

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd September, 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, Graham,
Haire, Hargey, Hutchinson, Jones, Long, McCabe,
McVeigh, O'Donnell, Reynolds and Walsh.

Also Attended: Councillor Brown.

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, Town Solicitor;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Kennedy and McAllister.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th August 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 September.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Reynolds declared an interest in respect of Item 3e - Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to Belfast City Council and left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration

Presentation

Presentation from NIPSA - Proposed Closure of Regional Electoral Offices

The Committee was advised that Mr D Harte, representing NIPSA, was in attendance to provide the members with a presentation of the proposed closure of the regional electoral offices.

Mr Harte outlined the background to the proposals and indicated that NIPSA had been advised in January that the preferred option was centralisation but had been denied the financial information it had sought to justify the closure of regional electoral offices. He referred to the industrial action which had been taken by NIPSA members and the political engagement with the First and Deputy First Ministers, MPs, MLAs and Councillors. In addition, it had sought meetings with the NI Affairs Committee and the Secretary of State.

He then referred to the work undertaken by the regional Electoral Offices which included the running of Assembly, Westminster and European Elections and Referendums, electoral identification, voter registration and the promotion of voter participation.

Mr Harte explained that plans were at an early stage in relation to which services would be undertaken by local councils. He stated that the Chief Electoral Officer had spoken with all 11 local council chief executives and there were proposals for councils to take over the running of all elections, provide electoral identification and voter registration services.

He urged the Council to become more proactive, to bring in the Chief Electoral Officer and challenge him as part of the public consultation process, engage as a Council in the public consultation and to support the retention of the service which was currently provided. In conclusion, he requested the Council not to sign up to anything until it had received a fully costed business plan about which services were going to transfer and how they would be paid for.

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

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Chief Electoral Officer be invited to a special meeting, to which all Members would be invited to attend, to discuss proposals to close regional electoral offices and the future plans for electoral services; and that a meeting be sought with the Secretary of State with an All-Party Deputation from the Council to discuss the same.

Restricted Items

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

Belfast Investment Fund

The Committee was reminded that the Council had established a Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) which was designed to support partnership projects across the city. There was originally £22million available under BIF. In January 2016, the Committee had agreed to ring fence an additional £5million for projects in the areas which had been transferred in from Lisburn and Castlereagh under Local Government Reform as those areas had not had an opportunity to have any BIF projects considered.

The Director of Property and Projects advised that, excluding the projects from areas which had transferred in, there were 23 BIF proposals of which four projects were currently at Stage 3 – Committed. He reminded the Members that, since the previous year, a lot of hard work had been undertaken by project promoters and officers in terms of progressing BIF projects and that a number of those were now at the point of an investment decision. He submitted a report which outlined:

- The current status of the BIF projects including those in the transferring areas;
- Projects recommended to be moved through the Stage Approval process/added to the BIF list on the basis of discussions with the Area Working Groups, Party Briefings and the ongoing work by project promoters; and
- Specific updates in relation to additional ring fenced allocation for the Court District Electoral Area (former Shankill Area Working Group area) and ring fenced allocations for projects within North and South Belfast.

Accordingly it was recommended that the Committee agree to the following recommendations and those as set out in Table 1 below.

- Note that, if projects were recommended to be moved to Stage 3 – Committed, that a maximum BIF allocation was recommended;
- Agree an additional allocation of £1.2million to be ring fenced for projects within the Shankill area of the Court District Electoral Area; and
- Note that it would be mean a total BIF allocation of £23,200,000. The total of the projects proposed to move to stage 3 was £10,560,000 with a further £4,800,000 ring fenced to specific projects.

Table 1 – BIF recommendations

| PROJECT | CURRENT STAGE | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| NORTH | | |
| Cancer Lifeline | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £650,000 - Subject to the successful acquisition of the adjoining site, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project |
| Grace Family Centre | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £1,600,000 - Subject to planning being obtained, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent for the project |
| Malgrove | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 - Emerging |
| Cliftonville Community Forum | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging |
| Old Grove Masterplan | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging. Agree that a total of £2.25m be ringfenced for emerging projects |
| Ballysillan Masterplan | Stage 1 – Emerging | |
| SOUTH | | |
| Lanyon Tunnels | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £1,300,000 - Subject to LOO from the Executive Office re SIF funding and conditions being confirmed by the Council's DD team, lease agreements being signed, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as the delivery |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | | <i>agent</i> |
| Gilpins/Sandy Row | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Hold at Stage 2 – Uncommitted and continue discussions with Urban Villages/local community and stakeholders regarding next steps and to continue to work up the proposals Agree that £1.35m is ringfenced for a project within the Sandy Row UV area |
| Bredagh | Stage 1 – Emerging | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £700,000 - subject to the return of a satisfactory tender |
| EAST | | |
| H&W Welders | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £2,370,000 subject to agreement by Estates and the Town Solicitor in relation to the terms of a long lease, confirmation of funding from DfC, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as the delivery agent |
| Bloomfield Community Association | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £440,000 (pending the completion of funding DD of the EA). The outcome of the funding DD (review of the EA) will be brought back to the East AWG and Committee once this has been completed |
| Strand Cinema | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Hold at Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow discussions to continue regarding securing match funding for the project. Report on costs to be brought to a future East AWG |
| East Belfast Mission | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging |
| Lagan Valley Youth & Community Group | N/A | Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Recommended by the East AWG at its meeting on 15 th Sept |
| Belmont Bowling Club | N/A | Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Recommended by the East AWG at its meeting on 15 th Sept |
| WEST | | |
| St. Comgall's | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Move to Stage 3 – Committed with a maximum allocation of £3,500,000 - Subject to LOO from the Executive Office re SIF funding and conditions being confirmed by the Council's DD team, planning being obtained, the return of a satisfactory tender and the Council being the delivery agent |
| St. Mary's CBS | Stage 2 – Uncommitted | Hold at Stage 2- Uncommitted |
| Glencairn Community project | Stage 1 – Emerging | Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted - to allow project to be worked up and accurately costed £1.2m additional allocation to be ringfenced (see above) to Shankill area. Amount to be allocated to Glencairn project to be determined once detailed costings are complete. |
| Suffolk community Forum | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging |
| Belfast Hills | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging |
| An Sportlann | Stage 1 – Emerging | Hold at Stage 1 – Emerging |

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Committee agrees to refer the East Belfast projects back to the East Area Working Group to enable information which had been supplied by the Strand Cultural Centre to be considered at the next meeting before any decision on the projects was taken.

On a vote by show of hands four members voted for the proposal and thirteen against and it was accordingly declared lost.

The Committee accordingly adopted the recommendations and agreed that the necessary procurement processes, including the implementation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate “framework” arrangements, be initiated for BIF projects as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

Review of Staffing Structure in Markets Unit - Update

The Committee considered a report in relation to a new organisational structure for the Markets Unit and revised working arrangements to improve operations and customer services.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to:

- Create a new job designation of Markets and Customer Services Attendant (Scale 3) to replace the current Market Attendant (Scale 3) and increase the number of those to 7.67 Full Time Equivalent from 5.5 Full Time Equivalent;
- Re-designate the 3 substantive Markets Assistant posts to Markets and Customer Services Attendants;
- Create a new job designation of Duty Manager (PO1) to replace the current Senior Markets Supervisor (SO2) to recognise the additional duties and responsibilities and create 2 additional posts to bring the establishment up to 3 Full Time Equivalent;
- Re-designate the one substantive Senior Markets Supervisor post to Duty Manager;
- Delete the Markets Development Officer (PO3) post and offer the post holder voluntary redundancy;
- Delete the Markets Supervisor (Scale 5) and offer the post holder flexible retirement into one of the newly created Markets and Customer Services Attendant Post (Scale 3);
- Introduce a local arrangement detailing a flexibility payment, similar to the one in place in the Waterfront and Ulster Halls, to replace weekend enhancement payments and help facilitate the introduction of new markets opportunities ; and
- Create an “additional hours” local arrangement to allow other council staff to work within the markets providing cover or during busy period which will provide training and development opportunities and reduce future overtime payments.

Belfast Big Screen

The committee considered a report on the future of the City Hall Big Screen and:

- Agreed that the equipment be placed on the Council’s Asset Disposal Register and an Expressions of Interest process be instigated; and
- Noted that this would mean that the screen would remain in situ until such time as it was acquired by a third party or it became obsolete. It would not remain after 2019.

Maysfield Water Inlet Update

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the request from Allstate to contribute towards the cost of removing and disposal of the contaminated silt at the Maysfield water inlet.

