

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 13th March, 2015

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Reynolds (Chairman);
Aldermen Campbell, R. Patterson and Robinson;
Councillors Attwood, M. E. Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr,
Haire, Hendron, Jones, Kennedy, and McVeigh.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Councillors Mullan and Newton.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Democratic Services and Governance

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

The Committee was advised that the undernoted request for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality had been received:

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Appendix 1

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
International Planned Parenthood Federation	IPPF Annual Conference Reception 25th June, 2015 Approximately 120 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Queen's University Belfast	British Association for American Studies and the Irish Association for American Studies 7th April, 2016 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Primary Science Teaching Trust	PSTT International Conference 2016 9th June, 2016 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
36th (Ulster) Division Memorial Association Arts and	Battle of the Somme Centenary Dinner	The use of the City Hall and the provision	This event will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and

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Cultural Society	10th June, 2016 Approximately 350 attending	of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	acknowledge the contribution and achievements of the 36th (Ulster) Division. This application was endorsed by the Diversity Group at its meeting on 3rd March. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	soft drinks Approximate cost £500
NI4Kids Limited	NI4Kids Family Awards 29th June, 2015 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	This event will recognise the individuals and companies who constantly strive to improve the lives of families with young children. Among the awards presented will be: Family Visitor Attraction of the Year; Primary School Teacher of the Year; Family Support Organisation of the Year; and Family Event of the Year. The individual family member award categories are an opportunity to recognise outstanding achievements in overcoming adversity and dedication by individuals to their families. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £625

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			for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
British Institute of Cleaning Science	Northern Ireland Cleaner of the Year 2013 14th September, 2015 Approximately 50 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event seeks to acknowledge the vital role of cleaners across various industries in Northern Ireland. The event will also aim to recognise those individuals who have been nominated within their respective industries for undertaking their duties to a high standard. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £125
The Fostering Network, Northern Ireland	Fostering Achievement Awards 19th September, 2015 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will recognise the achievements of young people in foster care in Belfast. It will provide the opportunity to celebrate and encourage some of the most vulnerable young people in our society. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximately cost £500

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			communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
Safeguarding Board NI and Parenting NI	<p>Launch of "The More You Know, The More You See"</p> <p>21st April, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 120 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p>	<p>This event will provide the opportunity to launch the Northern Ireland showing of "Chelsea's Choice" a hard-hitting forty minute theatre production which has proven highly successful in raising awareness amongst young people of the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £300</p>
Community Places and Ulster University	<p>Launch of: Community Participation in Planning Erasmus+ Partnership Project</p> <p>23rd April, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 60 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p>	<p>This event will provide the opportunity to explore how people and communities can participate in the planning and delivery of public services and in the development of both community and local development planning</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £150</p>

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			Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	
Jigsaw Community Counselling Centre	Launch of "The heART Room" 8th May, 2015 Approximately 60 people attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will launch "The heART Room" a project funded by Children in Need which provides free art therapy to children and young people whilst providing a safe and confidential environment for the expression of their concerns. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £150
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry	The Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual Lunch 18th June, 2015 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall.	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. This event would	The use of the City Hall.

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			contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	
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The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Finance/Value-for-Money

Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Panel of 10th March.

Human Resources

Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Order 55 and the authority delegated to him, the Director of Finance and Resources had authorised the appointment of an individual who was related to an existing officer of the Council.

Noted.

Good Relations and Equality

Minutes of meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 9th February

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 9th February.

Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership of 9th March

In considering the minutes of the meeting of 9th March, a Member drew the Committee's attention to the decision of the Partnership in relation to the Review of the Bonfire Management Programme to defer the matter to a future meeting of the Partnership. He pointed out that that would provide a limited timeframe for the Committee to consider the options contained within the report and he expressed a view that the report should be submitted to the meeting of the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which was being held the following week on 20th March.

The Chief Executive pointed out that, should the Committee be minded to agree to that course of action, there would not be sufficient time to obtain the information which had been requested by the Good Relations Partnership and, therefore it would be

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the original report which had been submitted to that Group which would be submitted to the Committee.

Accordingly, it was

Moved by Alderman Robinson,
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy,

That the report on the Review of the Bonfire Management Programme by submitted to the meeting of the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee scheduled to be held on 20th March.

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

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 9th March were approved and adopted.

Minutes of meeting of Diversity Working Group

Bicentennial of Battle of Waterloo

In considering the minutes of the meeting of the Diversity Working Group, a member drew the Committees attention to the decision in relation to the Bicentennial of the Battle of Waterloo and suggested that, in addition to approving the free use of the City Hall for such events, on the condition that funding for the events would be found elsewhere, that a commemorative tree be planted at an appropriate location to mark the event.

The Committee agreed to this suggestion.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the minutes of the meeting of the Diversity Working Group of 3rd March were approved and adopted.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Motion re: Northern Ireland Driving Licences

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd February, had passed the following motion, which had been moved by Alderman R. Patterson and seconded by Alderman Kingston:

Notice of Motion

Northern Ireland Driving Licences

Moved by Alderman R. Patterson,
Seconded by Alderman Kingston,

“This Council:

1. expresses concern at the way in which the decision was taken by SDLP Environment Ministers to exclude Northern Ireland from the reforms currently taking effect in relation to the appearance of the Union flag on UK driving licences;
2. believes that such a decision is likely to harm community relations and cause hurt and offence to those citizens who would like to see such changes apply to their own driving licence;
3. calls upon the Minister to reverse his position and allow the changes to be implemented here;
4. believes that if the Minister is unwilling to embrace such change he should, as an absolute minimum, introduce an ‘opt out’ scheme, whereby those who do not want to have the flag appear on their licence can choose not to have it and everyone else can; and
5. recognises that failure to implement such a scheme would be unfair to those citizens who want the Union Flag to appear on their driving licence.”

The Committee was advised that a letter had been forwarded subsequently to the Environment Minister, Mr. Mark H. Durkan MLA informing him of the Council’s decision. A response had been received on 18th February.

In his response, the Minister had pointed that Great Britain and Northern Ireland driving Licences were issued by separate and independent licensing authorities and that there was no UK licensing authority. In Northern Ireland, that function was transferred, under the Northern Ireland Act 1988, to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Department of the Environment had granted responsibility under the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 for a range of matters relating to the licensing of drivers, including the form of driving licence.

The Minister had then referred to correspondence which had, in 2012, been forwarded by the Department for Transport Minister, Mike Penning MP, to the then Environment Minister, Alex Attwood MLA, advising him of the Government’s intentions

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to display the Union Flag only on driving licences issued in Great Britain. Minister Penning had proposed, giving the sensitivities around symbols that the D.V.L.A. continued to print under contract Northern Ireland driving licences without any change to their existing design and had sought the Environment Minister's views in the regard. Minister Durkan had pointed out further that the Department of the Environment officials had, subsequently, engaged with the D.V.L.A. to determine if it would be possible to offer applicants from Northern Ireland the option of either including or excluding the Union Flag from their licence. It had confirmed that the cost of making the required changes to the existing system to cater for Northern Ireland applicants would render that suggestion prohibited.

The Minister had concluded by stating the Department of the Environment had received no further correspondence on the matter until the receipt on 23rd December, 2014, that a letter from the current Department for Transport Minister, John Hayes MP, confirming that driving licences for Great Britain could continue to display the Union Flag and be excluded from those licences printed by the D.V.L.A. for Northern Ireland drivers.

The Committee noted receipt of the response from the Minister.

Chairman