

## **Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 15 September 2016**

### **Attendance**

#### Members:

Councillor John Hussey (chair)  
Councillor David Armitage (for Cllr M Long)  
Alderman Pat Convery  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Jim McVeigh  
Councillor Lee Reynolds  
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Alderman D Browne)

Apologies: Alderman D Browne, Cllr M Long

#### Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources  
Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects  
Siobhan Toland, Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services  
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (Secretariat)

### **1. Update on Ministerial Meetings**

A forward meeting schedule, including agenda items, for the next Ministerial meetings was circulated as well as a summary of key outcomes from the meetings which had already been held. The Chief Executive asked members to review the proposed agendas and to contact her if anything further should be included for discussion at the meetings. She also told the panel that letters had been sent to all the ministers that they had already met confirming the outcomes and next steps.

### **2. Advocacy / City Regions Update**

The Chief Executive reminded the panel of the key dates for meetings relating to the city regions piece and agreed to recirculate the details to party group leaders.

### **3. Civic Amenity Sites**

The Assistant Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined to members the next steps in the implementation of the Waste Improvement Programme which would be reported to September SP&R. This would include the phasing out of four civic amenity sites which

didn't provide proper recycling services. Members of the panel raised the issue of fly tipping in a number of areas and sought reassurances that staff and trade unions were fully engaged in the process. Future uses for these sites would be brought back for further discussion at a later date.

#### **4. Belfast Investment Fund**

The Director of Property and Projects outlined to the panel the status of the projects associated with the Belfast Investment Fund which were the subject of a report for September's SP&R meeting. Members agreed to meet with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Property and Projects to discuss some of the specifics relating to the Fund.

#### **5. Planning Applications**

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in September. Members raised some queries in relation to the performance of the Planning Service and the Chief Executive agreed to bring the recent performance report which was presented to the Planning Committee to the SP&R Committee.

#### **6. AOB**

##### **(i) Community Development Grant Shortfall**

The Director of Finance and Resources highlighted to members the projected shortfall in community development grant aid funding due to the reduction in funding from the department for communities. This shortfall was met last year from non recurrent spend but is not available this year. A report will be brought to SP&R in October on options for this.

##### **(ii) Transfer of Assets and Liabilities**

The Director of Property and Projects discussed with the panel a number of requests that the Council had received in relation to taking on various assets across the city and in particular the ongoing costs of maintenance associated with them. Members agreed that the Council should adopt a position in relation to this including potential assets the Council would like to take on and factor future costs into any decisions.

##### **(iii) City Hall Grounds**

The Director of Property and Projects informed the panel in respect of changes to Christmas lights that, due to the timeframe for setting up the Christmas Market and the lead in time for the production of any new lights, it would not be possible to complete in time for this Christmas.