Transfer of Assets/Liabilities to Belfast City Council

The Committee, while noting its support for the capital investment proposed, agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable the Director of Property and Projects to hold further discussions with the Department for Communities and the Executive Office on the ongoing revenue implications and the conditions under which the Council would accept the transfer of assets.

Matters Referred back from Council/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion re: City Centre Living

The Committee was advised that the following Notice of Motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Lyons, had been referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September:

“This Council notes that there is high social housing need in Belfast, with over 10,000 households on the waiting list and 6,000 households in housing stress, and that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) is developing a City centre waiting list for site specific developments.

The Council believes that, together with the NIHE and other partners, there exists a unique opportunity in the City centre, to create social, affordable and private housing schemes and mixed income communities to increase the residential population and build shared, balanced and sustainable communities.

The Council agrees, as part of the Local Development Plan process and City Centre Regeneration Scheme, to develop with the NIHE and other key partners a City Centre Liveability Plan, which will set out plans to grow the City centre population through an expansion of the housing offer. This plan will include the development of social, affordable and private housing and seek to encourage more families living in the City centre. The plan will also look at the quality of the places and buildings, the need for private and communal open spaces/parks and access to schools essential for family living in the City centre.”

After discussion the Committee agreed to the proposal as set out in the Motion.

George Best Belfast City Airport Noise Control Contour

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report follows a request for further information regarding a response made by Belfast City Council in respect of the removal of the seats for sale restriction at Belfast City Airport to the then DoE relating to recommendations made by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) following a public inquiry.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the report.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 The PAC conducted a public inquiry at the request of the Department of the Environment in respect of the City Airport's application for the removal of the seats for sale restriction. A number of reports were taken to the Council prior to the conduct of the inquiry and the Council endorsed an approach that balanced the potential for economic benefits and growth at the City Airport with measures that would protect communities and the environment.

3.2 Members at the meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on the 19th December 2014 delegated the presentation of the Council's case to the public inquiry to the Town Solicitor within the context of this balanced approach.

3.3 The Council's position at the Public Inquiry was to support the removal of the 'seats for sale' limit and for this to be replaced by the introduction of a noise control contour supported by a series of noise management control measures including fines for late flights; a prohibition on night flights; a system for departure noise control limits with fines; the adoption of a continuous descent approach for all aircraft landing at airport; the potential for noise insulation schemes and the possibility of adopting a quota count system. Noise control contours limit noise exposure levels created by airport operations by defining the extent of an area within which aircraft can operate at certain noise levels. The use of a noise contour is generally accepted as a means of striking a balance between the interests of residents and the benefits that accrue from an airport. The smaller the contour the more restrictions need to

be placed on aircraft flights etc. At London City Airport, which operates in similar conditions to Belfast, in terms of proximity to residential areas and communities, the contour is fixed at 9.1km² (with a quota count system). Essentially the additional control measures endorsed by the PAC are those that were promoted by the Council to protect communities.

- 3.4 The Council supported the opportunity for growth at the airport in the context of attracting foreign direct investment, connectivity between the city and European destinations, particularly those that would open up the potential for commercial and tourism opportunities. The Council's case for growth was supported by evidence from an aviation economic forecasting expert. Based on growth scenarios, taking account of destinations and the type of aircraft likely to be required to service those destinations, it was determined that the likely noise contour would be between 5.2km² and 6.1km². The actual level specified would be dependent on the degree and mix of the other controls specified.

3.5 Key Issues

Following consideration of the report from the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC), the Department invited comments from participants in the inquiry in respect of the proposed imposition of a noise contour of 5.2km². This was by way of letter dated the 2 February 2016, with a closing date for responses of the 7 March 2016.

- 3.6 The Council wrote to the Department on 7th March 2016 expressing the view that the approach from the Planning Appeals Commission in relation to the contour was at the most conservative end of the range and predicated upon a fleet mix which was not reflective of realistic ambitions for growth and connectively with key European destinations, placed undue weight on diversion from other airports in Northern Ireland and failed to give any significant credence to potential claw back from Dublin. This was consistent with the case presented by the Council to the public inquiry.
- 3.7 The specific view of the Council's aviation expert was that the contour size proposed by the PAC (5.2km²) could be seen as 'harsh' when tied to the introduction of a Quota Count system. The Quota Count system, which was first introduced as a condition in 1993 to deal with night restrictions for Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, classifies aircraft into seven bands based on their noise levels while taking off and landing. Noisy aircraft are assigned higher Quota Counts and provide a way of controlling the number of noisier aircrafts that can use an airport on a daily basis as a strict limit is applied.

3.8 At the June meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor R. Browne raised as an 'issue in advance' suggesting that the Council should now withdraw its submission of 7th March 2016 and replace it with a submission which expresses support for the PAC's recommendation of a noise control contour of 5.2km², together with the implementation of the other noise control measures recommended by the PAC's report. The Committee agreed a report on the matter be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee and that the Minister be advised accordingly. As agreed by the Committee the DFI was notified of the Council's intention to revisit this issue.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

None

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None."

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Brown, who had raised the issue, addressed the Committee and again requested that the Council should withdraw its letter of 7th March and express support for the Planning Appeal Commission's, recommendation of a Noise Control Contour of 5.2km².

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees that the Council withdraw its letter of 7th March, 2016 to the Department for Infrastructure and replace it with a submission which expressed support for the PAC's recommendation of a noise control contour of 5.2km², together with the implementation of the other noise control measures recommended by the PAC's report.

On a vote by show of hands fourteen members voted for the proposal and three against and it was declared carried.

Strategic Issues

Planning for the Impact of Welfare Changes in Belfast

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Purpose of Report:

To highlight to Members the work currently under way by the Department for Communities, Belfast City Council and other organisations to prepare for the changes to the Welfare system in Northern Ireland.

1.2 Summary of main issues:

The most significant changes to the Welfare system in Northern Ireland in seventy years commenced in May 2016 in a process that will continue over the coming months including the introduction of Universal Credit in 2017.

1.3 Given the high levels of benefit uptake in Belfast (almost 29% of our working age population are in receipt of some form of benefit¹) these changes are likely to have a significant effect in the city. Council officers have been engaging with the Department for Communities to consider mitigating these plans including enhancing the delivery of our advice services; the city wide tribunal services; and examining the implications on the concessionary rates for Council services that are currently available to those in receipt of ‘passported’ benefits.

1.4 The role of Members is likely to prove particularly important over the coming months in terms of signposting residents to information and advice and in helping to identify unforeseen emerging problems during the roll-out of welfare reform changes.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the contents of the leaflet entitled ‘Elected Representatives Guide to Welfare Changes’ prepared by NILGA and the initiatives that are currently under way across the Council.

¹ Source: Department for Communities, 2015

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The Welfare Reform Act is introducing a range of changes to the benefits system in Northern Ireland. This process has already begun with a number of changes being introduced this year. Over the coming months many current benefits are going to be abolished and replaced by a new benefits system. For example:

- Since May there has been a cap on the total amount of benefit a person can receive. This may have a particular impact on those people receiving Housing Benefit and could mean they will get less money towards rent.
- From 2017 Universal Credit will gradually replace most other means-tested benefits such as income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, tax credits and Housing Benefit.
- Personal Independence Payment (PIP) will gradually replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for people of working age with daily care needs or difficulty getting about.

3.2 In addressing the challenges, the NI Executive has allocated £501 million over the next four years to 'top-up' the UK welfare arrangements with a review planned for 2018-19.

3.3 The recent 'Evason' report produced by the Welfare Reform Mitigations working group recommended several strands of mitigation that the Executive should seek to adopt to help protect the most vulnerable people in Northern Ireland.

3.4 The Department for Communities is putting in place measures in support of these recommendations. Local councils have an important role to play in supporting the implementation of the mitigation measures. Council officers have been engaging with DfC officials on a number of strands including additional support being put in place for advice services within the city.

3.5 On 13 September, a cross party deputation of elected Members met with the Minister for Communities, Paul Givan MLA to commend the early roll-out of the mitigation measures including the following key programmes identified by the Department.

(i) 'Welfare Reform Readiness programme' – This programme will provide additional in-year funding of approximately £600,000 to provide support to front line advice organisations currently funded through local councils' Community Support Advice grant. The programme will ensure that advice organisations are prepared to assist customers through the implementation of Welfare Reform.

(ii) The Welfare Reform Training programme has funding of approximately £210,000 to enable front line advice organisations to complete immediate training requirements related to Welfare Reform. Provision is being made for training to be targeted at a number of groupings including elected Members. Funding for both programmes will be distributed through the existing Council's Community Support Programme mechanism.

