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Inspection	Once a week
Cleaning of rubber crumb surface	Twice a year
Topping up of aggregate	As required

3.8 On average the cost of staff, supplies and services to maintain each pitch is £5k per annum, with costs for all 3G pitches being in the region of £55K per annum. These costs are for direct maintenance only and do not include other running costs as follows:

3.9

- Staffing and maintenance of pavilions
- Booking administration
- Fuel costs and vehicle capital costs or any vehicle replacement costs
- Sports Development Costs.
- The income generated does not provide a contribution to the capital replacement costs of the carpet as set out above.

3.10 Sports Development

The Leisure Development Unit engages with clubs of all sporting codes across the city to provide financial support to clubs through a number of avenues. Support for Sport Funding supports costs of; setting up new clubs and new sections within clubs; taster and try it programmes; local low level competitions for groups aspiring to league play; coach and volunteer development activities. Partner agreements are in place in 7 sites with financial support for delivering comprehensive sports development plans on each site. Each of the partners are maximising the capacity of the grass pitches through delivery of their development plans. Advice and support from Sports Development Officers is also improving the quality of delivery through increasing the number of successful funding applications, number of groups achieving club quality awards and the number of participants in under-represented groups such as females and homeless.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

The above analysis shows that the income generated from the use of pitches and does not cover the total cost of provision with the remainder funded through the rates contribution. Any reduction in prices will increase the burden on the

**ratepayer and therefore will need to be considered as part of
the revenue estimates and rate setting process for 2017/18**

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or Good relations implications.”

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Collins addressed the Committee and once again outlined his concerns surrounding the increase in the hire cost of the Council’s pitches.

The Assistant Director addressed a number of queries regarding the current pricing policy and how the current fees had been set. She reiterated that the income generated was for the management and maintenance of the existing facilities and advised that the prices had not been reviewed since 2012.

It was:

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Magennis,

That this Council proposes a 25% reduction to the pricing of the 3G pitches.

On a vote by a show of hands, 8 Members voted for the proposal and 6 against and it was declared carried.

Following further discussion, it was also agreed that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, given that this decision might have an impact on the overall rate setting process.

Operational Issues

Training Support to the Community and Voluntary Sector

The Community Development Manager provided an update on the training support which was currently being delivered by Community Services as part of the Autumn/Winter Programme for community and voluntary groups across the city which included details of the various courses available as follows: Outcomes Based Accountability; Governance and Charities; Making Grant Applications, Committee Skills Training; Basic Introduction to Good Governance; Social Innovation and Basic Health and Safety. The Committee was also informed on the future training initiatives that were being developed for delivery in 2017 - 2018, many of which would be accredited.

It also noted the development of further training initiatives that would be provided by the service in order to extend support to the community and voluntary sector.

Allotment Strategy Review

The Committee was reminded that new rules and procedures had been introduced in October 2014 regarding the Council’s allotments.

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The Assistant Director advised that a number of requests had been received from allotment holders seeking a review of the policy, she added that it was also considered good practice to review the rules and procedures and as a result a consultation exercise would be undertaken with the relevant stakeholders.

The Committee noted that a review of the Council's allotment rules and procedures would be undertaken between January and March 2017 and that any changes/amendments be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Street Naming

The Committee approved the naming of the following streets:

Proposed Name	Location	Applicant
Gullivers Avenue	Off Dargan Road, BT3	Belfast City Council
Gullivers Drive	Off Dargan Road, BT3	Belfast City Council
Gullivers Link	Off Dargan Road, BT3	Belfast City Council
Gullivers Road	Off Dargan Road, BT3	Belfast City Council

Street Naming - Dual language application

The Committee considered the undernoted applications to erect additional street nameplates in a language other than English:

English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Applicant	Persons surveyed
North Howard Street	Sráid Howard Thuaidh	Off Falls Road, BT13	Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership	25

It was reported that, in accordance with Council policy, a survey of residents had been conducted for the application which had determined that at least two-thirds of the total numbers of residents surveyed had been in favour of the proposal.

Accordingly, the Committee approved the erection of the additional street nameplates.

Donation towards Candle Sculpture - Boston

The Committee was advised that, in June 2016, Belfast Botanic Gardens had unveiled a commemorative candle sculpture, which had been gifted to the people of Belfast from the Galway Civic Trust to symbolise the hope and healing of organ donation.

The Assistant Director advised that, in order to reciprocate the gesture and help to promote organ donation, Strangeboat Donar Foundation was proposing to stage a global organ donor commemorative event in late 2017. This event would centre on the choreographed unveiling of candle sculpture in a representative city in each continent.

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She outlined that the cities that had been chosen were Cape Town, Melbourne, New Delhi, Boston, Barcelona, Dublin and Newcastle, as each of those cities were associated with a world class centre of transplant excellence.

The Director reported that the sculpted candles would be prepared in Galway and dispatched to their final destinations at a ceremony in the Irish National Commemorative Garden during May 2017. Due to the fact that Belfast was a sister city of Boston she stated that it was proposed that Belfast would pair with Boston.

The Committee was advised that the total cost of the project would be €30,000, to date, €23,000 had been secured and match funding of €1000 was being sought from Irish Cities which included Belfast.

The Officer confirmed that the donation could be accommodated within existing budgets.

The Committee approved a donation of €1000 to the Strangeboat Donor Foundation, Galway towards the creation of a candle sculpture which would be gifted to Boston City as part of a global initiative to stage an international organ donor commemorative event in late 2017.

Britain in Bloom Finals Awards Ceremony

The Assistant Director advised that Belfast City Council had been invited, along with other councils in the region, to potentially host the Britain in Bloom Finals Award Ceremony.

The Committee granted permission for officers to begin negotiations with other councils and statutory organisations with a view to hosting this prestigious event in the region in October 2018 and agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the following report is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Request for the Use of Ormeau Park - Belsonic

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that Belsonic had been a regular fixed feature on the events calendar since 2008. Custom House Square had been the venue for the event from 2008 until 2015 with it having been held at the Titanic Slipways last year, hosting a total of 14 concerts over the months of June and August.

The Committee was advised that for a number of different reasons, the promoter wished to use the Ormeau Park for the 2017 event. It was felt that this venue was still close enough to the city centre to enable other local businesses and the night time economy in general to benefit.

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Following a query, the Assistant Director answered a number of questions in relation to the reinstatement of the pitches and potential noise disturbance. She confirmed that the event would affect the pitch maintenance reinstatement programme over the summer months but advised that the Council would work with the leagues and teams to try and ensure that they were accommodated at other Council facilities. In respect of the noise, the Assistant Director advised that given the scale and nature of the events proposed it would not be possible to guarantee that noise disturbance would be completely eliminated but all concerts would finish by 11.00 p.m.

The Committee:

- granted authority for Belsonic to hold up to 10 concerts at the Ormeau Park from the period from 1st June to 1st July 2017, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on the condition that:
 1. the promoter resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
 2. an appropriate legal agreement is completed, to be prepared by the City Solicitor; and
 3. the promoter meets all statutory requirements of the Environmental Protection and Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 7th December, 2016

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Graham (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire and McGimpsey; and
Councillors Beattie, Boyle, Dorrian, Dudgeon,
Hargey, Howard, Johnston, Kyle, Magee,
Mullan, O'Hara and Walsh.

Also attended: Alderman Rodgers and Councillor Copeland.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development;
Mrs. L. Toland, Head of Economic
and International Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Aldermen L. Patterson and Spence and Councillors Carson, McAteer and McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 9th and 16th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st December.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Dorrian, Johnston, Magee and Mullan declared an interest in Item 2b, Presentation – Transport Hub, in that they were Members of the Planning Committee and, given a planning application for the Hub would be coming before that Committee at a future date, they did not take part in the discussion.

Presentation

TransportNI and the Department for Infrastructure

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Mr. K. Monaghan, Eastern Divisional Manager, Mr. T. McClay, Belfast North Section Engineer, Mr. G. Doherty, Belfast South Section Engineer, TransportNI, and Mr. C. de Burca, Director of Transport and Business Services, the Department for Infrastructure, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

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The Eastern Divisional Manager provided the Committee with updates on the key strategic transportation schemes for the city, including the York Street Interchange (YSI). He advised the Committee that, on 15th November 2016, the Minister for Infrastructure had announced the publication of the outcome of the Public Inquiry into the YSI proposal which included the publication of the Inspector's Report and the Department Statement. He advised the Committee that the procurement process for the Interchange had been progressing but that the contract award was currently on hold following the outcome of the EU Referendum, which had created some uncertainty. The Members were advised that the Minister was currently considering the impact of the additional funds which were announced by the Chancellor in the Autumn Statement and that he intended to make a decision in the coming weeks.

The Committee was apprised of the Department's plans to extend the busway on the M1 and to create a new busway on the M2 to give more priority to public transport. The Eastern Divisional Manager also reported that two significant cycle schemes had been completed to link the west and east of the city, from the Westlink/Grosvenor Road to College Avenue and from College Avenue to Castle Street/Donegall Place. The Members noted that the next two cycle routes were programmed from Castle Street/Donegall Place to the Queen Elizabeth Bridge and from the Queen Elizabeth Bridge to Island Street.

The Eastern Divisional Manager advised the Committee that progression of the A2 Sydenham Bypass and the A55 Knock Road schemes were dependant on the availability of funding.

The Director of Transport and Business Services provided the Committee with an update on the progress which had been made on the Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) scheme which was due for completion in Autumn 2018.

In response to a number of Members' questions, the representatives clarified a number of points, including:

- there would be a new, off-board ticketing system for BRT;
- while there was no capacity to expand the Dundonald Park and Ride, they were looking at possible sites in Newtownards, which would relieve pressure on the Dundonald site;
- the Department was aware that there were gaps in the cycling network and it was working to address them;
- there was an online system for reporting streetlight faults to TransportNI, on NI Direct;
- a utility reinstatement code determined that tarmac work by utility companies should be of a certain standard and that fines could be imposed if the work was of poor quality;
- unfortunately the Glencregagh/Beechgrove Park area was unlikely to get Traffic Calming Measures in the near future given its position in the priority list;
- the replacement streetlights were LED and that the light was stronger and more focused on the footways, which might have resulted in less light falling onto the roads; and

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- in relation to statutory consultee responses to planning applications, TransportNI would be happy to attend a future Planning Committee meeting.

A number of Members also raised the following issues with the representatives:

- that the streetlights were not coming on early enough during the darker months;
- why the two loading bays at Chichester Street/Upper Arthur Street and at Queen Street (close to its junction of Wellington place) were operational 24/7, when most deliveries were made between 7 and 10am;
- that consideration be given to inner city communities in relation to the BRT routes;
- whether the yellow box at the junction of Grosvenor Road/Fisherwick Place could be extended to allow better traffic flow;
- that a number of gullies required clearing in South Belfast (the specific locations to be provided by the Member to Transport NI); and
- traffic wardens were required in Montgomery Street, to stop cars parking on the double yellow lines.

Mr. Monaghan advised that, where relevant, action would be taken on these issues by TransportNI if it was deemed necessary after inspection.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

Translink – Transport Hub

The Committee was advised that Mr. C. Conway, Chief Executive, Translink, and Mr. L. McComb, Project Director, Transport Hub, were present and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Conway presented the Committee with an overview of the proposed plans for the new Transport Hub for Belfast. He advised the Members that significant public consultation had been undertaken on the proposals for the Hub and that consultation had closed the previous week. The Committee was advised, however, that the representatives from Translink would seek to address any queries from the Members and incorporate any comments into the consultation process.

Mr. McComb presented the masterplan vision of the Transport Hub to the Committee and outlined that it would act as a major gateway to the City. The Members were advised that it would be four or five storeys high with two main entrances on Durham Street and the Grosvenor Road. He reported that there would be ample wayfinding signage within and around the Hub, with pedestrian routes and cycle ways travelling through it and with clear links to the Belfast Rapid Transit system on the Grosvenor Road. The Members were also advised that there would be clear signage for the two major

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hospitals and universities. He reported that the Hub would connect through the mall into the business district of the Linen Quarter, and would also connect into the urban village of Sandy Row.

The Project Director advised the Committee that his team was working closely with the Strategic Investment Board in relation to the Buy Social clause, in order to incorporate apprentices and 'new starts' into the development of the Hub. He also reported that they were hoping to create over 400 construction jobs and long term sources of employment.

In relation to the future of Central Station, the Chief Executive of Translink confirmed that, while it would remain a major halt for the east of the city, the Enterprise rail service between Belfast and Dublin would be based at the new Hub.

In response to a number of Member's questions regarding the number of different ticket systems across Translink's services, Mr. Conway confirmed that a new integrated ticketing system would be implemented by end of 2018, similar to Transport for London's Oyster card. He also advised the Members that the online reservation process for buses to Dublin airport would be streamlined in the next few months, allowing passengers to print their tickets, thereby guaranteeing them a seat at the selected time.

