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**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

16th November, 2016

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 18th November, 2016.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

(a) Area Working Update (Pages 1 - 8)

6. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

(d) Approved Duties for Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons
(Pages 9 - 10)

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ADDITIONAL APPENDIX

Minutes of Meetings of Area Working Groups

West AWG 9th November 2016

West AWG 15th November 2016

North AWG 10th November 2016

West Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 9th November, 2016

SPECIAL MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);
Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie,
Carson, Corr, Garrett, Heading,
McConville and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City
and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Bell, Groves, O'Hara and McVeigh.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Consultation Update – Brook and Andersonstown Leisure Centres

The Chairperson welcomed the architect, Mr. K. Ashton, representing AFL, to the meeting.

The Director of Finance and Resources provided the Working Group with a brief update in respect of the concept for the proposed post-consultation proposals for the Andersonstown Leisure Centre.

Mr. Ashton provided the Working Group with a detailed update in respect of the pros and cons for each of the two options as follows:

PROS	
Option A	Option B (no moveable flooring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- flexible space/water depths for a variety of activities;- larger lane swimming area; and- single plant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- additional programmable space for peak leisure use;- continue to run lessons at all times;- increased revenue from lessons;- less complex construction programme because no moving booms or floors;- wider (making it an easier canvas to fit leisure rides in); and- more energy efficient

CONS	
Option A	Option B (no moveable flooring)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not in consultation process; - complex programming; - environment compromised with leisure water; - pool temperature and noise would compromise lessons – particularly for younger children; - increased servicing/maintenance costs with the moveable floors; and - compromised leisure water planning because of width. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - essentially the same as what is there now ; and - dual pool heating/treatment system.

The Members considered and discussed the various advantages and disadvantages of the two options and detailed discussion ensued in respect of the configuration of the pool.

Following a query, the architect confirmed that, with a moveable floor and boom system, a learning pool could still be achieved in the 25m 8 lane pool whilst also retaining lane swimming provision. However, in his opinion, this would be a compromised offer. He reiterated his earlier comments regarding Option A in respect of noise and cooler pool conditions and also highlighted the increased maintenance costs associated with servicing the moveable floor and boom, and, in addition to this, he advised that option B would be more energy efficient.

It was,

Proposed by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Heading,

That Option B be progressed as the preferred option.

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

It was,

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

That Option A be progressed as the preferred option.

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

Chairperson

West Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 15th November, 2016

SPECIAL MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);
The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston);
Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie,
Collins, Garrett, McConville, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects;
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City
and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was received on behalf of Councillor Corr.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Consultation Update – Brook and Andersonstown Leisure Centres

The following key points were highlighted in respect of option B:

- it allowed for a greater selection and variety of rides; and
- it offered better employment generation in West Belfast (the equivalent of an additional four full time equivalent jobs would be needed, compared to option A).

A Member advised that in light of new information which had been presented, he felt that that Option B should now be progressed as the preferred option.

It was,

Proposed by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

And agreed that, Option B be progressed as the preferred option.

Following discussion, Councillor Collins proposed that Option B be put out to public consultation.

As there was no seconder for the proposal, it was not put to the Working Group.

Several of the Members clarified that an extensive consultation exercise had already been undertaken and officers highlighted the following:

- 57 responses had been received from the public sessions;
- 79 online responses had been returned;
- 96.5% had expressed support for the redevelopment;
- 610 written responses had expressed support for the project and a desire for larger leisure waters;
- leisure waters, a swimming pool, a fitness suite and a café had been identified as the most popular facilities; and
- the most common comments had been around increasing the size of leisure waters, delivering the project as soon as possible and making the outdoor space multi-use.

The Director of Property and Projects reiterated that throughout the consultation exercise it was clear that people wished to see increased leisure waters, and, in order to provide these, a compromise would be required. The Director highlighted that extensive indoor sports hall facilities were available at both the Brook and Olympia Leisure Centres.

Discussion also ensued in respect of the following key areas in relation to the development: accessibility, to include car parking provision and public transport; affordability; employment and local business opportunities.

The Director of Finance advised that a £2 million mobilization budget had been allocated to the project.

The Members noted that a joined up area planning approach was required.

In light of this approach, it was agreed that representatives from the Belfast Rapid Transit and Casement Park would be invited to attend a future meeting of the Area Working Group.

Chairperson

North Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 10th November, 2016

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Campbell;
Aldermen Convery, L. Patterson, McKee
and Spence;
Councillors Clarke, Magee, and McAllister.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and
Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and
Miss E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman Browne.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th October were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Outstanding Actions

The Working Group was reminded that, at its last meeting, it had agreed that any outstanding actions under the item 'Girdwood Community Forum – Update from Representatives' would be placed on the agenda each month so that Members could be updated of project timescales at each meeting.

The Director of Property and Projects tabled a Decision Tracker document and explained that the document encompassed actions agreed from each of the items of the last meeting to provide feedback and a status update of any outstanding actions. He explained that he would continue to provide such an update, if the Working Group agreed to that approach.