- 3.6 Regional Independent Advice – it is understood that DfC intend to procure and establish a centralised independent advice contact centre for Northern Ireland.
- 3.7 Concessions for services: Currently, those in receipt of welfare benefit such as Housing Benefit or Income Support may qualify, or have a 'passport', for discounts on certain charges or fees for services provided by Council or benefits in kind. Officials from the Department for Communities have written to all councils asking for details of such passported concessions which include, for example, leisure centre fees, dog licences etc. Officers from the Council's Finance and Resources Department are currently preparing a list for the Department of such services and are also engaging with GLL on fees associated with leisure provision. A further report will be brought back to Committee in due course outlining the findings of this audit.
- 3.8 Belfast Agenda: Members will be aware of the emphasis that the emerging agenda places on the concept of 'inclusive growth' – and the commitment by the Council to ensuring that individuals and communities are in a position to benefit from future economic growth. Those in receipt of benefits often represent those least likely to benefit from such growth. Through our planned employability and skills strategy and labour initiatives, the council will seek to put in place a coherent inclusive growth programme designed to support pathways to employment.
- 3.9 Going forward officers will continue to engage with the Department to determine opportunities for maximising mitigations. The role of Members and front line officers are likely to prove particularly important in this regard in terms of signposting to information and advice. And in helping to

identify unforeseen emerging problems during the roll-out of changes.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Members note the proposed additional in-year allocation to the existing Community Support programme for advice services planned by the Department of Communities (DfC). The percentage allocation to Belfast is still to be confirmed by DfC.

3.11 Equality & Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications, in relation to this policy, are still under consideration. Further updates will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer in due course.”

The Committee noted the contents of the leaflet entitled “Elected Representatives Guide to Welfare Changes” which had been prepared by NILGA and the additional money to be channelled to Advice Services between now and March 2017.

Development of Belfast City Council Corporate Plan 2017-20

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose a special meeting of the SP&R Committee, to which all members are invited, in October to allow Members to agree the content of the more detailed Belfast Agenda for consultation and shape the content of the next Belfast City Council Corporate Plan.

1.2 The meeting will reflect on how the Council will lead and shape implementation of the priorities within the Belfast Agenda, consider how the Council can make its own direct contribution and discuss further opportunities to build on the work that it has undertaken to date with partners.

1.3 This report also sets out the key strategic planning work-streams that Members will lead in the coming months.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Agree that a special meeting of the SP&R committee to which all members will be invited is held in October to consider the Belfast Agenda, consolidate the strategic direction of the council and shape the new Corporate Plan;

- Note the proposed process and timeline for producing the new Corporate Plan;
- Note the upcoming strategic planning activities which Members will lead in the coming months.
- Agree to repeat the Belfast Residents' Survey to inform the development of the Corporate Plan, baseline information for the Belfast Agenda and, obtain priorities for the Council's improvement objectives.

3.0 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its Corporate Plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies.
- 3.2 The Corporate Plan is a key governance and leadership document. It sets out what the council wants to achieve for the city and the key priority actions to make this happen. It is an important part of the process of strategic planning and city advocacy which Members lead and which includes the development of the Belfast Agenda, the Local Development Plan and strategic engagement on key policy issues such as inclusive growth, city resilience and city-region growth. It is important that the Corporate Plan captures this ambition, as well as Members' on-going commitment to performance improvement, excellent service delivery and significant investment in the physical and social infrastructure of the city.
- 3.3 The Council is now entering a key phase of the strategic planning calendar when plans are reviewed and refreshed in order to inform priorities and decisions about resource allocation in the year ahead. Therefore it is recommended that the Committee holds a special meeting during October in order to inform the development of a new Corporate Plan which would include the Council's contribution to the Belfast Agenda and articulate how the Council will drive inclusive economic growth, both directly through its own services and investments and in partnership with others.
- 3.4 In the months ahead, specific engagement with Members is being planned to help Members articulate how the Council will oversee the implementation of its strategy for the city, the city-region and the organisation. It is intended that all these discussions will culminate in the creation of a robust Corporate Plan which will help the committee ensure that better outcomes are achieved for people and communities in Belfast. Further information on upcoming strategic planning engagement with Members is set out in the rest of this report.

3.5 The Corporate Plan

Over the past two years, Members have been leading the development of the Belfast Agenda, which, when finalised, will become the key strategy for the City. During this interim period, Members elected to produce one-year Corporate Plans, which aligned the Council's strategic objectives to the emerging outcomes and priorities of the Belfast Agenda.

3.6 As Members are aware it is intended that the detailed draft Belfast Agenda will be brought to the Committee in October with a view to being launched for consultation in November 2016 in order to formally publish the Plan in April 2017. Therefore, it is proposed that Members develop a longer term Corporate Plan, which would include the council's contribution to the Belfast Agenda.

3.7 Strategic planning processes are already underway which will inform the development of the Corporate Plan. Committee Planning workshops are being agreed by the Council's other standing committees and the Area Working Group workshops have been held to allow Members to consider priorities and improvement objectives at a more local level.

3.8 The rate-setting and strategic planning timetables have also been aligned so that Members are in a position to set cash limits for each Committee in January in the context of priorities for the year ahead. An overview of the key milestones in the corporate planning process is set out below:

- Area Working Group workshops (August – September 2016)
- Committee workshops (October – December 2016);
- Rates discussions with Members (October to January 2016)
- Belfast Agenda consultation (November – January 2016)
- First draft of Corporate Plan produced (January 2017);
- Rate struck (February 2017);
- Final draft Corporate Plan and Committee Plans presented to Council/Committee (April 2017).

3.9 Committee Plans

For the information of Members, at its meeting on 14 September, members of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed to hold a planning

workshop in October/November to consolidate the strategic direction of the Committee and shape the new Corporate Plan and budgets for 2017/18. It is planned that a similar workshop will be held by the People and Communities Committee.

3.10 The Belfast Agenda and the Local development Plan

Members have played a leading role in shaping the Belfast Agenda to date and have ensured that its focus is on inclusive growth – driving forward the local economy whilst ensuring that interventions are made to connect as many people as possible to that growth. The draft Belfast Agenda has been the subject of party briefings in August and the proposed draft document will be brought to the special Committee in October with a view to it being issued for broader consultation in November. The report in October will also set out plans for engagement on the Belfast Agenda, including the role of Members.

3.11 As Members are aware significant work is also underway to create the Local Development Plan which will shape the physical development of the city in future years. It is intended that consultation related to the creation of the Local development Plan will also take place in the Autumn. Officers are working to ensure that there is a joint approach to planning engagement on the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan so that the public and other stakeholders get a coherent message about the purpose of these documents and we ensure there is not duplication or ‘consultation overload’ for local people or Members.

3.12 Inclusive Growth and Resilience

The concept of ‘inclusive growth’ has become an important issue both nationally and a city level. Broadly it can be described as a commitment by institutions to ensuring that all sections of society have equitable opportunities to reap the benefits during times of economic growth. This can include programmes that seek to support those furthest from the labour market into work by removing barriers to employment. Members explored how the concept could be incorporated into the Belfast Agenda at a June workshop led by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation who described how the approach was being adopted in Leeds and Manchester. The Royal Society of the Arts (RSA) are also currently conducting a major nationwide commission on inclusive growth – the findings of which are to be presented to the Government next February. The RSA have approached the Council offering to facilitate a roundtable discussion in Belfast next month on their preliminary findings. Once confirmed with the RSA further details will be shared with Members in the next few weeks.

3.13 Members will also note a separate paper at this month's Committee with proposals for a conference on a Belfast Resilience strategy. The Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities framework process will allow city partners to develop a resilience strategy for the city which will focus on mitigating against the shocks and stresses that may affect the continued success and growth of the city. This work will be aligned with our overall approach to the Belfast Agenda.

3.14 City-regional growth

As Members will be aware the autumn will be a period of ongoing engagement with regional partners, local councils and government on the importance of city-regional growth with this process informing the priorities of both the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan.

3.15 Belfast Residents' Survey

As part of the consultation to develop the new Corporate Plan, it is recommended that the Belfast Residents' Survey be repeated. The survey was last undertaken in September 2014 and the results are used for many purposes including: informing council priorities; performance management; inform community planning;

3.16 The information resulting from the Residents' Survey will take on increasing importance due to the council's community planning and performance improvement duties. The survey instrument has the potential to baseline a number of Belfast Agenda indicators, providing indicative information at a District Electoral Area level – information that is simply not available from central government household surveys. This will be of critical importance going forward, as we move towards monitoring the Belfast Agenda. The new performance improvement duty further requires the council to set itself improvement objectives and provide evidence that supports the rationale for their selection. The Residents' Survey results will provide a strong evidence base from which to agree the council's improvement objectives.