A Member asked the representatives if the Great Northern car park was going to be demolished and, if so, whether the car parking spaces would be included within the development of the new Hub. The Chief Executive of Translink advised that it was considered necessary to demolish the existing car park and advised that he felt there needed to be a discussion as to whether there was a need for any further car parking within the city centre.

The Chief Executive confirmed to the Members that the Boyne Bridge was to be removed as keeping it would strongly limit the level of regeneration which was possible. He advised the Members that, while there was no design which allowed them to keep the Boyne Bridge, they wanted to incorporate the story of the old Saltwater Bridge, which had pre-dated the Boyne Bridge, into the station square, in order to celebrate and maintain the history of the area.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Requests to Present to Committee

Visit Belfast

The Committee acceded to a request from Visit Belfast to present at a future meeting.

Cyber Security Working Group

The Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development outlined to the Committee that the MATRIX Digital ICT report, which was launched in February 2016,

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had identified cyber security as one of four areas in which Northern Ireland had potentially world-class strength. She advised the Members that, in order to identify key areas for collaboration and to set out the priority actions to achieve growth potential, an action plan was currently being developed by the Cyber Working Group, upon which the Director of Development represented the Council.

The Committee agreed to receive a presentation from the Working Group on Cyber Security at its meeting on 11th January, 2017.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

The information contained in the following report is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

City Animation - Selected Areas for Animation and Costings for Approval

The Director of City Centre Development presented the Committee with an update on the development of a programme of city centre animation and interim uses in each of the five Special Action Areas identified in the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS), namely, Inner West, South Centre, North West, North East and the river and East Bank areas. She advised the Members that the strategic interventions would seek to support the longer term need for investment and development in the city centre, with each intervention specifically tailored to meet the challenges and needs associated with the location.

The Director provided the Committee with an overview of the programme, which was planned to commence in the summer of 2017. She outlined that the use of specific sites would be subject to final approval by landowners and detailed inspections.

The Members were advised that, while some programme elements would generate income, others would support free access with indirect monetary or non-monetary benefits measured. She reported that a competitive tendering process would be completed for each site intervention and outlined some examples of proposed activities which included the use of containers for creative spaces for retail, food and cultural uses, pop-up outdoor cinema screenings and a community outdoor summer pond.

In relation to the financial implications, the Director advised the Committee that discussions had taken place with the Department for Communities, the Department for Finance and with the private sector.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. agreed, in principle, to the approach detailed; and
2. granted approval for officers to work up a financing strategy which would include partnership funding to support the delivery of the programme.

City Deal Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on recent advocacy activities in relation to developing the case for a Growth Deal for the Belfast city-region, and to outline next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the feedback from the ongoing advocacy programme in relation to securing a Growth Deal for the Belfast city-region;
- Agree that the Chief Executive develops a programme of co-operation and collaboration with the City of London Corporation, in line with the agreed International Relations Framework, with a particular focus on Growth Deals;
- Note the proposed work with the Belfast Partners' Network;
- Agree to invite the core cities group to Belfast in 2017 to hold one of their regular meetings
- Initiate a series of roundtables and research papers to examine the connectivity issues in relation to the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor, as part of the development of a Belfast city-region Growth Deal; and
- Building on the advocacy to date, commission a feasibility study which will quantify the scale and scope of a Belfast city-region Growth Deal, in preparation for detailed negotiations with government partners.

3.0 Main report

Political meetings

3.1 Further to a workshop with the Belfast Party Group Leaders, party briefings with group leaders from neighbouring councils have taken place, facilitated by ResPublica. The purpose of these sessions has been to explore the assumptions underpinning the Growth Deal, and to seek their broad support for engaging in more detailed work on a city-region basis. This runs in parallel to ongoing discussions with the respective Chief Executives, examining economic

opportunities for the city-region, to be presented to Committee in due course.

- 3.2** It is still proposed that a cross-party workshop for group leaders will be held in early 2017, subject to the final party briefings taking place.

Westminster briefing

- 3.3** On 16 November, over 80 people attended a briefing hosted by the four Belfast Members of Parliament. There was a broad political spectrum represented, including six former NIO Ministers/shadow Ministers, as well as the current Secretary of State and sitting members of the NI Select Committee. The 'take-away' document for the event is appended.

In addition, there were also a number of high-profile representatives from the business sector who spoke very positively about Belfast and the political ambition for the city, but that there remained an urgent need to accelerate its growth agenda. The importance of a single, powerful regeneration body was stressed on a number of occasions. In wider discussions, there was broad support for a Growth Deal – in particular noting that Belfast is one of the very few UK cities now to not have this package of additional investment and responsibilities. This was highlighted as a substantial limitation in an increasingly competitive environment, where other UK cities have the flexibility to optimally position themselves in preparation for the exit from the European Union. A similar briefing event is planned for Stormont MLAs on Tuesday 6 December and a verbal update will be provided on the key issues highlighted at that briefing.

London City Corporation

- 3.4** As part of the itinerary for the Party Group Leaders while in London, a number of meetings were held with the London City Corporation, including with The Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Dr Andrew Charles Parmley, as well as their economic development team. In the course of these meetings, a number of key priorities for the Corporation were highlighted:

- Nurturing a favourable business 'eco-system' – ensuring that there is a single point of contact for businesses based in the City, streamlining where possible processes for locating investment and development in the City, while also being actively connected to wider UK investment sector;

- Lobbying for infrastructure – global competitor cities have had infrastructure in place for a number of years and there is an urgent need in context of Brexit to ensure that London is well-positioned in this regard;
- Talent management – both growing your own, and also remaining attractive to new talent. Considering the potential for bespoke London arrangements to address identified sectoral shortfalls;
- Lord Mayor’s programme – the civic engagement programme is a national and international tool for the Corporation’s economic agenda, using the role as a platform to promote investment and economic development in the City; and
- Liveability – ensuring that growth is inclusive, by actively working with the business sector to encourage local responsibility e.g. inclusion of SMEs in procurement processes, and raising aspiration and achievement in local schools.

3.5 In terms of synergies directly linked to Belfast City Council’s emerging Growth Deal agenda, there are a number of key areas of potential mutual interest:

- In order to mitigate investor and business sector uncertainty, direct bi-lateral relationships between cities and with countries have increased importance in context of exit from the European Union. The Corporation is actively developing strong relationships with Brussels, Dublin and beyond;
- City-region governance – through Central London Forward, the Corporation is engaged in a sub-regional partnership, working collaboratively with 8 neighbouring authorities on a city deal for London, with an immediate focus on skills devolution and working with the business sector;
- Increasing social impact – consolidating inclusive growth outcomes through a broad range of programmes including *‘Heart of the City’* which supports a wide range of businesses to contribute to social outcomes through local responsibility programmes, and the *‘City Bridge Trust’* which tackles disadvantage through social investment and grant-making;
- Raising aspiration and educational achievement – working closely with The Honourable The Irish Society, the Corporation has a number of programmes working in and with schools, as well as Ulster University, to promote access to education; and

- **Financial and technological services sector – there is direct connection between some of the specialisms in Belfast (e.g. cyber-security; legal services) and the financial services sector located in City of London, that could be further developed in terms of talent flows and off-shoring/near shoring mid/back-office support.**
- 3.6 Overall, the Corporation is keen to pursue a mutually beneficial city-to-city programme of co-operation and collaboration, particularly in the context of both cities' Growth Deal agenda and the common interests in relation to galvanising and stimulating both cities as growth engines, as the UK exits the European Union.**
- 3.7 It is proposed that over the coming months, the Chief Executive will work with her counterpart at the Corporation to develop this programme, in line with the International Relations Framework, approved by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee at its November meeting, to build strategic alliances with partners in both London and Dublin and report regularly back to committee.**
- 3.8 One focus of this will be that the Lord Mayor of Belfast will host the City of London Lord Mayor Dr Andrew Parmley in March 2017. Work is ongoing to develop a productive schedule, with a particular focus on economic development and cross-border linkages.**

Belfast Partners Network

- 3.9 In a similar endeavour, the Council has been approached to be involved in the Belfast Partners network in the City of London. This is an independently-run business networking initiative that seeks to make business linkages between companies and leaders in both cities.**
- 3.10 A launch of this network is planned to take place in London at the end of February 2017. This event will be hosted at the headquarters of the global communications business Thomson Reuters in Canary Wharf. It will be attended by more than 150 interested individuals from both cities and there will be an opportunity for the Council to make a positive pitch about the real estate investment opportunities available in Belfast as well as promoting the opportunities for foreign direct investment, particularly the emerging and growing specialisms such as cyber security, legal services and business and professional services. It is suggested that the Lord Mayor, Chair of City Growth and Regeneration and Party Groups Leaders attend the event.**

- 3.11 The purpose of the network is to engage various business leaders in many sectors who may consider growing businesses in the city of Belfast in future. It will provide an overview of the economic outlook for the city and the current sector strengths and opportunities.

Core Cities

- 3.12 Further to SP&R Committee's decision in August, officers have initiated the application process for Belfast to become a member of the Core Cities Group. The Chief Executive has undertaken a number of bi-lateral meetings, as well as attending the most recent meeting of all Core Cities' Chief Executives. As part of these discussions, Belfast's success in attracting Foreign Direct Investment is of particular interest to the Group. The Group may consider coming to Belfast in 2017 to further explore this issue.
- 3.13 Given the involvement of Core Cities' political representatives, it is proposed that this visit is hosted by the Lord Mayor, along with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

Belfast-Dublin Co-operation

- 3.14 Further to the special meeting of the Council on 4 July, the Council asked the UU Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC), to carry out initial research summarising the key issues and implications of the UK leaving the EU and to outline the potential issues Belfast will need to consider and manage. In early analysis, a number of significant areas for Northern Ireland to consider have been identified, including the impact on cross-border trade.
- 3.15 As a consequence, discussions with the International Centre for Local and Regional Development (ICLRD) have been initiated to explore the issue of connectivity and the strengthening of cross-border physical and economic infrastructures. ICLRd has a unique network of academics and researchers who are committed to best practice in spatial planning as a key component of sustainable economic and social development. The Centre has worked over a number of years with local government and is widely recognised for its work in supporting sustainable regional development and have an in-depth understanding of the central role of Local Government in driving and achieving this.

- 3.16** It is proposed that a piece of work is commissioned to understand shared priorities and common needs, and the progression of an economic/innovation corridor along the Eastern seaboard. This would also be of interest to Derry City and Strabane District Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. This would include a series of roundtables and research papers to examine the connectivity issues in relation to the Dublin-Belfast economic corridor, as part of the development of a Belfast city-region Growth Deal.

Next steps – negotiating the Growth Deal

- 3.17** As a consequence of these various briefing events and Ministerial engagements, it is clear that there is broad support for the concept of a ‘city deal’ for Belfast. However, in order to meaningfully negotiate the scale of and detail for a deal, it is also clear from feedback and engagements that the Council now needs to prepare a much more detailed business case for presentation to the NI Executive and Treasury.

- 3.18** Looking towards the Glasgow and Clyde Valley deal, their partnership went through a detailed feasibility study process. Using this, they were able to negotiate and agree:

- Secure £1 billion of Scottish Government and UK Government capital funding to support proposed infrastructure investment programme for the area. This will be complemented by a minimum of £130 of investment from Glasgow and Clyde Valley local authorities
- Leverage an estimated £3.3 billion of private sector investment into the proposed infrastructure investment programme
- Spread the benefits of economic growth across Glasgow and Clyde Valley, ensuring deprived areas benefit from this growth. In terms of access to jobs for the most deprived wards, it will be above the average for the city-region.
- The Glasgow and Clyde Valley feasibility study modelled a permanent uplift of 4.4% in the regional economy, with an overall increase in the economy of around 29,000 jobs in the city region.

- 3.18** Funding agreed by the UK Government and the Scottish Government will be paid over a twenty year period in annual instalments. This funding will be unlocked in five-year blocks, subject to Glasgow and Clyde Valley meeting agreed outputs and outcomes assessed through a Gateway Review

mechanism. Further detail is provided in the summary appended.

3.20 It is therefore suggested that Belfast uses a similar approach. In a feasibility study, the following would need to be scoped, quantified and analysed:

- Engaging with partners, establishing governance and setting the geography for the deal;
- Determining objectives, prioritisation criteria and identifying schemes;
- Providing economic analysis, financial modelling and agreeing performance metric e.g. additionality in tax-take or increase in sustained employment opportunities; and
- Prioritising projects and funding/financing routes for delivery.

3.21 This would provide a road-map for negotiation and subsequently, implementation. The time-scale for this would be up to 12 months, given the engagement required with partners, as well as the economic modelling analysis to be prepared.

RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

3.22 The Royal Society of the Arts (RSA) requested as part of its nationwide commission on inclusive growth to meet with Belfast City Council. A roundtable was facilitated on 24 November. Some of the key issues raised by Members included:

- Importance of place leadership, in tackling the inclusion issues particular to Belfast e.g. segregation, low aspiration
- Role of Council and third sector in supporting those with multiple barriers through innovative employability programmes
- Mapping exercise needed in order to identify gaps and clear progression routes into sustained employment.
- Officers are working on a written submission to the Commission, which will publish its final report in Spring 2017.