He provided the Working Group of a brief overview of actions from the last meeting held on 5th October.

The working group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that this approach would form a standing item on the agenda of future meetings. The

Working Group also noted that the Decision Tracker document would be emailed to all Members of the Working Group before each meeting.

Update on Local Investment Fund

The Director of Property and Projects provided an overview of the report which included an update on the progress of those projects which had yet to be completed under Local Investment Fund (phase 1).

He highlighted that, since the Basement Youth Club project, initially proposed for LIF 1 funding, had prospective involvement in an emerging BIF project, so the £24,000 of Local Investment Fund (phase 1), could be reallocated by the Group.

He confirmed that, through the Local Investment Fund (phase 2), the Area Working Group had committed £636,400 of its £800,000 allocation. He advised that a total of 18 projects had been considered by Members, 13 of which had been formally approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the aforementioned remaining £24,000 Local Investment Fund (phase 1) be reallocated to Jennymount Church for a soft play area, and that the following proposals be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval:-

LIF 2 Proposal	Originally Proposed By	Up to £
Star Neighbourhood Centre	SF	£58,467* (*Subject to the reallocation of part of the Intercomm £75,000 current allocation)

Interface Sites - Priorities for North Belfast (oral report)

(Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager, attended the Working Group in connection with this item.)

The Good Relations Manager provided an update regarding information on interfaces in North Belfast and advised that the Department of Justice would be opening a funding stream for Good Relations programmes in early 2017 concerning barrier removal.

She explained the programme of work that was currently taking place regarding interface sites and informed the group of the various programmes already in existence across Belfast.

She asked the Group to consider which interface sites they would like to prioritise for funding in North Belfast and ideas for programming. She highlighted the following four areas for consideration: Alexandra Park; Navarra Street; Flax Street; and Clifton Park Avenue and welcomed Members' feedback.

After discussion, Members agreed that a report be submitted to a future Working Group regarding the detail of existing interface programmes and groups working in North Belfast, together with statistics and general data on peace walls in North Belfast.

Update on Leisure Transformation Programme

The Director of Property and Projects provided a brief update on the progress of the Leisure Transformation across the City. He advised that the new £21.7m leisure facility at Olympia was due to open in January, 2017.

He highlighted that each Leisure site would be developed to have its own sport/facility specialism and a detailed update on the Leisure Programme, which would include the outcomes of the current consultation on the concept designs for Robinson, Andersonstown and Brook, would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in November.

He advised the Working Group that an Expression of Interest for the Council to act as the delivery partner under the SportNI Performance Facility strand for Boxing at Girdwood had been submitted and reported that negotiations regarding licenses for sport at the Girdwood site was also ongoing.

During discussion regarding the potential of sport sites in North Belfast, the Working Group noted that a report had been submitted to the People and Communities Committee earlier in the month regarding the potential of developing a national standard BMX track and that the North Foreshore Members' Steering Group would be meeting next week to discuss the Commercial Leisure Led Development Brief.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that the outcome of the velodrome consultancy which took place in 2008 would be provided to the Group.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group agreed to receive a deputation from Ligoneil Improvement Association at a future meeting and noted the following outstanding deputation requests:

- Belfast Hills; and
- Women's Tec.

The Working Group also noted that representatives of Girdwood were also due to attend the next Working Group and that the following items would be placed on the agenda:

- Alleygates update
- Feedback from the Area Workshop (6th September)

Chairperson



Subject:	Approved Duties for Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons
Date:	18 th November, 2016
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	As above

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider the payment of motor mileage claims for Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons when undertaking duties required of them in that role.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	To authorise the payment of motor mileage claims for Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons when undertaking duties required of them in that role.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	The Local Government (Payment to Councillors) Regulations is the proper authority from which the Council derives the ability to reimburse Councillors for motor mileage properly incurred for “approved duties”.
3.1.2	In the Regulations, approved duties are described as <i>“attendance at a meeting of a council, or any of its committees or sub-committees or the doing of anything approved by the council for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the council or any of its committees or sub-committees”</i> .
3.1.3	The Standing Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons are, from time to time, required to attend meetings or events that other members of the committee would not be required to attend, such as Chairpersons briefings or speaking at an event or an official launch. However, as those duties fall outside the current description of a “meeting” and as there is usually not any specific Committee authority for them to attend

	and receive motor mileage allowance for such events, it has not been possible to pay a claim for the reimbursement of mileage claims.
3.1.4	This seems somewhat unfair as the attendance at such meetings and events is a consequence of the holding of the office of Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson and are at the request of Council officers. It would seem to be appropriate that the mileage incurred is an expense which ought to be able to be reimbursed.
3.2	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.2.1	There would be a slight increase in the amount of mileage allowance payment but this can be met from within existing budgets.
3.3	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.3.1	None.