3.17 Implementation

Implementation of the corporate plan is supported by a suite of strategic and operational plans and programmes which include committee plans, strategic programme plans and plans at departmental and service level as appropriate.

Implementation will be monitored and reported in accordance with the council's performance management framework.

3.18 Resource Implications

Costs for the implementation of the Council's Corporate Plan 2017-21 will be factored into the budget estimates for 2017/18 and future years. The cost of the residents' survey will be no more than £30,000 and is within current budgets.

3.19 Equality Implications

As part of the Belfast Agenda and corporate planning process, residents and other stakeholders will be consulted through the Belfast Residents' Survey and other stakeholder engagement events. The Belfast Agenda and new Corporate Plan will also be subject to the normal screening processes. Equality and good relations implications of the key programmes and actions contained within the Corporate Plan will be subject to ongoing consideration under the Council's commitments under the equality and good relations frameworks."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Modern Slavery Act 2015 – Transparency in Supply Chains

The Committee considered a report which outlined the impact of the "Transparency in Supply Chains" clause in the Modern Slavery Act 2015 which was designed to prevent organisations entering into contractual relationships with others engaged in or who had engaged in human trafficking or exploitation type offences.

The Town Solicitor advised that the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) was described by the Home Office as aiming to "address slavery and trafficking in the 21st century by enhancing support and protection for victims, giving law enforcement the tools needed to target today's slave drivers, ensuring perpetrators can be severely punished and also include a provision to encourage businesses to take action to ensure their supply chains are slavery-free".

Section 54 of the Act, which was introduced by the Government following a campaign by a coalition of interested groups and businesses, included provisions which required commercial organisations with a turnover of more than £36m to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year setting out what they had done to ensure there was no modern slavery in its supply chains or any part of its business.

The Town solicitor advised that the Modern Slavery Act applied to organisations if they:

- Were a body corporate (under section 1(2) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 the Council was deemed to be a “body corporate”);
- Carried on a business, or part of a business, in the United Kingdom;
- Supply goods or services, and
- Had a total turnover of £36m or more.

Therefore the Act applied to Belfast City Council.

He explained that, if an organisation failed to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for a particular financial year, the Secretary of State might seek an injunction through the High Court. If the organisation failed to comply with the injunction, it would be in contempt of a court order which was punishable by an unlimited fine. However, failure to comply with the provision, or a statement that an organisation had taken no steps, might damage the reputation of the organisation.

He explained further that the Council must publish a modern slavery transparency statement on a prominent place on its website homepage when publishing its annual accounts from the end of the 2015-16 financial year onwards. The statement must be approved and signed by a director, member or a partner of the organisation. The Act also created a duty to report any incidents of modern slavery which applied in England and Wales only. That duty was expected to come into effect in Northern Ireland before the end of 2016 on the commencement of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015. The Department of Justice planned to issue guidance to accompany that Act.

Accordingly, he submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following modern slavery transparency statement:

Appendix 1

Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2015-6

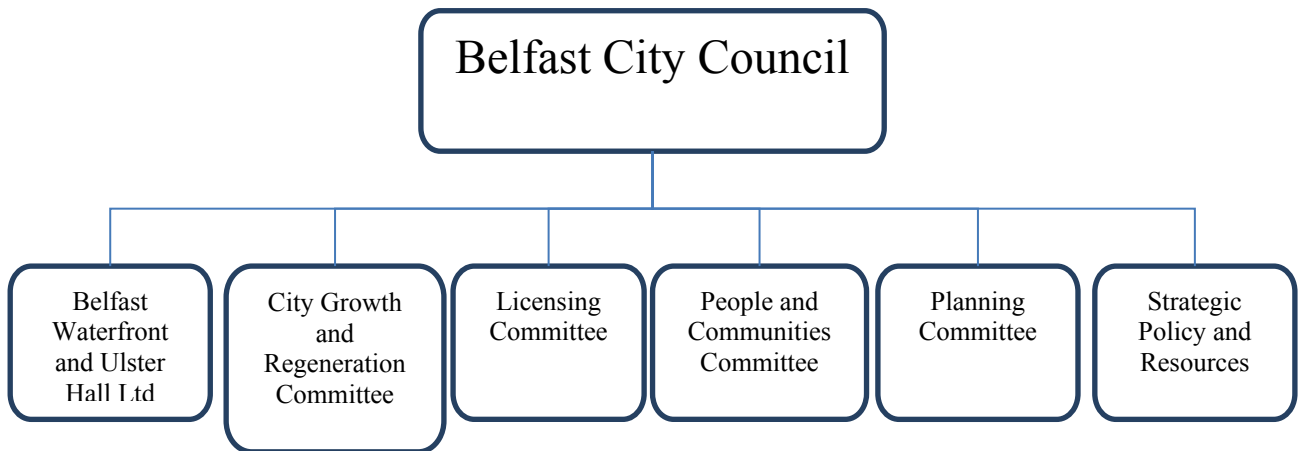
1. Introduction

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Belfast City Council’s slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2016.

2. Our structure, our business and our supply chains

Belfast City Council is the local authority for the Belfast area with responsibility for local planning, economic development, tourism, street cleaning, parks, leisure and waste management.

Our political governance structure is set out below:



Our supply chain consists of more than 7,700 suppliers mostly based in the UK and Ireland.

3. Our policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking

We are committed to ensuring that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or any part of our business. We will review existing corporate responsibility policies and consider whether they already address the issues that are required by the Act and if not, consider what additional policies we may need. For example, we may need to review the Whistleblowing Policy to reference the Modern Slavery Act.

4. Due diligence in assessing modern slavery risk in operations or supply chains

We have identified the following areas of our supply chain as having a higher risk in relation to modern slavery:

- waste management
- food

Starting from 1st April 2017, all our new suppliers for new or extended contracts will be required to self-certify whether the Modern Slavery Act applies to them and that they meet the requirements of the Act.

We will, subject to resource availability in the Corporate Procurement Unit, introduce a process of carrying out random checks on new suppliers to ensure that:

- they have a Transparency Statement
- the council is satisfied at the level of assurance provided that no modern slavery exists in their supply chain

5. Effectiveness in ensuring that modern slavery is not present

We will communicate this policy to our staff to make them aware of the issue and the council's obligations.

The Northern Ireland Department of Justice is expected, in Autumn 2016, to announce guidance on the new duty to report incidences of modern slavery. This may require further training and guidance being issued to staff.

Policy Control

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Organisation | Belfast City Council |
| Title | Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2015-6 V1.0 |
| Author | Sarah Williams, Programme Manager |
| Owner | John Walsh, Town Solicitor |
| Review date | Sept 2016 |
| Location of document | Website home page |
| Approved by | |
| Approval date | |

The Committee approved the Council's draft Modern Slavery Transparency Statement.

100 Resilience Cities Belfast Conference

The Committee was advised that, following the city's successful application to the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) programme, officers had begun engaging with the Foundation to prepare for a stakeholder conference provisionally booked for 15th November, 2016 at the Waterfront Hall. Following that event, work would begin on the recruitment of the Belfast 'Commissioner for Resilience' and planning for the Belfast resilience strategy that would be funded by the programme.

The November conference would aim to bring together stakeholders to set out the broad resilience issues that would form the basis of a Belfast Resilience Strategy. It would also help determine the likely role for a new Belfast 'Commissioner for Resilience'. The approach would seek to ensure the early engagement of elected Members in order to align the emerging resilience strategy with the priorities of the Belfast Agenda, particularly around the priorities for inclusive growth. The conference logistics, strategy development facilitation and the position of the Commissioner for Resilience (for two years) would all be funded by 100RC.

The Chief Executive explained that the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilience Cities programme provided grant and expert support to cities across the world to help them understand and prepare for future social, economic and environmental shocks and stresses. One hundred cities were now part of the programme, including the final tranche of thirty cities that joined in May 2016. (Belfast and Greater Manchester had now joined Glasgow, Bristol and London to form a regional group which 100RC would like to see working together to share learning and practice.)

100RC was providing Belfast with the following:

- (i) 100% funding for strategic consultancy support (from Arup) for the initial 'agenda setting' process;
- (ii) 100% funding for logistical support for the conference (excluding venue hire);
- (iii) 100% grant funding to the Council to support the salary of a new 'Commissioner for Resilience' for an initial two years;
- (iv) Strategic communications support from global communications consultants, Apco;
- (v) Support from a number of 'platform partners' offering specific expertise to support delivery of the final resilience strategy; and
- (vi) Ongoing access to the learning and practice of the other 100RC cities.