3.23 Financial & Resource Implications

Provision has been made within existing revenue budgets to develop a business case and financial model for a city deal.

3.24 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Any emerging ‘deal’ will be subject to equality and good relations screening.”

The Director of Finance suggested that the Committee might wish to facilitate a meeting, in January 2017, with Sir Edward Lister, Special Advisor to the Department of International Trade, to discuss Belfast’s infrastructure needs. The Committee agreed to this course of action.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Regeneration Best Practice Visit for Members

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 It is proposed to organise a regeneration study visit for Members, to develop their awareness of best practice and to inform their role overseeing the Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy.

2.0 Outcomes and Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- **Approve the proposed format of the visits, including the duration; a ½ day workshop in advance; and the key themes and projects for inclusion. A more detailed itinerary will then be brought before Members early next year.**
- **Confirm the overall numbers attending from the Committee, and to approve indicative costs of £500 per person. This cost is subject to a more detailed assessment being made for the final programme – see para 4.0 below.**
- **Approve attendance of an independent facilitator and one BCC officer to accompany members and to help maximise opportunities for learning.**

3.0 Main Report

3.1 There are a number of UK cities that have undertaken city centre development schemes similar to those envisaged by Belfast. It would be beneficial for Members to experience these in order to understand what went well, and what learning points we could incorporate into the Belfast strategy.

- 3.2** It is proposed that the study visit should take place in April 2017, immediately following MIPIM, and should take place over two days (with one overnight required). It is suggested that the first day is spent in Manchester and Liverpool, which opens up a range of relevant themes including waterfront regeneration, the visitor economy, and inward investment. It is suggested that the second day could be spent in Leeds, incorporating issues such as retail led development, business improvement districts, and city regions.
- 3.3** To accommodate a visit to a successful Transport Hub, Members would look at Manchester Piccadilly, which received a £100m upgrade in 2002 and will provide the Northern Hub for HS2 (work on this should have started by the time of the visit). Members would also visit Media City at Salford Quays and the New Bailey Development in Salford.
- 3.4** It is proposed that before the regeneration visits begin that Members take part in a half day workshop, facilitated by a regeneration expert. This gives Members the opportunity to discuss what they are going to visit in advance, and learning points they would like to draw from it. The workshop could also include regeneration case studies, a review of relevant documents, and presentations of expert content.
- 3.5** Although the bulk of the time will be spent on project visits, the regeneration study will incorporate peer to peer learning with counterparts; as well as conversations with senior officers / academics. To help maximise impact, and to act as an expert resource to embed key learning, it is proposed that the workshop facilitator accompanies members on the regeneration study.
- 3.6** Day two (Leeds) could include:
- **City centre retail:** the development of Victoria Gate (anchored by the largest John Lewis outside London) to include the development / financial process and use of compulsory purchase orders.
 - **Regeneration Schemes – Leeds Southbank** is the largest scheme in the UK.
 - **Business improvement districts:** the role of BIDs in Leeds, including their role with city centre animation.
 - **City Region:** consideration of this developing area of public policy, and Leeds leadership role with surrounding local authorities.

3.7 To accommodate the full range of possible projects and themes, Members may wish to consider breaking up into 2 small groups. Following the study tour Members may wish to consider a further facilitated workshop so that the full range of insights and activities can be considered by the full Committee.

3.8 An alternative day 3 visit could include Stockport.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

To accommodate flights, along with hotels, transport and subsistence for two days and one night, it is estimated that a budget of £500 per person will be required. Precise costs will be presented to Members in the next report, following development of the detailed itinerary.

3.10 Equality and Good Relations

None.”

After discussion, the Committee agree that one Member per party represented on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee would participate in the Best Practice visit.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

RDS Science Festival

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to give an overview of proposals for a Primary Science Fair to be held at Belfast Waterfront in June 2017 and to recommend Council support for the event.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the proposals for a Primary Science Fair to be held at Belfast Waterfront in June 2017.
- Agree to provide financial support of £20,000 towards the event. These costs have been built into the estimates for the 2017-2018 financial year and will be put forward as part of the rate setting process.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** Members may be aware of a very successful Primary Science Fair that takes place each year at the RDS Dublin. The Dublin event has been running for eight years. It operates alongside the BT Young Scientist Event as a means of profiling the importance of science and technology as part of the educational development process. The events also showcase the very positive and innovative work of young people in this field.
- 3.2** The Science Fair is supported by the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) as well as education bodies and industry partners.
- 3.3** In 2016, The Science Fair was expanded to Limerick. The event attracted 60 schools and 1,500 pupils and was attended by 3,000 visitors over the two day programme including non-exhibiting schools, parents and families of those participating in the event.
- 3.4** Based on the success of the Limerick event, RDS is proposing to extend the event to Belfast for the first time in 2017. They have established a local planning team, supported by Sir Bruce Robinson, former Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.
- 3.5** The Belfast event will take in the Waterfront on 8-9 June 2017. Participation is open to all primary schools and organisers are aiming to attract 60 schools, bringing with them around 1,500 pupils to the event. In addition to the 1,500 pupils participating in the event, the event organisers have set a target of attracting 2,000 additional primary school pupils along to the event. Schools will be invited to attend from January 2017. They have the option of preparing and presenting a science-based project idea which will be assessed by a Judging Panel or they can just come along to view the projects presented by other schools and take part in the interactive exhibits and large-scale science shows which will take place on the day. The format will be repeated on each of the two days of the event. The project work undertaken by the children is linked to the curriculum, particularly focusing on themes such as The World Around Us and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.
- 3.6** Event organisers are working closely with Department for Education as well as The Teacher Training Colleges, The Primary Science Teaching Trust and the W5 Science Ambassadors. They are proposing to build on the work

undertaken by the STEM Ambassadors and other outreach work done by the Teacher Training Colleges to ensure that the event is not a one-off but that children are exposed to a range of opportunities to develop their skills of enquiry, information-finding and curiosity to explore the science behind the everyday.

- 3.7 In order to ensure that the event is targeted at young people in more challenged neighbours, it is proposed that the Council works closely with Department for Education to target specific primary schools and encourage their participation.
- 3.8 The organisers expect that the costs associated with hosting the event in Belfast will be in the region of €230,000. The RDS has committed €115,000 of that amount and is seeking to secure investment with other partners. They are currently engaging with a range of government and industry partners to meet the outstanding amount (around £100,000). At this stage, they have secured €35,000 from the Irish American Partnership (IAP) and anticipate that they can achieve €20,000 from sponsors and exhibitors. It is proposed that Belfast City Council provides £20,000 towards the costs of the event.
- 3.9 Members will be aware of the emerging outcomes of the Belfast Agenda. These include an ambition to ensure that 'Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy' and that 'Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential'. Likewise, the priority areas of work include a focus on areas such as reducing economic inequalities, supporting our young people, addressing educational inequalities and increasing skills attainment, increasing skills levels of our residents and matching people and skills to opportunities around Belfast.
- 3.10 The Primary Science Fair recognises the need for early intervention with young people to stimulate their curiosity and to get them thinking about the science of how things work. At present, we have a deficit of essential STEM skills and this is at odds with the future growth areas in the city. There is a need to invest efforts and resources in new activities which will help steer young people towards STEM subjects when they reach secondary school.
- 3.11 The Primary Science Fair will work alongside a number of other STEM-related interventions that take place in the course of the year. This includes the Northern Ireland Science Festival which will take place in February 2017. The Science Festival focuses on getting people engaged and enthused with science while the RDS Primary Science Fair is the next

step in terms of skills development and confidence with science for young children. One specific area of collaboration between the two events is around efforts to address the lack of quality learning materials. Both are currently working on a series of new curriculum-based materials for primary school children that will be trialled at the June Primary Science Fair and developed for inclusion in the programme at the Northern Ireland Science Festival in February 2018.

3.12 Financial and resource implications

The overall cost of the event is anticipated to be around €230,000 (around £200,000). It is proposed that Belfast City Council contributes £20,000 towards the costs. The RDS has committed to covering 50% of the costs (€115,000) and is working with other public and private partners to secure the outstanding amounts. The Council contribution has been included as part of the budget estimates for 2017/2018 financial year.

3.13 Equality and good relations implications

No specific equality and good relations implications. Belfast City Council will ensure that all local schools have an opportunity to participate. There will be additional support available for young people with special educational needs.”

During discussion, a number of Members stated that they were pleased that there would be an emphasis on encouraging primary schools in more deprived areas to attend the Science Fair, particularly given the close correlation between the most deprived areas and the lowest educational attainment.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Maximising Social Value from Council activities

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Committee on work under way to maximise the social value return from Council activities, principally procurement and to set out some emerging areas of work and timeframes.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the ongoing work to integrating social clauses, where appropriate, within capital and revenue contracts
- Note the proposals to expand this activity to take a broader definition of ‘social value’ which will maximise the return on Council investment, based on the model adopted within the Innovation Factory operator contract
- Note the proposals to work with other funding partners to develop a collaborative approach to social clauses and social value return across a number of projects.

3.0 Main report

3.1 At the 22 January 2016 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Members adopted the Council’s social clause policy. This committed the Council to scope out all upcoming tender opportunities (focusing on those with a value of at least £250,000) to explore opportunities for securing social value returns by introducing social clauses. These social clauses were focused primarily on employability related issues (e.g. apprenticeships, ring-fenced employment opportunities, work placements for long-term unemployed) but also included clauses relating to environmental sustainability.

3.2 Members will be aware that social clauses, as currently applied, are a relatively ‘blunt’ instrument in supporting employability and engagement by those furthest from the labour market. To date, social clauses have been largely focused on construction contracts. This means that the social clause obligations can only apply for the construction period of the project. As a result, the employability opportunities on these contracts tend to be limited in both duration and scope.

3.3 Recognising the limitations of the current arrangements, Members agreed that it would be prudent to review the Council’s Social Policy to consider moving towards greater alignment with the ‘Buy Social’ approach recently adopted by central government departments by June 2017.

3.4 ‘Buy Social’ takes a broader approach to government purchasing, with a commitment to maximising the social and economic benefits from public procurement. This approach is

now being rolled out across all government contracts and there is interest from the Finance Minister to extend this as far as is possible within the legislation. Following the commitment to working towards the Buy Social model, Officers introduced a number of developments in the Council's approach to social clauses. This included:

- Collaboration with training providers already in receipt of financial support from the Council to act as a point of contact/ 'broker' for the contractor in providing training and work placement opportunities. This has improved the opportunities for coordination and has improved working relationships between key training organisations and the contractors
- Consideration of opportunities for social clauses within service contracts as well as construction contracts. One recent example of this has been the operator contract for the Innovation Factory.

3.5 A report to the 18 November 2016 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee noted that Council contracts since 2014 have supported the following training and employment opportunities over the respective contract periods:

- 47 long-term unemployed
- 47 student placements
- 105 apprenticeships
- 26 trainees supported through work placements.

3.6 In addition to employability benefits as social clauses, Officers have also taken a wider approach to maximising social and economic return on Council procurement spend. Some key examples of this include:

- Organising Meet the Buyer events: Contractors securing business with the Council are required to participate in at least one supplier information day, facilitated by Belfast City Council. Events provide an opportunity for local businesses to get direct engagement with the contractor. Events are specifically targeted towards small businesses and social enterprises and can also focus primarily (although not exclusively) on businesses located in the area adjacent to where the investment is taking place. For example, the operator of the Innovation Factory has recently entered into a contract with a local company to supply office furniture to the building

- Delivering programmes to help local businesses access public procurement opportunities: although not exclusively focused on Council contracts, these programmes support up to 30 micro businesses and social enterprises each year to build their skills base on public sector procurement processes. They also receive support from mentors to advise them on how to take a targeted approach to opportunities from the public sector and to give them support on compiling bids, including looking at opportunities for building consortia to access larger contract opportunities. These programmes have been running over a number of years and local companies have secured millions of pounds of new business with public sector buyers.

3.7 One of the key lessons learned to date has been the value of including social requirements as an element of the evaluation criteria in relevant contracts: The first example of this has been the operator contract on the Innovation Factory. Bidders were asked about how they would support investment in social regeneration alongside the work that they would undertake to operate the centre efficiently and ensure occupancy levels in line with business plan projections. The contractor on this project has now developed a social integration and community engagement plan and has put in place an extensive programme of outreach, engagement and skills development, focusing on the adjacent community. Some of the highlights include:

- Delivery of an Innovation Boot Camp in Summer for 10 local young people
- Commitment to buying 25% of supplies from local businesses
- Delivery of work placement opportunities, with commitments from at least 25% of all tenants to take part
- Development of a mentorship programme between tenant businesses and local young people, giving an insight into innovation, self-employment and new career options.

3.8 Lessons learned from this approach are currently used in the ongoing procurement for the next phase of the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP). This tender has included social value considerations as part of the evaluation criteria for the main works element of the proposed three new leisure centres.

- 3.9** The introduction of ‘social value’ assessment as part of the evaluation criteria in tenders is the start of a process of taking a more holistic approach to the commissioning process. This will lead to the development of a ‘Social Value Procurement Framework’ for the Council. This essentially means that, in addition to securing the specific supplies or services that they need, buyers can ask potential suppliers to set out how they will help them deliver on wider organisational priorities. For the Council and its key city partners, the Belfast Agenda provides the backdrop for the Social Value Procurement Framework. Depending on the contract, bidders may be asked about what actions they can deliver to support some of the themes including ‘Growing the Economy’ and ‘Working and Learning’. Their contributions will be assessed as part of the evaluation of the bids and any commitments made will then become contractual obligations which must be delivered. The approach is likely to actually go beyond the ‘Buy Social’ obligations, taking account of the Council commitment to support inclusive growth and improve the quality of life for all residents.
- 3.10** In order to ensure that the Council approach to this new way of working is compliant with all relevant legal requirements and that we maximise opportunities to engage with our anchor institutions and Belfast Agenda partners in the development and delivery of this work, we will be supported by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). CLES are leading on this work with a number of UK local authorities. They have agreed to work with Belfast as a case study city. The first stage of this process took place at the end of November when CLES facilitated a workshop with the Council, Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), other government departments, business representative organisations, Strategic Investment Board and third sector representatives. It is planned that a draft action plan will be developed by February 2017. It will be brought back to Committee for approval at that point.
- 3.11** Part of this action plan will look at how we can work with other partners to ensure that they adopt similar principles and ways of working. In advance with this, we have been engaging with public investment partners who are bringing forward major schemes in the city, particularly where these are adjacent to work being undertaken by the Council. This will include Urban Villages areas and other major developments such as Belfast Rapid Transit. Through early engagement in the planning and development phases, it is likely that we will be able to secure greater impact from our collective investments. This will be particularly important in terms of supporting apprenticeships

etc. where it is important to have a critical mass of activity in order to provide long-term opportunities for apprentices to complete their full programme of work-based training.

3.12 The planning service is currently undertaking work on the publication of a Developer Contributions Framework, which will formalise the negotiations that have been taking place between the City Council (as local planning authority) and developers. Developer contributions may be sought where they are necessary to mitigate the impacts of a specific development. Officers are preparing the Framework in order to provide clarity and certainty for potential developers in the planning process. The Framework will be brought to a future meeting of the Planning Committee for endorsement before going out to public consultation.

3.13 Financial and resource implications

No specific financial or resource implications at this point. Officers are currently working to re-align resources to ensure the effective development and management of these opportunities.

3.14 Equality or good relations implications

The social value framework will take account of all relevant equality and good relations and will seek to have a positive impact on both.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Finance Update - Quarter 2

The Director of Finance and Resources advised the Committee that the 2016/17 Quarter 2 position for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee was an underspend of £94,000, with the forecast year end position being an underspend of £195,000, which was well within the acceptable tolerance of 3%.

He advised the Members that Land and Property Services was forecasting a district rate clawback position of £2,154,000, which would mean that the Council was required to find an additional £658,000 above the forecast departmental positive balance to fully finance the rates claw back.

The Committee noted:

1. the report and the associated financial reporting pack; and

2. that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had agreed that, in order to limit the impact on the Council's reserves, departmental cash limits were capped at their forecast position and that officers would review the planned capital programme and non-recurrent work programmes to secure the £658,000 balance of the rates claw back from the capital financing budget.

Operational Issues

Twilight Market – Update

The Head of Economic Initiatives provided the Committee with an update on the most recent Twilight Market at St. George's Market which had taken place on 8th and 9th November 2016. She advised the Members that, despite inclement weather on the first evening, more than 28,000 people had attended over the course of the two evenings with over 140 local craft and food retailers on offer, including 15 stalls from local restaurants. The Members were also advised that, as with the first two Twilight Markets, the event had generated significant positive coverage on social media.

She advised the Members that the November 2016 Twilight Market had instigated a number of new partnerships, including the Bank of Ireland which linked the event to Global Entrepreneurship Week. The Committee was advised that this had opened the door for further partnerships and potential sponsorship or other income arrangements.

The Head of Economic Initiatives advised the Committee that, given the success of the three events to date, it was proposed that three Twilight Markets would take place in 2017. She advised that, where possible, the events would link into other planned activity in the City in order to maximise visitor numbers. She reported that indicative dates of March or April, June and November were being proposed but that these were subject to change.

She reminded the Committee that St. George's Market had recently won the UK Market of the Year Award at the Observer Food Awards. She advised the Committee that financial support was available from the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to support some of the activity at the market, while Tourism NI had provided promotional support as part of its Year of Food and Drink 2016 campaign. However, she outlined that it was not yet clear whether this income would be available in the coming financial year.

The Members were advised that work was underway to look at how the markets could act as a starting point for new businesses, including exploring opportunities for traders to do business in alternative venues and looking at how vacant properties could be regenerated.

The Head of Economic Initiatives advised the Committee that there was a net cost of approximately £4,000 for each Twilight Market and that the funding for the 2017 Markets had been factored into the budget for the 2017-2018 financial year.

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During discussion, a number of Members asked that officers explore the possibility of hosting more than three Twilight Markets in 2017, given their popularity.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the success of the award-winning Twilight Markets to date;
2. agreed to support the delivery of three future Twilight Markets in the course of 2017, alongside a wider programme of activities to support tourism growth, business start, local regeneration and city development, noting that the costs had been included in the estimates for the 2017-2018 financial year and would be subject to approval as part of the rate setting process; and
3. agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the possibility of increasing the number of Twilight Markets which took place in the year, given their success.

2018 Healthy Cities WHO Conference

The Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development advised the Committee that Belfast Healthy Cities had asked if the Council would support the bid for the 2018 International World Health Organisation European Healthy Cities Network Conference.

She advised the Members that this was an opportunity for Belfast to host the international conference and that it represented an important milestone in the WHO European Healthy Cities Network as it marked the close of Phase IV (2014-2018) and would also act as a celebration of 30 years of the Network. The Committee was advised that the WHO was seeking a host city which was enthusiastic and committed to delivering a memorable event.

The Head of Economic Initiatives reported that the global conference would take place over four days in June, 2018, with an estimated 800 - 1,100 attendees. She advised the Members that the Belfast Waterfront was holding a number of dates if Belfast's bid was to be successful. The Members were advised that tours would be provided for both delegates and any accompanying persons during the four day conference, creating an opportunity for many visitors to explore Belfast, adding to the growth of tourism and regeneration of the city and promoting the significant changes within the city over the past decade.

The Committee was advised that, while there were no financial implications at that time, the CEO and Belfast Healthy Cities team had met with Visit Belfast and four tenders had been submitted, with estimated costs for Belfast Healthy Cities to host the conference likely to be between £30,000 and £100,000.

The Committee agreed to recommend that the Lord Mayor would forward a letter indicating the City's interest and support to host the 2018 Healthy Cities WHO Conference.

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MIPIM Update

The Director of City Centre Development provided the Committee with an update on the preparations for Belfast's delegation to MIPIM, which would take place between 13th and 17th March, 2017.

She reported that the Council had hosted the Sponsor's Launch event at the Belfast Telegraph building on 1st December, with over 100 guests and that a number of expressions of support had already been received.

The Director advised the Members that the key messages for MIPIM 2017 would be built on the City's strengths, to project Belfast's success and to make a compelling narrative for investors. She outlined that this could include:

- Talent – the growth of the knowledge economy and the financial / professional sector which was fuelling demand for Grade A offices and showcase the Belfast film industry, including eye catching events using the authentic "Iron Throne" from Game of Thrones;
- Track record – to showcase the growth of tourism, the need for new hotels, and the ambition to create a second world class visitor attraction; and
- Quality of Life – which would incorporate high profile events around Belfast's sporting heritage and a separate event on the IRFU bid for the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

The Committee noted that the Belfast presence at MIPIM 2017 would be launched formally at a "Go to Market" event at the Belfast Waterfront, on 21st February, 2017. She also suggested that the consultants be invited to present to the Committee in February, in order to present the final programme, branding and associated collateral to the Members.

The Committee was reminded that in 2016, the Belfast delegation had consisted of 53 people from 23 organisations, with £163,000 of private sector sponsorship. The Director highlighted that, the Council had doubled the size of the Belfast stand at MIPIM for 2017, which, in addition to the adjacent 30m sq terrace, would provide a focal point for the delegation.

The Director highlighted that Investors would want to see visible political leadership and that the role of Members was fundamental in leveraging external interest and support. The Committee was advised that the number of Council officers attending MIPIM this year had decreased to four.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the successful Sponsor's Launch event on 1st December, and the ongoing preparations for MIPIM 2017;
2. approved the delivery of a more detailed presentation to the Committee in February 2017, to update it on the final draft

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- programme, branding and marketing collateral ahead of the proposed public launch on 21st February; and
3. agreed the attendance of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or their nominees) and up to four officers at MIPIM between 13-17 March, 2017, and their participation in the associated forthcoming events.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 14th December, 2016

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Armitage (Chairperson);
Aldermen L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence;
and Councillors Bell, Boyle, Bunting, Clarke,
Collins, Copeland, Dudgeon, Groves, Hutchinson,
Magennis, McConville, McDonough-Brown and
Milne.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Milne, who had recently replaced former Councillor Brown on the Council, to her first meeting of the Committee.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell), Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor Heading.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor McConville declared an interest in respect of the application for the Grant of a Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Hawthorn Bar, 1-3 Hawthorn Street, in that she had been involved in discussions with the objectors to the application, and left the meeting whilst it was under consideration.

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)

Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licences and permits which had been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

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**Application for the Grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor
Entertainments Licence – Hawthorn Bar, 1 - 3 Hawthorn Street**

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that an application had been received for the grant of a Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Hawthorn Bar, based upon the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

He reported that the Building Control Service had received, outside the twenty-eight day statutory period, a petition consisting of ten signatures, objecting to the grant of the licence. He outlined the nature of the objections and pointed out that, under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, when considering an application, must have regard to any representation which had been received within the twenty-eight day statutory period. However, where an objection had been lodged outside that timeframe, as was the case with this application, it could exercise its discretion and agree to consider the objection, although it did not have a duty to do so.

During discussion, a Member highlighted the fact that the objectors had had twenty-eight days in which to submit their objections to this application and suggested that the Committee should not take them into account. He suggested also that the Committee should, in future, adopt that approach for similar applications, with a view to expediting the application process. However, the point was made that many venues across the City were located within a residential area and that the Committee had a responsibility to ensure that issues, such as those which had been highlighted in relation to the Hawthorn Bar, were addressed fully.

In response, the Building Control Manager confirmed that the objectors had been engaged in discussions with the applicant, community representatives, the Council and the Police Service of Northern Ireland, aimed at resolving issues around the operation of the premises. However, those had failed to be addressed to their satisfaction, which might explain their delay in submitting their written representation.

The Divisional Solicitor explained that, whilst the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 permitted the Committee to exercise its discretion and consider objections which had been received outside the twenty-eight day statutory period, it was, ultimately, a matter for it to decide whether or not to do so. However, she suggested that the Committee should bear in mind a House of Lords appeal decision which, in 2007, had upheld the Council's decision to refuse an application for a sex establishment licence, which had stated that it would be perverse if relevant information could not be taken into account, just because it had been received outside the statutory time period.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson,
Seconded by Councillor Magennis,

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That the Committee, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, agrees not to take into consideration the representation relating to the Hawthorn Bar, on the basis that it had been received outside the twenty-eight day statutory period and, accordingly, agrees to grant a Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the venue.

On a vote by show of hands four Members voted for the proposal and eleven against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to consider the representation at a future meeting, to which the objectors and the applicant would be invited. The Committee agreed also that officers submit to a future meeting a report outlining potential options for dealing with representations which had been submitted outside the statutory timeframe.

Applications for the Grant/Renewal of Entertainments Licences with Previous Convictions

The Building Control Manager informed the Committee that, under the provisions of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, it was required, when considering any application for the grant, renewal or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, to take into account any convictions of the applicant relating to an offence under the Order which had occurred within a five-year period immediately preceding the date on which the application had been made.

Accordingly, he drew the Members' attention to applications which had been received for the grant/renewal of Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of the following premises:

- **Failte Restaurant, 147 Falls Road** (grant of Entertainments Licence) – the licensee had, on 8th March, 2016, been fined £200 and ordered to pay £69 in costs, following an inspection of another premises under his control, which had revealed that a final exit had been locked shut, impeding a means of escape;
- **Ardoyne Working Men's Club, 9b Kerrera Street** (renewal of Entertainments Licence) – the applicant had, on 28th July, 2015, been convicted of providing entertainment without an Entertainments Licence, which had resulted in a fine of £200 and costs of £66 being imposed;
- **The Cuckoo, 149 Lisburn Road** (renewal of Entertainments Licence) – the licensee had, on 26th March, 2013, been fined £400 and ordered to pay £69 in costs, following an inspection of the premises, which had found that an exit door had been locked.