The Belfast programme would begin with an 'agenda setting' conference which would be a facilitated all-day stakeholder event that would aim to identify the major shocks and stresses that a Belfast resilience strategy would need to address. The conference would include a mix of workshop modules (tailored to suit the needs of Belfast). They would include: Introduction to 100RC; What is resilience?; Prioritising Belfast's shocks and stresses; Diagnostics; and identifying resilience building opportunities. 100RC was keen that the process included engagement with political representatives at the city and regional level. It was therefore proposed that all Members would be invited to a scoping workshop at the City Hall the day before the conference in order to engage directly with 100RC officials and Arup on issues of specific importance to the Council. 100RC would also seek to invite political representatives from a comparable city to Belfast dealing with similar issues that had already developed a 100RC resilience strategy to share their experience with members.

For the conference itself, it was proposed that Party Group leaders would be invited to attend. It was also proposed that Party Group leaders would contribute to a short video that set out the Members' vision for the city and their reflections on the main resilience issues. That would be shown at the outset of the agenda setting workshop following a welcome from the Lord Mayor. Finally, it was proposed that officers would engage with Members and 100RC to agree the most appropriate level of representation from the Northern Ireland Government Departments.

Following the conference, officers would work with 100RC and Arup to prepare detailed recommendations for the twelve month development phase of the strategy which would be presented to the Committee for consideration. 100RC would also work with the Council to agree the role for the new Commissioner for Resilience who was expected to be recruited and in post by early 2017. The Commissioner would oversee the development and implementation phases of the strategy.

100RC had set aside an initial conference budget of \$40,000 to commission Arup and to provide logistical support, including travel, audio visual and catering for the event. The Council was expected to cover venue hire which was estimated at £2,800 which had been identified in the existing Smart City budget.

The Committee:

- Noted 100RC's 'agenda setting' approach and its financial contribution to the process;
- Agreed to the proposed approach for engaging Members' in shaping the strategy, including a specific members workshop at the City Hall and the attendance of Party Group leaders at the conference; and
- Agreed to the proposed Council contribution to the venue hire.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Leisure Transformation Programme – Assets Update

Avoniel

The Committee was reminded that in April, 2016 Members had agreed to the citywide USP leisure map which had been developed through consultation with the Area Working Groups, the outcomes of the consultation to date with residents and local communities, the best practice site visits and through liaison internally with the Council's leisure operating partner GLL and other industry experts. The USP for Avoniel had been agreed as an Outdoor Centre of Excellence, with the facilities mix also having been agreed.

The Committee agreed that the Stage 2 – Concept Designs be worked up for Avoniel and that these would be brought back to the Committee for consideration in due course. The Committee noted that discussions were continuing with the Education Authority in relation to the relocation of Avoniel Play Centre and that a report on the outcome would be submitted to the Committee at a later date.

Consultation on the Concept Designs for Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson

The Committee noted that consultations were continuing on the concept designs for the Brook, Robinson and Andersonstown centres and that an update would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

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. This report outlines highlights of current status of projects under the Programme; projects recommended to be moved/added to the Capital Programme and a number of project updates.**

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

General

- Note the update in relation to the Capital Programme (section 3.1)

Proposed additions to the Capital Programme

- Agree that the following project City Hall – Provision of additional Public Toilets (including consideration of a Changing Places facility) and a Family Room is added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project with an SOC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.3)

Capital Programme Project Updates

- North Foreshore – approve the reallocation of the remaining monies previously ringfenced under the Landfill Closure Provision to be ringfenced to the North Foreshore Development sites works project under the Capital Programme. This will enable the Council to reimburse developers who have provided appropriate capping systems on demised sites, in lieu of the Council undertaking such works and that approval is given to take forward these works as necessary within this budget. Members are asked to note that there are no financial implications to note as this money was already ringfenced under the Landfill Closure Provision
- Old Golf Course Road – note that this project is being taken forward in place of the agreed playground re-development at Areema Drive out of the £2m which was ringfenced to projects in the transferring areas under LGR. Members are asked to note that there are no financial implications to note as this money was already ringfenced

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 are asked to note the updates under the Capital Programme since the last update

report in August. Photographs of the Capital Programme projects are attached at Appendix 1.

Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion

- the infrastructure at the North Foreshore

Projects currently on the ground

- new pitch and pavilion at Musgrave (due for completion end of the year) and new pavilion at Victoria under the Pitches Strategy
- Phase 2 of the £40million Connswater Community Greenway
- the new £21.7m leisure facility at Olympia which is due to open in January 2017
- the £3.7million upgrade of the Tropical Ravine
- new Council accommodation which will be complete in early 2017
- a new MUGA at Springfield Avenue and Phase 1 - Whiterock Community Corridor

Projects at tender preparation stage

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including the remaining sites under the pitches strategy (Cherryvale and Falls) and the boxer sculpture in Woodvale Park which will be unveiled in the Autumn time

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- 3.2 Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme.

Add to Capital Programme as Stage 1 – Emerging Project

- 3.3 City Hall – Additional Public Toilet provision and the creation of a Family Room - Members will be aware that works are currently underway to enhance the City Hall through the creation of dedicated exhibition space on the ground floor. It was also agreed last month that the West Wing Outdoor Space (including the Cenotaph) is added to the Capital Programme as an Emerging Project and it was highlighted that the upgrade of this space, together with the additional works internally through the new exhibition space, will provide a seamless experience for visitors both inside and outside the City Hall therefore adding to the overall experience of the City Hall as the city's key civic building and

focal point. It is estimated that over 70,000 people a year will visit the City Hall.

Members will however be aware that the public toilets in the City Hall are under considerable pressure and at busy times can become extremely congested particularly the toilets in the East Wing Entrance and this will be further exacerbated with more visitors to the City Hall. In addition there are no purpose built facilities for people with disabilities and the Council has frequently been requested to look at the potential of providing a Changing Places facility within the City Hall. In addition requests have also come forward in relation to the creation of a family room suitable for breastfeeding reflecting the Council's commitment to the Public Health Agency's Breastfeeding Welcome Here scheme and baby changing facilities accessible for males and females. It is proposed that these are looked at as part of a composite SOC. Members will however appreciate the limitations of the City Hall as a listed building and the need to ensure that any new facilities are sympathetic to the building's overall usage and design.

Members are asked to agree that this is added as a Stage 1 - Emerging Project on the Capital Programme with further detail to be worked up and brought back to the Committee in due course for consideration. At this stage there is no commitment to invest.

Project Updates

- 3.4 *North Foreshore* – The Council have an obligation under the Waste Management Licence 2008, granted by the Department of Infrastructure (formerly the Department of the Environment), to provide capping/gas abstraction solutions (capping) to the former closed landfill site at the Dargan Road commensurate with the proposed end use. In order to meet these requirements the Council established a Landfill Closure Provision and nearly £5.9m was set aside for this – this was due to the complexities of the site as a former landfill. A clay cap has already been installed to substantial areas in the northern section of the site where only limited development is contemplated. However, where commercial development is being taken forward then a more robust capping system is required to meet the Council's environmental obligations of the NIEA Licence and since this time discussions have been ongoing with the NIEA over the level of capping required. A capital provision of £1,324,214 has now been agreed with NIEA and as required under the Licence a Local Authority Deed recording this provision has

now also been agreed. This leaves a remaining balance of £4,546,220 under the Landfill Closure provision

- 3.5 Members will be aware that the main aim of the recently completed ERDF infrastructure project at the site is to enable release of land capable of commercial development on the remaining uncapped southern section. Failure to secure private sector development would trigger clawback of the ERDF grant assistance. A number of commercial development opportunities have also previously been endorsed by SP&R Committee together with undertakings to provide the requisite developmental capping system that would sustain such development. Given the construction complexities associated with a former landfill site the Council have intended to facilitate funding of the most appropriate capping system required for individual site development either through abatement of the site rent or reimbursement of the developer's installation costs for its provision.
- 3.6 It is therefore recommended that the remaining allocation under the Landfill Closure provision (£4,546,220) is transferred to the Capital Programme for capping and infrastructure works at the North Foreshore. This will enable the Council to reimburse developers who have provided appropriate capping systems on demised sites, in lieu of the Council undertaking such works. Members are asked to note that as this money was previously ringfenced to the North Foreshore as part of the waste fund and this is ensuring its continued use for the development and regeneration of the North Foreshore. There are no additional financial implications for the Council.
- 3.7 *Old Golf Course Road* – In January 2015 in advance of the new areas from Lisburn and Castlereagh joining Belfast as part of Local Government Reform, the SP&R Committee agreed to ring-fence £2m from the new boundary rate base to be applied to projects in the transferring areas. As part of this, a number of projects were agreed in the Colin area including the development of a new playground at Areema. This land is part of a proposed housing development and there have been ongoing discussions with the local Elected Members, Housing Association and local community regarding the re potential location of the playground. At this stage a suitable relocation has not been found and the proposed housing development prevents any works from happening to the current site at this stage. It has therefore been agreed with the local Elected Members that the budget is reallocated to the Old Golf Course Road project (environmental improvements and upgrades). Members are asked to note that there are no financial implications arising from this as the budget was ringfenced for the Areema Drive project.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial –No financial implications arising.