He informed the Members that, following those offences, officers had met with each licensee in order to review their management procedures and to ensure that

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appropriate measures had been put in place to prevent a recurrence. They had discussed with them also the arrangements to be put in place for ensuring the safety of patrons, performers and staff, particularly in the event of an emergency. Subsequent inspections, which had been undertaken in relation to the current applications, had confirmed that the management procedures within each venue were now being implemented effectively. He pointed out that no written representations had been received in relation to the applications and that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Police Service of Northern Ireland had offered no objections.

The Building Control Manager concluded by confirming that the Committee had, whilst considering previous applications for the renewal of the Entertainments Licences for the Ardoyne Working Men's Club and for The Cuckoo, been advised of the aforementioned convictions and that it had, on each occasion, agreed to renew the licences.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences in respect of Failte Restaurant, 147 Falls Road and to renew the Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licences for the Ardoyne Working Men's Club, 9b Kerrera Street and The Cuckoo, 149 Lisburn Road.

Non-Delegated Matters

**Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 -
Road Closures for Special Events**

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To inform the Committee that the Department for Infrastructure ('the Department') has begun the legislative process which will commence, on 1st January, 2017, those parts of the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (the Act) relevant to the holding of special events on roads.

1.2 From that date, councils will assume responsibility for dealing with requests to hold special events on all public roads apart from special roads (which are mainly motorways) for which the Department assumes responsibility.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and that proposals will be presented at a future meeting regarding its role in determining applications for an Order to temporarily prohibit or restrict the use of public roads in connection with special events.

2.2 A report outlining fee charging options will also be presented to you at a future meeting for your consideration.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 received Royal Assent on the 13th August, 2010 but has yet to be commenced.

3.2 Currently, there is no statutory basis to close roads for special events. At the moment, the PSNI close any road being used to hold an event, such as the Christmas Light Switch-on, but this has been done on the basis of their general powers for public safety and to protect the safety of road users.

3.3 The legislation will provide councils with the power to prohibit or restrict traffic using roads to facilitate special events taking place on roads.

3.4 The Act defines special events as any sporting event, social event, entertainment or the making of a film which is held on a public road.

3.5 From 1st January 2017, a person wishing to close a public road for a special event will be required to apply to the council and, after public notification and consultation with various statutory bodies including the PSNI and NIFRS and, after receiving the consent of the Department, the council will determine if a Road Closure Order is to be made.

3.6 The Department, through Transport NI, will still maintain responsibility for the closure of special roads, such as motorways and the Westlink.

3.7 Members may recall that the legislation was previously planned to commence in 2013 and at a meeting of the Licensing Committee on 20th March, 2013 it was agreed that the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Licensing Committee to determine all applications under the Act for an Order to temporarily prohibit or restrict the use of public roads in connection with special events.

3.8 The Committee agreed also that the need for the Committee to consider all applications be reviewed one year after the commencement of the Order; and that those provisions would

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come into operation upon publication of the Commencement Order by the DRD, at that time.

- 3.9** The Committee also considered a report at the same meeting regarding proposed fees and charges for the Act but agreed to defer until its next monthly meeting consideration of the report to enable further information to be obtained in relation to fees, Council costs and the advertising costs for event organisers.
- 3.10** The recommendations of the Licensing Committee were subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting on 3rd April, 2013.
- 3.11** However, in May 2013, the then Minister for Regional Development, who was responsible for introducing the Act, chose to defer commencing it until a later date.
- 3.12** The responsibility for administering the new legislation will include the following duties:
- validating and processing applications.
 - publishing a Public Notice and consulting with the relevant agencies.
 - dealing with representations from interested parties.
 - preparing Road Closure Orders and ensuring appropriate road closure and diversion signage is in place.

Concerns and Impact

- 3.13** Notification that the Act is to be commenced on 1st January, 2017 was received on 16th November, 2016. Whilst the introduction of this new power for local government is welcome, the proximity of the commencement date and the short lead in time of less than six weeks is problematic. Issues faced with the short lead in time include, for example:
- a need to review the potential financial liabilities and costs associated with this including the support currently provided by PSNI (at no cost) for policing and securing these events. It is understood that this may incur costs in the future;
 - a need to review and assess the advertisement costs of notices under the Act;

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- a need to review both the Licensing Committee Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation to allow for the new provisions; and
 - a need to review and agree appropriate and acceptable fee levels with Members for recovering costs from organisers of events.
- 3.14 The introduction of the new legislation will also create an additional workload for the Service. It is difficult to quantify numbers at this stage, but events such as St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, Belfast Marathon, Culture Night and Christmas Light Switch-on will require road closures as well as closures for film recordings and any special commemoration events.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.15 There will be direct financial costs attached to the administration of the new legislation and, whilst such costs may be recovered from applicants, decisions in relation to the extent of public notification required and the fee charging option chosen will determine the actual financial implication.
- 3.16 We have not had the opportunity to factor the role and costs of administrating this legislation into our budget for the financial year of 2016-2107.
- 3.17 A separate report outlining fee charging options will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.15 The implementation of the Act will be subject to an equality impact assessment to identify any equality issues and we will work with the councils Equality and Diversity Officer to ensure all potential issues are appropriately addressed.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendation.

Licensing of Pavement Cafés – Scale of Fees

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider a variety of options regarding the appropriate level of fees Belfast City Council may charge for a Pavement Café Licence.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and:

1. choose which fee charging option you consider most appropriate to introduce for a Pavement Café Licence, or
2. determine appropriate fees for a Pavement Café Licence, arising from your discussions on the various options presented.

3.0 **Main Report**

Key Issues

3.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting on 10th November, you considered the outcome of the public consultation on the proposed fees for a Pavement Café Licence and the period for which they should be granted.

3.2 At that meeting, the Committee agreed to defer until its next meeting consideration of the fees, to enable officers to consider in greater detail the charging structure which had been proposed by Alderman Spence and to review the costs to be incurred by the Building Control Service in administering the Pavement Café licensing process, with a view to formulating further options, which should take into account the comments which had been received during the public consultation exercise from Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM).

3.3 A copy of the minute from that meeting has been circulated.

3.4 Below is a summary of the proposed fees which you provisionally agreed at your meeting on 15th June:

	2016 / 2017
Grant Application Fee – <i>Non refundable</i>	£660
Renewal Application or Variation Fee – <i>Non refundable</i>	£435
Licence Fee (Annual)	£110

3.5 The table below is an extract from the report of 15th June, which illustrates how the average annual cost of a licence reduces the longer the period for which a licence is granted.

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	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total	Average cost
1 Year Licence	£770	£545	£545	£545	£545	£2,950	£590
3 Year Licence	£770	£110	£110	£545	£110	£1,645	£329
5 Year Licence	£770	£110	£110	£110	£110	£1,210	£242

Fee Options

- 3.5 A number of fee charging options are outlined below for consideration following your previous meeting.**

OPTION 1

- 3.7 As this is a new piece of legislation, we have worked with officers from other councils to agree reasonable application processing times based on our collective experience in dealing with other types of licences administered. Every task in the process was carefully considered and an estimated time for completing that task established. These times formed the basis for costing the original fees proposed.**
- 3.8 By far the largest expense identified in dealing with the pavement café licensing scheme arises from the tasks associated with the application for the grant of a new licence. We have critically re-visited these estimated times and identified some areas where processes could be streamlined in an effort to reduce costs.**
- 3.9 It should be stressed however that we are still basing costs on estimated processing times and it is proposed that once we start receiving applications we will monitor time spent and officer involvement at each level of the Service so that we can base costs on actual processing times.**
- 3.10 Since the original fees exercise was carried out we have created a new temporary post in the Service to help administer pavement café licensing. This post is at a lower salary grade than existing officers and will be able to deal with a reasonable proportion of the applications thus helping reduce costs.**
- 3.11 In order to reduce costs further we have also re-examined the previous proposals for licence compliance checks to determine if we can reduce the annual licence fee element of the costs. This fee is charged once a licence is granted and the original annual licence fee proposed of £110 was based on 1 compliance check per premises per year, some of which we envisaged may be required to take place at the weekend.**

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- 3.12 If Members deem it appropriate, there is scope to reduce our level of continuing control and enforcement activity by only carrying out compliance inspections during normal working hours from Monday to Friday. Further savings can be made by only visiting a proportion of pavement cafés each year; primarily those about which complaints have been received. It is therefore proposed to only inspect 25% of the licensed premises in the first year and adjust licence costs accordingly.
- 3.13 Again, it is proposed that once we start issuing licences we will monitor time spent on enforcement and dealing with complaints so that we can base Annual Licence fee costs on actual times.
- 3.14 By undertaking these proposals the following revised fees associated with the grant of a licence have been calculated:

	2016 / 2017
Grant Application Fee – <i>Non refundable</i>	£440
Licence Fee (Annual)	£24

- 3.15 As Members were content that a Pavement Café Licence should be issued for a period of 5 years, it is proposed that the Committee does not determine a renewal fee at this stage. We will have a much more accurate understanding of the resource implications associated with administering Pavement Café Licences in 12 months' time and it is suggested that this matter be deferred until then when proposals for the fee for the renewal or variation of a Licence will be brought before you for consideration.
- 3.16 Advantages and disadvantages of option 1 fees:

Advantages

- attains a significant reduction in the grant fee, based on an estimate of actual cost recovery;
- the average annual cost of a 5-year licence reduces by over 50% to £112;
- fee reflects the work associated with processing an application not the size of the pavement café; and
- there will be a light touch approach to enforcement.

Disadvantages

- there is no concession for smaller businesses that may operate with very few tables and chairs;
- processing of applications may be slower than expected by licensees;
- some re-prioritisation of other licensing work will be required; and
- there may not be scope to deliver the regulation and monitoring of pavement cafés expected by stakeholders and pavement users.

OPTION 2

3.7 To consider the charging fee structure proposed by Alderman Spence:

- Grant Application Fee £225.00
(No annual licence fee in the first year)
- Annual Licence Fee £55.00
- Variation / Renewal Fee £112.50

3.8 Based on the revised grant and annual licence fee proposed in option 1, an applicant would pay £464 in the first year of their licence compared to £225 proposed by Alderman Spence, which would therefore realise a 48% level of cost recovery for administering the function.

3.19 Conversely, assuming a licence is issued for a period of 5 years then the annual renewal fee for years 2-5 proposed in option 1 would total £96, compared to £220 based on Alderman Spence's proposal.

3.20 Overall a 5 year licence, as proposed by Alderman Spence, would cost £445 compared to £560 based on option 1.

3.21 Advantages and disadvantages of option 2 fees:

Advantages

- the fees are less than proposed in the public consultation and may be more acceptable to business.
- the fees compare favourably with those charged by other councils in N. Ireland.
- there will still be a light touch approach to enforcement although more time could be

attributed to dealing with complaints due to a higher annual licence fee in years 2-5.

Disadvantages

- over 50% of the cost associated with the grant of a licence will be rate borne;
- there is no concession for smaller businesses that may operate with very few tables and chairs;
- processing of applications will be slower than expected by licensees;
- re-prioritisation of other licensing work will be required; and
- there may still not be scope to deliver the regulation and monitoring of pavement cafés expected by stakeholders and pavement users.

OPTION 3

- 3.22 The Committee requested Officers to take consideration of the views expressed by BCCM that fees should be commensurate with the status of the business and based on the quantities of tables and chairs to give businesses a degree of control over their outlay and (in general) be proportionate, relative to independent and multi-nationally owned businesses.
- 3.23 The process for dealing with an application does not change, depending upon the number of tables and chairs to be licensed; as the process is the same the costs associated with it are the same also.
- 3.24 However, reflecting on the views of BCCM and some of the comments arising from the consultation process, a suggested incremental fee structure is outlined below, based on the area used for a pavement café.
- 3.25 To determine how fees might be apportioned, reference is made to a survey of potential pavement cafés in the City we have undertaken and identified the percentage falling within various area sizes.

Size (in square metres)	% of premises within that size
Up to 2 m2	17%
2 - 4 m2	51%
Over 4 m2	32%

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3.26 Based on these areas it is suggested that the following fees may apply;

Size (in square metres)	Proposed grant application fee
Up to 2 m2	£0*
2 - 4 m2	£220 – <i>non-refundable</i> (50% of the fee proposed in option 1)
Over 4 m2	£440 – <i>non-refundable</i> (fee as proposed in option 1)

3.27 * Members may wish to consider that a nominal fee be charged for the smallest pavement cafés rather than no fee.

3.28 Based on the fees proposed, this will achieve an approximate 58% level of cost recovery for the Council.

3.29 However, should a large proportion of premises decide to reduce their café size to comply with the minimum area then there will be very little income and the cost for administering the scheme will be almost entirely rate borne.

3.30 It is suggested that an annual licence fee as outlined in option 1 of £24 be charged for every successful applicant for a licence under this option; assuming Members are content with the limited level of enforcement proposed to ensure costs are minimised.

Advantages

- the fees are less than proposed in the public consultation and may be more acceptable to business;
- smaller pavement cafés will benefit – Council seen to be supporting small businesses;
- the fees compare favourably with those charged by other councils in N. Ireland; and
- there will be a light touch approach to enforcement.

Disadvantages

- at least 40% of the cost associated with the grant of a licence will be rate borne;

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- many businesses may choose the 'Up to 2m²' option, which will mean significantly more cost to the Council;
- potential criticism for greater fees for some businesses, likely to impact on hospitality venues;
- processing of applications will be slower than expected by licensees.
- re-prioritisation of other licensing work will be required; and
- It may not deliver the regulation and monitoring of pavement cafés as expected by stakeholders and pavement users.

OPTION 4

- 3.31 For completeness, a further option is to consider the proposed fees you provisionally agreed at your meeting of 15th June 2016:

	2016 / 2017
Grant Application Fee – <i>Non refundable</i>	£660
Renewal Application or Variation Fee – <i>Non refundable</i>	£435
Licence Fee (Annual)	£110

*Total fee year one = £770

3.32 Advantages

- a more realistic representation of the costs involved in administering the scheme;
- more likely to deliver the regulation and monitoring of pavement cafés expected by stakeholders and pavement users;
- fee reflects the work associated with processing an application not the size of the pavement Café; and
- timely processing of applications more likely to be achieved.

3.33 Disadvantages

- may have an adverse effect on the pavement café culture as responses received in the consultation were not positive;

- there is no concession for smaller businesses that may operate with very few tables and chairs; and
- the fees are higher than any of the other councils in N. Ireland.

Payment Plan

- 3.34 The Act allows councils to determine the time and manner in which fees or charges are to be paid.
- 3.35 In order to further accommodate prospective licence holders, annual licence fees may be spread over a one year period and paid in twelve equal instalments. The first payment must be received before the licence is issued but the remaining eleven instalments may be made by direct debit or eleven payments in person. This process is managed by the Council's Central Transactions Unit.
- 3.36 However, the grant application fee must, as with all our other application types, be made in full along with the application as this covers the cost of administration whether a licence is issued or not. As this forms the bulk of the cost to new applicants, it is doubtful whether there is merit in introducing a payment plan for the annual licence fee given that the maximum figure proposed in any of the options is £110.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.37 There are significant financial and resource implication associated with this report.

The proposed Pavement Café Licence fees at option 1 are most likely to ensure the cost of the operational and administration processes are proportionate to the licensing scheme.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.38 The Council's Equality and Diversity Officer has been consulted to ensure there are no issues with regards to the setting of fees.

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After a lengthy discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Boyle,

That the Committee agrees to apply the scale of charges, as set out within Option 2 of the report, with licences to cover a five-year period and to be reviewed on an annual basis and applicants to be offered the opportunity to avail, where applicable, of a payment plan to assist them in meeting the cost of licensing their business.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor McDonough-Brown,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

That the Committee agrees to defer until its next meeting consideration of the fees to be applied to Pavement Café Licences, to enable officers to undertake further work around Option 3 within the report, including a more detailed breakdown of the types of businesses referred to within paragraph 3.25, with a view to enabling the Council to recover the full costs of administering the Pavement Café Licence scheme.

On a vote by show of hands four Members voted for the amendment and twelve against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Alderman Spence and seconded by Councillor Boyle was thereupon put to the meeting, when twelve Members voted for and five against and it was declared carried.

Licensing of Pavement Cafés – Proposed Conditions

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 This report is to enable Members to determine the standard conditions considered appropriate to attach to licences issued under the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the proposed standard conditions of licence to be attached to Pavement Café Licences, as outlined in the attached appendix, and agree that:

- 1) they be adopted, or
- 2) they be adopted in accordance with any amendments deemed necessary, and
- 3) that a condition prohibiting the consumption of alcohol when using furniture on the area covered by the licence will only be attached to that licence if:
 - i. representations are received that the consumption of intoxicating liquor when using furniture on the area covered by the Pavement Café Licence would be likely to result in disorder, and
 - ii. after consideration by the Committee it is determined that the condition is attached to that specific licence, or
 - iii. if the premises specified in the licence are premises licensed under the Licensing Order of a kind mentioned in Article 5(1)(b) of that Order (i.e. off-licences).

2.2 As these decisions are not a delegated function of the Licensing Committee, any decision will be subject to ratification by Council.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

3.1 The Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014 ('the Act') came into operation on 1st October, 2016.

3.2 The legislation makes provision for the regulation by district councils of the placing in public areas of furniture for use for the consumption of food or drink.

3.3 DSD, now the Department for Communities, when introducing the Act, stated that its aim was to create 'light touch' legislation aimed at encouraging the creation of a café culture.

General Conditions of a Licence

3.4 The Act requires that a Pavement Café Licence must include a condition requiring temporary furniture not to be placed on any public area other than the area covered by the licence.

- 3.5 The Act also permits that a council may specify in a Pavement Café Licence such other conditions as it considers reasonable, and these may in particular include conditions –
- i. limiting the furniture which may be placed on the area covered by the licence by reference to the kind, amount, size or nature of the furniture;
 - ii. limiting the days or times when the furniture may be on that area;
 - iii. for ensuring that adequate arrangements are made for storing the furniture when not on that area;
 - iv. regulating the arrangements for payment to the council of fees;
 - v. for ensuring that such insurances and indemnities as may be specified in the licence are put in place;
 - vi. requiring the council to be notified of such matters as may be specified in the licence;
 - vii. requiring the surrender of any other pavement café licence in respect of the premises.
- 3.6 Members are asked to consider the proposed standard conditions set out in the attached appendix and determine if you wish to adopt these as the standard conditions of licence which will be attached to Pavement Café Licences in Belfast, under the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014.

Conditions Regarding the Consumption of Alcohol in a Pavement Cafe

- 3.7 If the Council grants a Pavement Café Licence, then the by-laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol do not apply to the area which is licensed. The Council may, however, include a condition prohibiting the consumption of alcohol at a pavement café, if it is satisfied that permitting persons to consume intoxicating liquor in the area covered by the Pavement Café Licence would be likely to result in disorder. If the Pavement Café Licence is one which has been granted to off-sales premises, the Council must impose a condition prohibiting persons from consuming intoxicating liquor in the area covered by the licence.
- 3.8 If Members decide that there should be a standard condition prohibiting the consumption of alcohol on all licences, then all bars, hotels and restaurants which apply for a Pavement Café Licence will have to come before Committee to seek the removal of the condition (assuming they wish to serve alcohol in their pavement café).

- 3.9 In order to keep the impact of the Act on licensees to a minimum, to process applications in a timely fashion and to reduce the administrative burden (and hence costs) on the Council, Members may wish to determine that a condition prohibiting the consumption of alcohol does not become a standard licence condition and will only be attached to a licence if:
- i. representations are received that the consumption of intoxicating liquor when using furniture on the area covered by the Pavement Café Licence would be likely to result in disorder, and
 - ii. after consideration by Committee it is determined that the condition is attached to that specific licence, or
 - iii. if the premises specified in the licence are premises licensed under the Licensing Order of a kind mentioned in Article 5(1)(b) of that Order (off-licences).
- 3.10 Members are advised that the conditions of licence may be reviewed and amended if necessary once the regime has been in operation for a period of time and nothing prevents the Committee from attaching any other condition it considers reasonable to any particular application that may come before it.
- 3.11 Any decision of the Committee in relation to policy and legislation concerning licensing matters must be ratified by Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.12 There will be additional Officer resource implications in implementing the Act and these costs will increase the greater the number of reports relating to Pavement Café applications that must be brought to Committee.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report.

Appendix

Proposed Standard Conditions to be attached to Licences issued under
the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

DEFINITIONS:

Furniture	Includes tables, chairs, umbrellas, barriers, heaters, menu boards or other approved fittings
Licensed area	A public area as defined on a plan approved by the Council as a pavement café.
Licensed period	The days and hours approved by Council when the licensed area can be used as a pavement café.
Licensee	Shall include their nominee in their absence
Licensing Order	The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996
Pavement Café Licence	The permission given by Council to allow the placing of temporary furniture on a specified public area for customers to consume food or drink supplied from the licence holder's premises

CONDITIONS OF A LICENCE

1. The Licensee shall be responsible at all times for compliance with the terms and conditions of the Pavement Café Licence.
2. The licensed area must only be used to place temporary furniture for the purpose of consuming food and/or drink supplied from the licence holder's premises.
3. The Licensee shall at all times ensure that the pavement café furniture is not placed outside the licensed area.
4. Only furniture permitted by the Council shall be used in the licensed area and such furniture shall be placed in accordance with the layout plan as agreed in writing by the Council.
5. The licensee shall only place furniture on the licensed area on those days and during those hours as permitted by the licence.
6. Any furniture provided in the licensed area shall not mark or damage the surface of the pavement.
7. Furniture should be sufficiently portable that it can be removed within 20 minutes.

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8. Adequate storage approved in writing by the Council must be provided to ensure that furniture can be stored securely when the premises are closed.
9. The Licensee shall ensure that adequate Public Liability insurance cover is in force to cover the licensed area and provide proof of that insurance upon demand by the Council.
10. The licensee shall ensure good order is maintained during all times the Pavement Café is open.
11. The licensee shall ensure that the pavement café is operated in a manner ensuring that there is no safety risk, nuisance, public health issue or detriment to amenity caused to other users of the highway or nearby premises.
12. This licence does not in any way permit the playing of live or recorded music for the entertainment of customers in the licensed area.
13. The licensee must have in place a commercial waste collection contract and provide proof of that contract upon demand by the Council.”

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the standard conditions, as set out within the foregoing appendix, be attached to a Pavement Café Licence and agreed also that a condition prohibiting the consumption of alcohol should be attached only in those circumstances outlined within paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Licensing of Pavement Cafés – Role of the Licensing Committee

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the scope of the Licensing Committee in the decision making process relating to the licensing of Pavement Cafés and to consider proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 As these decisions are not a delegated function of the Licensing Committee, the Committee is requested to agree that:

1. the Licensing Committee assumes responsibility for determining all matters under the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014, with the exception of those which have been delegated to the Director of Planning and Place;

2. the Scheme of Delegation be amended, as outlined in paragraph 3.20; and
 3. that feedback from Members will be incorporated into a subsequent report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the amendments proposed.
- 2.2 Any decision of Committee in relation to amendments to Standing Orders or the Scheme of Delegation will be subject to ratification by the Council.

3.0 **Main Report**

Key Issues

- 3.1 Members are reminded that the Department for Social Development, after they carried out an appraisal of the impact of pavement cafés in Northern Ireland, concluded that a common, clear and transparent legislative framework would be required in order to enable a café culture to develop and hence the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014 ('the Act') came into operation on the 1st October 2016.
- 3.2 A copy of the Act has been circulated to the Committee.
- 3.3 The legislation makes provision for the regulation by district councils of the placing in public areas of furniture for use for the consumption of food or drink.
- 3.4 The Service is mindful of the businesses that are currently placing tables and chairs on the pavement in the City and are very keen to develop a fair and reasonable approach to the enforcement and administration of the legislation within Belfast.
- 3.5 The DSD, now the Department for Communities, when introducing the Act stated that its aim was to create 'light touch' legislation aimed at encouraging the creation of a Café culture.
- 3.6 **The Role of Committee in the Decision-Making Process**

Due to the regulatory nature of the legislation and that there will be applications submitted under it which may be subject to challenge and public representations, the Council needs to ensure that the necessary governance arrangements, processes and policies are put in place to administer this function and to minimise the potential risks to the Council.

- 3.7 As Members are aware the Licensing Committee has delegated authority for determining applications in relation to a variety of matters, such as Entertainments Licences, where objections have been received. In addition the Committee is also responsible for determining such other matters of a licensing nature as the Director of Planning and Place, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, deems appropriate.
- 3.8 Given the licensing/regulatory nature of the Act and the similarities with the role of the Licensing Committee in terms of process, it is recommended that the Licensing Committee assumes responsibility for determining those applications for a pavement café where representations have been received either as a result of the public notice of an application or as a result of consultation with the Department for Infrastructure, PSNI, or such other persons the council considers appropriate.
- 3.9 Advice from Legal Services is that Standing Orders will be amended to include reference to the pavement café legislation and to confirm those aspects of the Act for which the Licensing Committee shall have delegated authority in determining.

Scheme of Delegation

1. Applications where no adverse representations are received

- 3.10 To deal with applications as expediently as possible, it is recommended that the Council's Scheme of Delegation be amended in line with the delegated powers for other licensing matters which will enable the Director of Planning and Place to issue Pavement Café Licences, except in circumstances where adverse representations are received.