Costs for the any capital project are worked up as part of the Stage Approval process and brought back to Committee for further discussion before any decision to invest

Resources – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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 from the North/South/East and West AWGs as circulated.**

Local Investment Fund

- **Agree the recommendations from the West AWG in relation to LIF funding (Section 3.2) and note the LIF allocations as recommended by the East AWGs following the update to Committee in August (Section 3.3)**
- **Note that an additional project (ELIF2-16) has been scored (Section 3.5) and has met the minimum threshold and agree that this is progressed to due-diligence.**

Belfast Investment Fund

- Note that there is a separate report on the agenda for discussion today in relation to BIF.

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 (e.g. Diversity Working Group, Shared City Partnership). Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (*North – 24th August; West – 25th August and East – 15th September*) which are attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 WEST AWG

The West AWG at its meeting on 25th August, made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their LIF. These amounts are from a re-allocation of WLIF2-09 Highfield Soft Play which Committee was previously advised was no longer being taken forward.

| Ref No | Project | £ Amount | Comments |
|----------|----------------------|----------|---|
| WLIF2-17 | Working Men's Club | £4,000 | Additional allocation of £4k bringing total allocation to £24,000 |
| WLIF2-22 | Farset International | £18,000 | |

EAST AWG

- 3.3 *LIF2 Recommendations* - The East AWG at its meeting on 4th August (minutes approved 19th August) were updated that they had a remaining balance of £330,700 in their LIF2 Budget and that six projects were still under review - the total costs of which slightly exceeded the budget remaining. It was highlighted to the officers had identified a number of

options to facilitate the Members in reaching a decision regarding the allocation of the remaining LIF2 budget

- **Option A: To fund all projects except Dock Cafe (due to a security of tenure issue)**
- **Option B: To fund all projects at (an equal) reduced level**

The East AWG requested that the Director of Property and Projects seek legal advice on whether it would be possible for the Council to provide funding for the Dock Cafe proposal and investigate whether it was likely to pass due diligence and that in the event that the legal opinion indicates that the Dock Cafe proposal does pass the requirements of due diligence, to go with Option B (i.e. to fund all projects at an equal reduced level)

The Director of Property & Projects verbally updated the Committee last month that, following discussions, the Due Diligence Group had agreed in principle that the Dock Cafe project would receive DD approval on the security of tenure issue subject to a number of conditions and that therefore Option B could be taken forward. Members are therefore asked to note the funding allocations for the following projects in relation to LIF -

| Ref | Project | £ Amount |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| ELIF2-09 | Carew II - Newtownards Rd Women's Group | £42,912 |
| ELIF2-11 | Cregagh Sports Club | £178,069 |
| ELIF2-13 | Community Restorative Justice | £17,523 |
| ELIF2-14 | The Dock Cafe Titanic Quarter | £15,000 |
| ELIF2-15 | St Matthews Sports and Social Club | £18,785 |
| ELIF2-20 | Tullycarnet Community Support Services | £58,411 |

3.4 Members are asked to note that all the above projects have been scored and have successfully met the minimum threshold and it is recommended that these projects now proceed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process.

3.5 Projects recommended to proceed to due-diligence
In addition Members are asked to note that an additional project (ELIF2-16 – Palmerston Residential Care Home) has been scored and has met the minimum threshold and agree that this is progressed to due-diligence.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

- **Financial – £5m has been assigned to LIF 1 and £4m has been assigned to LIF2.**
- **Resource - Officers time to deliver projects.**

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

LIF has been equality screened.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations, subject to the omission of project number WLIF2-17 North Belfast Working Men’s Club which was referred back to the West Area Group for further consideration.

Asset Management Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 20th February, 2015, it had noted the Council’s decision of 5th January, 2015 to dispose of lands at Slievegallion Drive to the Department of Education. The land was to be redeveloped by De La Salle College to provide a school/community facility comprising a 3G sports pitch and associated changing pavilion. Planning approval for the development had been granted in 2015 and, as a condition of the Planning Permission, the development required a new car park to be constructed to replace the on-street car parking being lost at Slievegallion Drive as a consequence of the redevelopment. The new off street car park would serve local residents and shops rather than De La Salle College.

Subsequently, at its meeting on 18th December, the Committee had approved a request from the Department of Education that the Council adopt the off street car park at Slievegallion Drive. Following the extinguishment of the on-street car parking by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), the land will be surplus to NIHE requirements. The Council required the land in order to secure access to the new off street car parking and the NIHE had agreed to transfer the land to the Council. The land to be acquired comprises 0.025 hectares.

The Committee approved the purchase of the land from the NIHE on the basis of a long lease and nominal rent, with use restricted to open space, subject to appropriate legal documentation to be drawn up by Legal Services.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Belfast City Council Financial Report 2015/16

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committees consideration the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Financial Statements**

of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2016.

- 1.2 The Financial Accounts are an important element of the Council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the Council's finances and its financial position.
- 1.3 The Financial Report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/15 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment) Accounts Direction, Circular LG 04/16 dated 4 April 2016.
- 1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department of the Environment and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Approve the Council's Financial Statements and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

3.1 Audit Opinion

It is the Local Government Auditor's opinion that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015-16, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2016 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment) directions issued there under.

- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2016 is consistent with the financial statements.

Reserves

General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has decreased to £19,181,234 (of which £6,317,810 relates to specified reserves, ie committed to be spent on specific areas). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Opening Balance | £22.1m |
| In year movement in reserves | <u>£ (2.9)m</u> |
| Closing Balance | £19.2m |
| Specified Reserves at year end | <u>£ 6.3m</u> |
| General Reserve Balance | <u>£12.9m</u> |

3.3 Capital Fund £25,475,756

The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£4,919). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£5,700,837) to fund smaller local regeneration projects, the City Centre Investment Fund (£18,770,000) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans and the Social Outcomes Fund (£1,000,000) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support attraction of investment.

3.4 Leisure Mobilisation Fund £2,000,000

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

3.5 Capital Receipts Reserve £1,263,369

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure. This amount relates mainly to the sale of land & buildings at Loop River (£860,000).

3.6 Other Fund Balances and Reserves £203,566

This relates to the Election Reserve (£203,566) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections.

3.7 Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 6 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £3.6m at 31 March 2016. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

| | 31 March 2016 | 31 March 2015 |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Less than three months | £2,434,909 | £2,042,328 |
| Three to one year | £166,672 | £735,445 |
| More than one year | £1,021,813 | £586,491 |

3.8 Creditors

The Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment) has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the Council paid 62,112 invoices totalling £206,870,584

3.9 The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 20 days for the year ended 31 March 2016. The Council paid 44,484 invoices within 10 days, 52,477 invoices within 30 days, and 9,635 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

3.10 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Financial Statements include the Statutory Transition Committee's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2015/16, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment), NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- significant governance issues to be disclosed.

3.11 The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

None

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None.”

The Committee approved the Council's Financial Statements and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March, 2016.

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- Approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1, (below), through the Council's electronic procurement system;
- Granted delegated authority to the appropriate Director, using pre-agreed criteria, to accept the most economically advantageous tender, and allow extensions where contracts are under review as per Table 2; and
- Agreed to apply Standing Order 55 (a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the Council acting on a recommendation of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for:

- (a) Appointment of a contractor to support the development of a Circular Economy strategy.
- (b) Appointment of a contractor to provide professional commercial expertise and support for the Innovation Factory.
- (c) A direct award contract to take forward the agreed interpretation and quality assurance of the memorabilia project for the City Hall east wing.