2. Revocation, Suspension or Compulsory Variation of a Licence

- 3.11 The Council has powers under the Act to revoke, suspend or make a compulsory variation of a licence in a variety of circumstances.
- 3.12 For example, a council may at any time revoke a licence if it is satisfied that the licence holder has persistently failed to comply with any condition of licence or may suspend a licence if satisfied that all or part of the public area where the licence permits the placing of temporary furniture has become, or is going to become, temporarily unsuitable for that purpose.

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- 3.13** The council may also make a compulsory variation of a licence, for example, to limit the days or times when furniture may be placed on the licensed area.
- 3.14** If it considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to do so in the public interest, a council may decide to revoke, suspend or make a compulsory variation of a licence without first notifying the licence holder of its proposal so to do.
- 3.15** There will be circumstances such as the carrying out of road works, utility works or construction work at an adjacent building which will require the temporary suspension of a licence. There will be other circumstances including events which attract large crowds, e.g. Christmas Lights Switch On, where it would be prudent in the interests of public safety to suspend a licence. These may not always come to our attention in sufficient time that we might bring them before Committee in order that it may determine if the licence should be suspended.
- 3.16** It is not envisaged that there would be circumstances where a similar need would arise in relation to the revocation or compulsory variation of a licence.
- 3.17** Members may therefore wish to consider making provision under the Scheme of Delegation that the Director of Planning and Place has, in conjunction with the Town Solicitor, authority to suspend a licence where it is in the public interest to do so.
- 3.18** A decision to suspend a licence will in no way affect an individual's right of appeal against that decision.
- 3.19** In order to deal with the majority of Pavement Café Licence applications in a timely fashion and with the aim of keeping administrative costs to a minimum it is therefore suggested that the following amendment is made to the Scheme of Delegation to cater for the introduction of pavement café licensing:
- 3.20** Under the Scheme of Delegation the Director of Planning and Place is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue, but not refusal, of Pavement Café Licences, excluding provisions relating to:
- applications for the grant, renewal or variation of licences where adverse representations are received.

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- compulsory variation of licences.
- revocation of licences.
- setting of licence fees.
- suspension of licences except where in the public interest the Director, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, considers that there are particular circumstances which make it necessary to suspend a licence immediately.

3.21 Members are advised that the ultimate responsibility for the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act will remain with the Committee.

3.22 Any decision of the Committee in relation to policy and legislation concerning licensing matters must be ratified by Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.23 There will be additional Officer resource implications in implementing the Act and these costs will increase the greater the number of reports relating to pavement café applications that must be brought to Committee.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

3.34 There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 13th December, 2016

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Johnston (Chairperson);
Councillors Dorrian, Garrett, Hussey,
Lyons, Magee, McAteer and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. P. Williams, Director of Planning and Place;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Miss. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McGimpsey and Councillors Bunting, Carson, Hutchinson, Jones and Lyons.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st December, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declaration of Interest

Regarding item 12. m) LA04/2016/2170/F - 2 storey rear extension and single storey porch to front at 3 Strathmore Park South, Councillor Magee declared an interest in that he was the applicant of the planning application.

Committee Site Visit – 29th November

Pursuant to its decision of 15th November, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 29th November in respect of planning application LA04/2016/1644/F - Development of a Three Storey Building, Housing 5 One Bed Apartments with 6 Parking Spaces at 1 Stockman's Way.

Quarter 2 Finance Report for Planning and Place

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the financial position of both the Planning and Licensing Committees, as at the end of the second quarter of the financial year. It was noted further that there had been a net departmental underspend of £315,000, with the forecast year end position being an underspend of £460,000.

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Planning Appeals Notified

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence in respect of a number of planning appeals which had been submitted to the Planning Appeals Commission, together with the outcomes of a range of hearings which had been considered by the Commission.

Planning Decisions Notified

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under delegated authority by the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 7th November and 5th December.

Departmental Performance Update

The Development Engagement Manager provided the following information on the Department's performance to date:

Planning Applications

- 164 applications had been validated in November, 2016. (147 in October, 2016);
- Applications validated had decreased by 14% from the same month last year; and
- Overall numbers of applications validated this year had increased by 18% (1,170 up to 30th November, 2015 compared to 1,433 up to 30th November, 2016).

Planning Decisions

- 167 decisions had been issued in November, 2016.
- 94% approval rate;
- 89% decisions had been issued under delegated authority; and
- the number of decisions issued to date had increased by 40% over the same period in 2015. (866 up to 30th November, 2015 compared to 1,443 up to 30th November, 2016).

No. of applications in system by length of time

- 1,051 live applications were in the system at end of October, 2016 (1,056 in October, 2016);
- 61% of applications were in the system for less than 6 months; and
- Less than 40 legacy applications were outstanding (reduced from 780 at transfer in April, 2015).

Performance against statutory targets (figures available up to 30th October)

- The statutory target for processing major development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal

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date was within an average of 30 weeks. Up to 31st October, 2016 the average processing time to decide major applications was 67 weeks. This, however, included legacy applications and those Major applications which had been delayed whilst a Section 76 agreement had been put in place. The Development Engagement Manager pointed out that, for those Major applications dealt with exclusively by the Council, the average processing time was 37 weeks. He highlighted that for those applications that included a Section 76 agreement it had taken 53 weeks to process (planning agreements therefore adding approximately 16 weeks to the decision making process);

- The statutory target for processing local development planning applications from the date valid to decision issued or withdrawal date was an average of 15 weeks. Up to 31st October, 2016, the average processing time to decide local applications was 14.6 weeks; and
- The statutory target was that 70% of all enforcement cases are progressed to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint. Between 1st April and 31st October, 2016, 75.9% of enforcement cases had been concluded within 39 weeks.

Noted.

**Consultation response to Department for Infrastructure on LA04/2016/2637/F -
Applications to vary conditions, Royal Exchange**

The Committee was advised that a consultation request had been received by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) for the proposed application to vary conditions 2-4, 6, 8-13, 14-18, 21-22, 25, 27, 29, 30-31, 33 of planning permission Z/2010/1532/F for the demolition, redevelopment and part change of use of existing buildings to create mixed use development known as Royal Exchange. It was reported that this comprised of retail, offices, café/bar use, apartments, car parking, cultural/arts centre, hotel and associated access and circulation and public realm works, including restoration, alteration and the extension of listed buildings.

It was reported that the site was located at lands bounded by 31-101 Royal Avenue, Church Street, William Street, Writers Square, 40 to 16 Donegall Street, 2 Waring Street, 1-21 Bridge Street, 2-18 High Street, 1-27 Lombard Street, 33-55 Rosemary Street, North Street and 2-14 Lower Garfield Street.

The Development Engagement Manager summarised the draft response to the DfI, in that:

- the Council welcomed this positive step towards commencing the Royal Exchange Planning Approval in regenerating the northeast quarter of the city in line with the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and Belfast City Council's Regeneration Strategy;

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- it was critical that condition 4 of Z/2010/1532/F should also be amended. As subsequent to any approval of the variations could potentially allow for significant piecemeal demolition of an area which made up 20% of Belfast's primary retail core as defined in the Local Development Plan. The impact of this could be of significant detriment to a number of listed buildings as well as the City Centre's historic integrity and the ability to attract long term investment to this area of the city. Belfast City Council would also raise concerns on the implementation of any proposed phasing without the authority retaining some level of control; and
- condition 4 be amended to ensure through phasing that no demolition or construction works took place until a phasing and implementation programme had been submitted and agreed with the Department and the construction contract was entered into under each phase which had been agreed under condition 4 and that there were assurances and commitment to the construction on the new building(s) to be developed prior to any demolition.

The Committee agreed that the response, as outlined in Appendix 3 (copy available on the Council's website), be issued to the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Strategic Planning Division on behalf of the Council, in particular:

- Belfast City Council offered no objection in principle to the variation of condition application which would pave the way for the commencement and implementation of planning approval Z/2010/1532/F, however, requested that the DfI gave consideration to a new varied Condition 4, to read:

"No development shall commence on site until a phasing plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Department. No demolition or development within a particular phase shall commence until a valid contract has been agreed for the whole development of that phase in its entirety, in accordance with details that shall have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Department."

The Committee also delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place to resolve any additional issues arising from this consultation and to further respond to the DfI that a Planning Appeal Commission Hearing would not be requested provided that the Notice of Opinion was to grant planning permission, in line with the formal response of the Council.

**Response to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Consultation on
LA05/2016/0700/O - Site for a new cemetery on land north of 10 Quarterland Road,
Dundrod**

With permission of the Chairperson, the Director tabled a report regarding an update on the Loughview Park Cemetery planning application. He advised that notification had been received by the Department for Infrastructure which sought a response in

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relation to the planning application which was being dealt with by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

He summarised the draft response and highlighted that whilst the Council had no specific planning comments in relation to the merits of the submitted application it would like to provide Lisburn and Castlereagh Council with some contextual information in respect of the projected need and demand for burial provision.

The Committee approved the submission of the consultation response to the DfI as outlined in Appendix 1 (copy available on the Council's website).

**Notification of Proposal of Application Notice - Gas fired generation station
at Belfast Harbour Estate**

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure, which related to the Proposal of Application Notice or the erection of a 480MW CCGT gas fired power generation station with associated development, including the construction of an underground gas pipeline connection between existing Knocknagoney Gas Pressure Reduction Station and the power generation site which had been received on 18th October.

Notice of Intention Extinguishment of Public Rights of Way - Ravenhill Reach

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Communities, which related to the extinguishment of a Public Rights of Way at lands at rear of Ravenhill Reach and Ravenhill Reach Mews to Ballarat Street.

TransportNI - Development at York Road, Adoption Notification

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure, which related to the adoption certification at York Road (at Grove Health and Wellbeing Centre).

Miscellaneous Items

Restricted Item

The information contained in the following two reports is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

(Councillors Dorrian and Hussey had left the room whilst the item was under consideration).

Local Development Plan Preferred Options Update - Technical Supplements

The Committee was provided with an update regarding the Local Development Plan Preferred Options, which included the following technical reports that covered a range of issue to assist the Planning Department to formulate its policies and proposals:

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- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Interim Report: The SA promoted sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan would help to achieve the environmental, economic and social objectives;
- Countryside Assessment: identified the city's environmental features including rural and countryside assets;
- Equality Impact Assessment Screening and progress report: identified those policies that were likely to have an impact on equal opportunities and good relations; and
- 17 Position Papers: Evidence-based papers to inform the plan.

The Committee was advised that the technical documents would accompany the Preferred Options Paper (POP) when it was formally published.

It was also highlighted that the proposed POP consultation programme would commence in January until April, 2017 and included a range of engagement methods:

- a launch;
- citywide information events;
- area engagement information and drop in events;
- bespoke engagement activity and briefings with key partners/stakeholder/Section 75 groups;
- consultation workshop events around the strategic aims;
- engagement with statutory consultees; and
- internal information updates and staff briefings.

After discussion, the Committee noted the contents of the report, in particular:

- the additional technical documents that would accompany the Local Development Plan on publication; and
- the proposed consultation approach commencing in early 2017.

(Councillor Hussey returned to the Committee table at this point.)

Developer Contribution Framework

The Development Engagement Manager provided an update on the progress of establishing a Framework for planning agreements and securing developer contributions, together with an update of the contributions which have been secured to date.

He advised that the first part of the Framework would include the Council's legal and policy basis for developer contributions, strategic alignment, infrastructure and viability and monitoring arrangements covering the operational aspects of the policy.

The second part of the Framework would set out the types of obligations which might be required depending on the nature, size and impacts of the development being applied for and clearly set the formulae and methodology by which the Council shall identify the contribution levels which might be sought. He confirmed that this element of the Framework was critical in highlighting the types of obligations required, the planning

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policy justification and the levels of contributions which would be sought, whilst provided the development industry with the certainty that it needed to progress development proposals.

He outlined the proposed timetable for the launch of the Developer Contributions Framework and pointed out that Party Briefings would take place in January so that feedback could be considered prior to bringing forward the Framework to consultation.

He also advised that, to assist the process, evidence based research was proposed to be undertaken to include economic and market analysis of the city with a view to present research findings to the Committee in March, seeking approval to launch the Framework for Public Consultation.

The Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed:

- that Party Briefings be held in January on Part One of the Framework and the document be issued to Members in advance of the Briefings for consideration; and
- to the forward work programme as set out in Appendix 1 - Developer Contributions Timetable (copy available on the Council's website).

Charging Framework for Pre Application Discussions

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 seek the Committee's agreement to the draft Scale of Charging for Pre-Application Discussions.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to agree the draft Scale of Charging for Pre-Application Discussions found at Appendix 1 with a view to informal consultation with stakeholders, including agents, developers and landowners.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

At its meeting of 18th October, the Committee agreed that the Director of Planning & Place should investigate a Scale of Charging for Pre-Application Discussions ('PADS').

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland ('SPPS'), adopted September 2015, recognises that PADS are *'...fundamental to 'front loading' the new development*

management system. This front loading will help all parties, both to prepare an application to a high standard and to establish an agreed course and timetable for determining a development proposal'.

Development Management Practice Note 10 - Pre-Application Community Consultation recognises that the pre-application process is not a statutory requirement and is optional. However, by facilitating effective and meaningful pre-application discussions, a Council can ensure that opportunities to work collaboratively with applicants and to improve the quality of developments are maximised.

Many local planning authorities, including UK Core Cities, utilise this approach for strategic, major, and other forms of development, and charge for this service. Example charging rates by other Cities is provided in the table at Appendix 1.

3.2 Key Issues

Belfast is facing an unprecedented level of growth where the development pipeline includes very significant commercial and employment generating developments. The Council is committed to encouraging quality developments in the capital city of Northern Ireland.

To support applicants investing in such developments the Council needs to provide certainty and sufficient resources to ensure that planning applications for large scale, complex and other types of proposal are dealt with in a timely manner. It is therefore necessary to introduce a charging for the PAD service.

The recommended charging rate is set (copy available on the Council's Website). The charging rate has been set to recover staff and administrative costs associated with servicing a PAD. Based on the number of PADS received over the last 12 months, the Council would have received around £80,000 (excluding payments for additional meetings) had charging for PADS already been in place.

Given that this is a new and developing service, it is recommended that the Council does not charge for PADS in relation to householder developments, Listed Buildings (unless associated with a change of use), Conservation Area Consents and Advertisements. It is further recommended that there is no charge for PADS in relation to community proposals. The Duty Planner service will remain available for

members of the public who wish to discuss proposals such as domestic extensions and alterations. This is a free service.

In introducing charges for PADS, the planning service will need to provide clarity around the role of pre-application advice, how the process works and what minimum level of information required from applicants to ensure meaningful discussions.

3.3 Next stage

The next stage will be to informally consult on the Scale of Charging with customers, including agents, developers and landowners. It is expected that this will be done by way of a stakeholder workshop, which will discuss the Scale of Charging and Pre-Application Discussion process generally. Feedback from the workshop will be reported to the Committee, alongside draft guidance on the PAD process, so that the Committee can make a final decision on the Scale of Charging for the PAD process.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

Charging for Pre-Application Discussions is an important income stream that will support the delivery of this vital part of the planning service.

3.6 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee agreed that the draft Scale of Charging for Pre-Application Discussions as outlined in Appendix 1 (copy available on the Council’s website), be utilised for informal consultation with stakeholders, including agents, developers and landowners.

Supporting Community Engagement on Larger Planning Applications

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting of 18th October, it had agreed that the Director of Planning and Place explore the potential for the provision of independent technical support and capacity for community organisations and residents, to enable them to effectively engage and input into major physical regeneration and key capital projects in the city.

The Development Engagement Manager outlined the contents of the report and advised that Government or other agencies were best placed to provide or sponsor such support because of the need for councils (as local planning authorities) to remain impartial in the planning process and not favour one stakeholder above another.

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It was understood that such support was previously provided by the Department of Environment but had been withdrawn. He advised that investigation of appropriate and independent expert support for communities would be of relevance to all communities across Northern Ireland, with potential to benefit the constituents of all eleven councils.

He confirmed that the Director of Planning and Place had therefore written to the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) to raise these issues and ask for the matter to be explored further.

Noted.

Listed Buildings

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) seeking the Council's views in respect of proposals which had been formulated for the listing of a number of buildings in Belfast.

The Committee was reminded that Article 80 (3) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 required the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

After discussion, the Committee agreed with the Agency's proposals to list the following building:

- 102 – 108 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 3HU.

(Councillor Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point.)

Planning Applications

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE
POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(e)**

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2015/1056/F - Demolition of existing 2.5 storey house and replacement with a 3 storey apartment building at 1 Hopefield Avenue

(Councillors Armitage, Dorrian and McAteer took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 18th October or 15th November when it had been considered).

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th November, given the issues which had been raised regarding the overdevelopment and design of the proposal, together with the potential impact on the townscape character of the area, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

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The case officer advised that two possible reasons for refusal had been outlined in the report, however, the recommendation remained that the application should be approved.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Magee,
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Committee, agrees to refuse the application based on the reasons for refusal outlined in the case officer's report:

1. The proposal is contrary to Policy QD1 of the Department's Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments in that the proposal fails to respect the surrounding context and is inappropriate to the character to the area by virtue of the design and appearance of the proposed building.
2. The proposal is contrary to Policy ATC2 of the Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 6 Areas of Townscape Character in that the proposed development fails to maintain or enhance the overall character or respect the built form of the Lower Cavehill Area of Townscape Character by virtue of its inappropriate design.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

That the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendation to approve the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report.

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

Reconsidered Item - LA04/2016/1644/F, 3 storey building, housing 5 one bed apartments with 6 parking spaces at 1 Stockmans Way

(Councillors Armitage and McAteer took no part in the decision-making of the application since they had not been in attendance at the meeting on 15th November when it had previously been considered).

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th November, it had deferred consideration of the application so that the Committee could undertake a site

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visit in order to acquaint Members with the site and to assess the issues which had been raised regarding safety, traffic, outlook and the quality of amenity space of the proposal.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the addition of any required conditions in relation to air quality and noise attenuation, subject to the response being received by Environmental Health on such matters.

Z/2015/0326/F - 23 apartments (in 3 blocks) on lands at Ormonde Gardens

The case officer outlined an application for the erection of twenty three apartments (in 3 blocks) and all other associated site works.

Mr. T. Stokes, agent, representing the applicant, outlined a range of points in support of the proposed application which included the quality of the development, revised layout and design amendments and the current building on the site being obsolete.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2015/0529/F - Construction of a drive-thru restaurant along with car parking, access and general site works at 233 - 263 Shore Road

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, additional information had been received from the agent regarding the zoning of the land for housing in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP), planning history of the site, BMAP's ability to meet housing needs, and the established character and uses of the Shore Road. It outlined issues such as the current site being an eyesore, the site formed a small portion of the housing zone and would not prejudice the remainder of the site and the proposed drive-thru restaurant would be a subordinate use of the site. It was reported that the agent had also submitted plans to address the concerns regarding the use of the car park and impact on residential amenity.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as outlined in the Late Items Report Pack.

He explained that, after assessment, it had been recommended for refusal on the grounds that:

1. The proposal was contrary to the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 as the site was zoned for housing and, if permitted, would prejudice the delivery of housing in an area of current housing need; and
2. The proposal was contrary to the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) and DCAN 4 in that it would, if approved, result in adverse impact on the residential amenity of occupiers of

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properties in Oakmount Drive during anti-social times by virtue of noise and disturbance from vehicles and customers.

The Committee received representations from Mr. D. Chick, applicant, and Mr. R. O'Toole, agent representing the applicant. Mr. O'Toole outlined a range of objections to the recommended refusal which related to the planning history, housing zone, and the lack of intent from housing associations and developers to build housing on the site. He suggested that the impact of the proposal on BMAP would be minimal, the proposal was a small percentage of the site, and the application had the potential for job creation and investment in the area. In addition, Mr. Chick explained his objections to the recommendation and suggested that the site had been in use for commercial and retail businesses for the last 80 years and it was hard to understand why this had now been taken away.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Magee,

Resolved - That the Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the zoning of the land and residential amenity, agrees to defer consideration of the application so that the amended plans which had been received could be assessed regarding residential amenity and that a reconsidered potential recommendation for an approval, in spite of it being zoned for housing in BMAP, be provided for consideration at next month's committee meeting.

LA04/2016/0374/F - Development of 20 dwellings , car parking, security gates and footpath on lands at Brookmount Street

The Committee considered the proposed application for the development of 20 dwellings (18 two storey terrace dwellings and 2 bungalows) and associated car parking, security gates and footpath.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0609/O - 9 dwellings with associated site works at 10 Carncoole Park

The Committee considered the proposed application for outline planning permission for 9 dwellings with associated car parking.

The case officer explained that, after assessment, it had been recommended for refusal on the grounds that the proposal was contrary to Policy QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7: Quality Residential Environments and Policy LC 1 of the 2nd Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7: Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas in that it would, if permitted, cause unacceptable damage to the character and residential amenity of the area through inappropriate form, layout and pattern of

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development and would result in noise and nuisance to number 12 Carncoole Park through increased traffic movements.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/1488/F - 6 apartments at 25 Malone Road

(Councillor Dorrian had left the room whilst the item was under consideration).

The Committee considered an application for the demolition of 3 existing apartments and the erection of 6 apartments.

The case officer highlighted that, although the proposal removed an existing town house within the Malone Conservation Area, the principle of the development was established under planning permission Z/2011/1225/F (approved 3/1/2015 and remained extant until 3/1/2018).

On a vote by show of hands, 3 Members voted in favour of adopting the recommendation to approve the application, with 2 voting against, and it was declared carried.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

(Councillor Dorrian returned to the Committee table at this point).

LA04/2016/2045/F - Alterations to the ground floor lobby of Oyster House, extension and alteration to floors one to seven to rear of Oyster House and Royston House and alterations to elevations on Upper Queen Street and Wellington Place Lands at 12 - 30 Wellington Place (Oyster House) and 42-46 Upper Queen Street (Royston House)

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application.

It was reported that the site was located within the development limits of Belfast in the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 and was identified as being within the Belfast City Centre Conservation Area.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

Z/2014/0260/F - 6 detached dwellings with associated car-parking, garages, landscaping, site and access works with conversion and alterations of existing listed building to a single dwelling on lands located to the south of 1-7 Glenmachan Park and adjoining Glenmachan Road

(Councillor McAteer had left the room whilst the item was under consideration).

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The case officer highlighted that this was a revised scheme comprising of a conversion of the existing listed building to a single dwelling and 6 detached dwellings within the grounds.

The Committee approved the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and, in accordance with Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place, in conjunction with the City Solicitor, to enter into discussions with the applicant to explore the scope of any Planning Agreements which might be realised by way of developer contributions and, if so, to enter into such an Agreement on behalf of the Council.

(Councillor McAteer returned to the Committee table at this point).

LA04/2016/1540/RM - Roundabout, works at M3 slip lane and reconfiguration and upgrade of Sydenham Road/Queen's Quay at Queen's Quay (lands between M3 and Odyssey building)

The case officer outlined a Reserved Matters (RM) application which sought permission for the essential infrastructure consisting of the construction of a new roundabout, works at the M3 slip lane and the reconfiguration and upgrade of Sydenham Road/Queen's Quay in association with a major mixed use development for residential (798 units), hotels (x2), offices (c. 5000sqm), leisure and community uses (c3,000 sqm), cafes, bars and restaurants (c3,000sqm), a multi storey car park (c 55,000sqm) and an ancillary development which had been granted outline approval in December, 2013.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2016/2093/A - 2 signs to the east elevation of 9 - 21 Adelaide Street comprising of a building name and council logo

(Councillor Magee had left the room whilst the item was under consideration).

With permission of the Chairperson, the Director tabled an application report for advertising consent for the erection of two signs to the east elevation of 9 - 21 Adelaide Street comprising the building name and Belfast City Council logo.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the applicant.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/1825/F - Woodland Outdoor classroom and play area at Shore Road

The case officer outlined an application for a new woodland play facility and outdoor classroom at lands to the rear of St. Marys Nursery.

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The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

(Councillor Magee returned to the Committee table at this point).

LA04/2016/2170/F - 2 storey rear extension and single storey porch to front at 3 Strathmore Park South

(Councillor Magee, who had declared an interest in this application, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The Committee considered an application to construct a two storey rear extension and a single storey front porch to an existing detached dwelling.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the applicant was a member of Council.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0460/F- Conversion of existing building to 6 one bed residential apartments with alterations to facades and structural repair / alteration of rear extension at 164 - 166 Ravenhill Road

(Councillor Magee returned to the Committee table at this point).

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2016/0867/F - Conversion of existing building to 6 apartments including landscaping and replacement UPVC windows at 195 Templemore Avenue

The Committee considered the proposed application.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

(Councillor McAteer returned to the Committee table at this point).

LA04/2016/1419/F - Park and Ride at Blacks Road

The case officer outlined an application for 307 additional spaces to the existing car park as well as LED street lighting at reduced heights. She advised that the site was located adjacent to the existing park and ride car park on Black's Road.

**Planning Committee,
Tuesday, 13th December, 2016**

After discussion, given the issues which had been raised regarding residential parking, the connectivity between areas and transport hubs, active travel, and links to the local development plan, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable the applicant, the Department for Infrastructure, to respond formally to the issues which had been raised, to ensure connectivity for the future of the Local Development Plan.

LA04/2015/1532/F - Change of Use to Hot Food takeaway with flue, Shankill Road

The Committee considered an application for the change of use from a furniture shop to hot food bar (Sui Generis).

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

Chairperson

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