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

| Title of tender | Senior Responsible Officer | Proposed contract duration |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Supply, delivery and maintenance of vehicle mounted and hand-held radios | Nigel Grimshaw | 1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years |
| Electrical services installations associated with open plan office accommodation upgrade at Cecil Ward Building | Gerry Millar | 4 months |
| Mechanical services installations associated with open plan office accommodation upgrade at Cecil Ward Building | Gerry Millar | 4 months |
| Replacement of existing carpet tiles associated with open plan office accommodation upgrade at Cecil Ward Building | Gerry Millar | 4 months |
| Alteration and replacement of existing suspended ceiling associated with open plan office accommodation upgrade at Cecil Ward Building | Gerry Millar | 4 months |
| Demolition, screening and repairs to dilapidated buildings | Phil Williams | 1 year with option to renew for a further 2/4 years |
| Supply and installation of summer plants and containers | Nigel Grimshaw | 1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years |
| Maintenance and removal of hanging baskets | Nigel Grimshaw | 1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years |
| Supply of cabling installation services | Ronan Cregan | 1 year with option to renew for a further 2 years. |
| Visualisation of emerging city narrative/place positioning strategy | Suzanne Wylie | Final delivery by Feb 2017 |

Table 2 - Contracts for extension of contract period

| Title of tender | Director Responsible | Proposed extension |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Provision of animal feed for the Zoo | Nigel Grimshaw | Month by month until new contract is in place |

Table 3 – Tenders justified by special circumstances

| Title of tender | Director Responsible | Proposed contract duration |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Appointment of WRAP(NI) to support the development of a Circular Economy strategy | Nigel Grimshaw | 6 months |
| Appointment of KPMG to provide professional commercial expertise and support for the Innovation Factory | Donal Durkan | 2 years |
| The appointment of Redhead to take forward the remainder of the City Hal project | Gerry Millar | 6 months |

Equality and Good Relations

Shared City Partnership Meeting

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 12th September.

Diversity Working Group Meeting

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Diversity Group of 8th September.

Operational Issues

Review of Household Recycling Centres and Civic Amenity Sites

(Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services attended in connection with this item).

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to enable party briefings to be held.

Christmas Market Set-up

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting of 19th August, it had been informed that a request had been received from Marketplace Europe (MPE) to start a section of the pre-build of the Christmas market on the East Lawn prior to the Remembrance Sunday commemoration service. The reason for that request was that the market would expand to the area in front of the City Hall for the first time this year. The operator would erect a number of new “chalet” units along the perimeter railings. It had also invested in new chalets for some of the internal layout. The additional build requirements meant that their set-up time would be extended.

Accordingly MPE had requested access to the site on Monday, 7th November to start the pre-build work focusing on the construction of the chalets on the East lawn. Work would continue until 11th November and, at that point, the East Lawn would be screened off with panels. Work would be carried out with minimum level of disruption and no work would be carried out during the observance of Armistice Day on 11th November or during the cross-laying ceremony on 7th November morning. There would be a security presence on-site at all times during the pre-build. MPE had offered to screen off the area by erecting a 10 feet high panel, that work would take place on Thursday 10th November. The panel would be dressed with an appropriate design and Council officers had confirmed that the proposal for early access did not present any significant facilities management challenges.

The Committee:

- Approved the pre-build of the Belfast Christmas market chalets on the East Lawn of the City Hall from 7th November; and
- Approved the screening off of the East lawn to cover the works in advance of the 13th November Remembrance Sunday service, in line with the design proposals.

Governance of ILLUMINATE Facilities at the City Hall

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the ILLUMINATE LED lighting system installed in 2013 on the north, east and west facades of the City Hall has been very successful thus far, both in securing a sustained 70% reduction in energy consumption and also in allowing the council to mark significant dates, occasions or achievements using bespoke lighting scenes.**
- 1.2 Members are asked to approve a definitive set of criteria governing access to the system and to then allow these criteria to be applied consistently to all requests. Where exceptions are made for requests not meeting the agreed criteria problems can unintentionally be caused in terms of equality of access and also in terms of generating even more**

similar requests, which can then be difficult to refuse once precedents have been set.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- re-affirm the existing criteria set out at 3.4 below;
- approve the inclusion of an additional criterion which provides that no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted and nor will requests to observe UN-recognised days where this is the sole reason for the request (i.e. where there is no local, Belfast-specific component);
- endorse the approach to internal requests as set out at 3.9 below.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 It is clear from social media and tourist feedback that the system has demonstrably enhanced the City Hall's image as a notable landmark, and has also been markedly successful in terms of allowing the council to expand its outreach activities to specific groups and also to provide a platform for worthy causes and organizations etc.

3.2 However, as set out in a number of previous reports the system is increasingly attracting a wide range of additional requests which clearly cannot all be accommodated, and definitive governance arrangements are therefore needed.

3.3 These governance arrangements will need to allow for the updating of a list of standard days which are recognised each year together with requests from charities and other organizations made under the auspices of serving civic dignitaries, and also be flexible enough to allow requests arising as the result of external factors (natural disasters, terrorist atrocities, notable sporting achievements etc) on a one-off basis when this is appropriate. The current criteria governing access to the system are as follows:-

- a) on the 10 agreed annual days (attached at Appendix 1), plus any council-run events or on foot of requests made by any of the charities nominated by the council's three civic dignitaries;**
- b) where a charitable, community or other non profit-making organisation based in or having a strong connection to Belfast is celebrating a significant anniversary;**

- c) where a sporting team or organisation with a connection to Belfast has achieved a significant accolade;
- d) where an event not itself organised by Belfast City Council but which can legitimately be regarded as being of significant benefit to the city from a promotional or tourism perspective is taking place;
- e) in other specific circumstances where approved by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

NB: in relation to requests falling under (b), (c) and (d) above the Committee has currently delegated authority to the Director of Property & Projects in these circumstances.

- 3.5 A very specific problem which has increased significantly in volume over the last 18 months is requests being made by a wide range of organizations, support groups and individuals in relation to specific medical conditions or diseases (e.g. autism, spina bifida, ovarian cancer, heart disease, stroke, epilepsy, haemophilia, motor neurone disease, muscular sclerosis, Down's Syndrome, suicide etc). All are very worthy and important causes and very emotive issues and often involve inspirational individuals, but there over 140 of such diseases, conditions and other special days currently recognized internationally by the United Nations with more being added regularly (see <http://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/international-days/>) and it would clearly not be possible to recognize all of these, so clear criteria are needed.
- 3.6 The sorts of requests referred to in 3.5 above do NOT fall within the criteria currently in use as set out above but many have nevertheless been facilitated, often at very short notice. In many cases the colours requested by the organizers are not recognized by the public in terms of any linkage to the condition in question, which leads to confusion (although of course the reason for each illumination is set out on the council's website for those who wish to check).
- 3.7 By way of illustration of all of the above, a total of 203 requests have been received in addition to the agreed list of recognized days since the system went live in 2013.
- 3.8 Any new governance arrangements will therefore need to deal with the increasing number of these requests. The following revised criteria are therefore proposed:-

External requests

3.8

- 1) requests made in pursuance of their role by serving civic dignitaries on behalf of external charities and other organizations will be actioned as requested;
- 2) the 10 pre-agreed days will require no additional permissions and will be actioned automatically each year (and this list of days may be varied by the Committee at its discretion);
- 3) the existing criteria set out above (see 3.4) would be applied to all other external requests (and can be dealt with under delegated authority by the Director of Property & Projects) or referred to the Committee where this is felt to be necessary;
- 4) no applications in respect of medical or other support groups will be accepted, and nor will requests to observe UN-recognised days where this is the sole reason for the request (i.e. where there is no local, Belfast-specific component);

Internal requests

- 3.9 Where a request is made by an individual civic dignitary or elected member or officer to mark some specific event or occurrence (e.g. natural disaster, terrorist atrocity, one-off sporting achievement, birth/death of notable person etc) the Chief Executive (or his/her nominee) will liaise with party group leaders to see if a consensus to proceed exists. If so, the request will be facilitated; if not the request will either be rejected or, exceptionally, may be presented to the full Committee for a decision if time permits.
- 3.10 Where a request is facilitated either under delegated authority or by decision of the Committee this can be done on a 'once-in-three-years' basis to prevent annual requests for the same dates being made repeatedly.
- 3.11 It is, of course, understood that members may often be approached by worthy causes and organizations or by constituents seeking access to the system, and that a refusal may be difficult.
- 3.12 It is also the case that, where an application to use the system has been made but has been refused because the request does not meet the agreed criteria, the organizations or individuals involved will frequently seek to lobby members or civic dignitaries in order to have the original decision over-turned.

Key Issues

3.13 The key issues are as follows:-

- the ILLUMINATE system is generating a significant number of requests for access of types not foreseen when the system was implemented;
- when bespoke lighting scenes are used too frequently the overall impact is diminished, and the overall status and image of the building as the council's political and administrative headquarters may be adversely affected if the building is constantly changing colour, so effective and consistent governance is needed;
- while the pre-approved days require little in the way of staff time or input, the many short-notice requests do consume significant time and generate corresponding costs;
- it will therefore be necessary to seek to control access to the system more effectively if difficulties are to be avoided going forward.

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications in respect of this report. However if the additional control measures recommended herein are not implemented it is clear that increasing staff time and expenditure will be needed

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report, although if additional requests are being approved this may give rise to potential inequalities of access.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Management of City Hall Function Booking Process
and other City Hall Matters**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to enable Party Briefings to be held.

Corporate Risk Management Update – Health and Safety

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 provide a management update to the Committee on the progress being made to manage ‘Health and Safety’, one of the key corporate risks relating to the Committee’s sphere of work.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the arrangements in place to manage this risk and the progress being made to implement additional controls / measures to reduce the level of risk further.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Description of risk

The health and safety risk, as captured in the Council’s Corporate risk register is phrased as follows:

3.2 ‘Failure to protect the Health and Safety of employees and others and ensure compliance with Health and Safety legislation.’

3.3 Risk assessment

Following detailed review of the corporate risks, this risk was assessed in terms of ‘impact’ and ‘likelihood’ (using the Council’s risk scoring system, as follows:

Impact – 5 (severe)
Likelihood – 3 (possible)

3.4 This assessment reflects the fact only one failure (i.e. a serious accident / incident) can have a catastrophic impact on individuals and the organisation. It also reflects the priority senior management attach to this area in recognising this as a fundamental (and constant) corporate risk that we need to be continuously managing.

3.5 While it is difficult to envisage how we can significantly reduce the potential impact from ‘severe’ if the risk materialises, we are committed to doing all we can to reduce the likelihood of the risk occurring.

3.6 Current measures in place to manage the risk

The Council has an established framework, policies and procedures to manage health and safety risks. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a dedicated, qualified Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU), providing policy advice, training / support throughout the Council
- a Corporate Health & Safety Policy and Codes of Practice and a review, approval and communication process for all new policies
- a Corporate Health and Safety Business Plan, setting out corporate health and safety objectives, priorities and deployment of CHSU resources
- quarterly reporting on health and safety compliance to a dedicated Health and Safety Assurance Board (chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources), the Audit Assurance Board (chaired by the Chief Executive), the Audit and Risk Panel (Members) and Corporate and Departmental Health and Safety Committees attended by management and trade union representatives
- annual scheduled staff training on health and safety matters, incorporating client feedback
- annual health and safety (WIRES) and fire risk assessment inspection programme (risk based, undertaken by the CHSU across Council premises), with actions captured, monitored and reported using a specific IT system (MKInsight)
- four operational services continue to maintain independently certified OHSAS 18001 health and safety management systems which are subject to annual review
- a process of health and safety risk assessment at corporate, departmental and operational task specific risk assessments.

3.7 Council performance

The above measures have supported the Council in maintaining a very low level of reportable major injuries (just six in previous five years):

- April 2016 – employee sustained suspected cracked rib after pushing vehicle which was stuck in mud
- January 2016 – employee sustained fractured elbow after slipping on ice

- January 2016 – agency worker lost tip of finger in accident involving the connection of a tractor and trailer.
- March 2014 – employee sustained fractured elbow after slipping in changing room
- December 2012 – employee sustained broken arm after slipping on grass
- July 2011 – employee sustained broken coccyx after falling through open manhole (suspected manhole cover stolen for scrap metal value).

3.8 The majority of employee accidents remain related to slips/trips/falls and injuries when lifting or carrying.

3.9 There have been no formal HSENI (Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland) interventions or prosecutions in the previous five years.

3.10 Areas for improvement

Even though the above arrangements are in place, we are always aware of the wide range of potential health and safety hazards associated with the delivery of our services and the ever present potential for accidents.

3.11 For this reason, we are constantly striving to continually improve the management of this risk and to this end, a number of improvement actions have been identified and captured in both the risk action plan and related Corporate Health and Safety Plan 2016/17 which was agreed by the Health and Safety Assurance Board in April 2016.

3.12 These include the following:

- complete a corporate wide review and update of task specific risk assessments in line with the revised Risk Assessment Code of Practice
- complete, update and implement key health and safety policies and codes of practice in the following areas:
 - Event Safety (new)
 - Work Related Transport (new)
 - Working at Height (new)
 - Control of Contractors (update)
 - Work Equipment (revised)
 - Control of Asbestos (revised)
- implement health and safety management information reporting through health and safety assurance processes and establishing departmental co-ordinating roles

- review of health and safety committee structure to reflect new departments (now implemented)
 - improve accident and claims management
 - implement a health and safety senior management training programme
 - research into seeking health and safety management standard accreditation for the Council
 - review current health and safety (WIRES) inspection programme (as administered by CHSU) to align to key risk areas
- 3.13 Progress against these actions is monitored through the Council's performance management system (CORVU), by the Health and Safety Assurance Board and reported through the Audit and Risk Panel.
- 3.14 These improvements do take time and have to be phased. Further improvement actions are being planned for 2017/18 (further health and safety management training, embedding of new policies, procedures and assurance arrangements, implementation of an accredited health and safety management system across the Council). Through these improvement programmes, we are working towards reducing the risk rating in terms of likelihood to 2 (low). However, health and safety will continue to be a priority area and we will never be able to eliminate the risk.
- 3.15 In addition to management assurance arrangements, Members should also be aware that the Council's health and safety management arrangements are regularly subject to independent scrutiny through HSENI and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service inspections / visits and periodic independent audits.
- 3.16 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- None.
- 3.17 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**
- None."

The Committee noted the arrangements in place to manage this risk and the progress being made to implement additional controls/measures to reduce the likelihood element of risk further.

Women in Business NI Awards 2016

The Committee was advised that Women in Business was the largest and fastest growing business network for female entrepreneurs and business leaders in Northern Ireland and aimed to increase significantly women's contribution to the

success of the economy. The Women in Business Awards celebrated the hard work and achievements of many business women who made a valuable contribution to the economic life of Northern Ireland. Now, in its 6th year, the awards allowed all sectors and industries throughout Northern Ireland to come together for an evening of celebration to recognise the best of home grown talent and women at the cutting edge of the economy.

Support of the event through sponsorship of an award would clearly demonstrate the Council's commitment to developing the economy through inclusive growth and would link directly to the objectives set out in the Council's Gender Action Plan under Women in the Economy. It was therefore proposed that the Council attends the event and sponsors the award category for "Outstanding Management and Leadership". The cost of the sponsorship and attendance package was £3,000, which would cover the sponsorship of an award and ten places at the awards ceremony.

The Committee:

- Agreed to the Council's involvement in this year's Women in Business NI Awards 2016 through sponsorship of the award category of "Outstanding Management and Leadership"; and
- Approved the allocation of ten guest invitations to the Chair of the Women's Steering Group (WSG) Councillor Deirdre Hargey, the Deputy Chair of the WSG, Councillor Aileen Graham and representatives of both WSG and the Women's Network Group.

Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 16th September.

Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel of 13th September.

Active Belfast Limited Board

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board of 31st August.

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 as set out below:

Appendix

| Organisation/ Body | Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests | Request | Comments | Recommendation |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| Cartoon AISBL | Cartoon Business Conference Dinner 14th May, 2017 Approximately 100 attending | The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception | Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the Congress will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'. | The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception Approximate cost £500 |
| Queen's University Belfast | 44th European Physical Society plasma Physical Division Conference Reception 26th June, 2017 Approximately 600 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 Congress will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'. | The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception Approximate cost £500 |
| European Association of Fish Pathologists | 18th International Conference on Diseases of Fish and Shellfish Conference Reception 5th September, 2017 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 Congress will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'. | The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception Approximate cost £500 |
| Wave Trauma Centre | Trauma Training Learning Pathway Awards 2014 16th February, 2017 Approximately 200 attending | The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits | This event seeks to promote the success of those who, due to their experiences during the troubles have returned to education and training through the support of WAVE Trauma Centre. Accredited certificates | The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits Approximate Cost £500 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>will be awarded on the night to individuals who have successfully completed Open College Network courses through WAVE.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'Better opportunities for success across the city', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.</p> | |
| National Deaf Children's Society | <p>Young Authors and Artists Prize Day 2017</p> <p>7th March, 2017</p> <p>Approximately 160 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 seeks to celebrate and recognise the artistic achievements of deaf children and young people in the areas of creative writing and visual art.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, 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 provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate Cost £400</p> |

Chairperson