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



Belfast
City Council

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Tuesday, 1st May, 2018 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Summons**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes of Council Meetings of 9th April (Pages 1 - 16)**
5. **Request to Address the Council**

To consider requests from Councillor Jim Shulman to address the Council to proclaim Nashville's continued commitment to the Sister City Relationship with Belfast Nashville delegation; and

To consider a request from Mr. Jack Healy to address the Council in relation to Autism Awareness.

6. **Official Announcements**

7. **Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 20th and 27th April, 2018**
(Pages 17 - 62)

- a) Amendment to Standing Order 37(a) Duties of Committees – Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

In accordance with Standing Order 64, to pass, following the Committee's decision of 27th April, a Resolution amending Standing Order 37(a) to read as follows: "In addition, the Committee shall have delegated authority for decisions in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme where the Chief Executive, or in her absence the Deputy Chief Executive, determine that a decision which would otherwise be taken under an officer's delegated authority requires political direction."

8. **People and Communities Committee of 12th April and 16th April, 2018**
(Pages 63 - 114)

- (i) As required under Phase IV of the Council's Alleygating Scheme, to pass a resolution to make a Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Order (Northern Ireland) 2017, which will come into effect on 1st May, 2018, prohibiting the use by vehicles and pedestrians of those streets, as set out within the minute of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 12th April, 2018. (page C916-C921 refers.)

9. **City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 11th April, 2018** (Pages 115 - 158)

10. **Licensing Committee of 18th April, 2018** (Pages 159 - 190)

11. **Planning Committee of 17th April, 2018** (Pages 191 - 200)

12. **Notices of Motion**

- (a) Children's Funeral Charges

Proposed by Alderman McGimpsey,
Seconded by Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland,

"This Council, recognising that under the terms of the Children's Funeral Fund, Councils in England and Wales do not charge parents the costs of burials or cremations. Accordingly, the Council agrees to waive all charges and costs relating to those services for children up to the age of eighteen."

(To be referred, without discussion, to the People and Communities Committee)

(b) Leisure Provision

Proposed by Councillor Collins,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

"This Council notes that on 7th April, 2018 hundreds of leisure workers and their supporters marched along the Falls and Shankill roads to highlight concerns about job losses. The Council also notes the trade union demonstration today, which called for the protection of our leisure services and raised the demand to bring leisure services back fully under Belfast City Council control. The Council recognises that since the outsourcing of leisure services some years ago serious concerns have emerged about the running of leisure in Belfast. The Council is opposed to any job losses, erosion of workers terms and conditions or price hikes as part of the leisure transformation programme. The Council tasks the Chief Executive and the officer team to explore the options in relation to the future provision of leisure services, including the feasibility of bringing the service back under council control at some time in the future."

(To be referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee)

(c) Misogyny and Social Media

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Councillor Nicholl,

"This council stands by women from all backgrounds and political persuasions to be able to express themselves on social media without the risk of misogynistic or sexist abuse.

As a council, we call on Twitter and other social mediums to address the failure of their companies to meet their responsibilities regarding the threats of violence and abuse directed at women. These failures mean that many feel they are no longer able to express themselves freely on social media platforms without fear of attacks."

(To be debated at Council)

(d) Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor Links

Proposed by the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

"This Council acknowledges the ever growing importance of relations between Belfast City and Dublin City as the main economic drivers within each jurisdiction. Furthermore, regardless of the outcome of negotiations around Brexit, it is imperative that relations continue to flourish between both cities, to the mutual benefit of all along this increasingly significant economic corridor.

Accordingly, this Council agrees to establish a joint plan around co-operation regarding working relationships within the economic corridor. Going forward, this Council commits to ensuring key areas of progress and collaboration focussing on:

- A complementary approach to inward investment and job growth;
- Achieving Inclusive growth; and
- Developing Infrastructure and connectivity."

**(To be referred, without discussion, to the City Growth and
Regeneration Committee)**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Suzanne Wylie", enclosed within a rectangular box.

Chief Executive

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 9th April, 2018
at 5.30 p.m., pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) (Chairperson); the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, McGimpsey, Rodgers and Councillors Dudgeon, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle, McCusker and Walsh.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the special meeting which had been called to consider a recommendation of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27th March to elect and admit former President William Jefferson Clinton and Senator George Mitchell as a Freeman of the City of Belfast.

Freedom of the City

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Long and

“In recognition of their work for peace in Northern Ireland and on these Islands and in recognition of their role in our peace process, this Council agrees that former President William Jefferson Clinton and Senator George Mitchell are hereby elected and admitted as Freeman of the City and County Borough of Belfast.”

On a recorded vote, forty-six Members voted for the proposal and three against and it was declared carried.

**Special Meeting of Council,
Monday, 9th April, 2018**

<u>For 46</u>	<u>Against 3</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); and Aldermen Convery, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	Alderman R. Patterson; and Councillors Bunting and Collins.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 9th April, 2018
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); the High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Hussey, McCusker and Walsh.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister),
Seconded by Alderman Browne and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 5th March and the Special meeting of the Council of 27th March, 2018 be taken as read and signed as correct.

Official Announcements

Congratulations

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, congratulated Councillor O'Neill and her fiancé on their recent engagement.

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 9th April, 2018**

Welcome

The Lord Mayor welcomed Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy, and Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development, to their first meeting of the Council.

Best Wishes

At the request of Alderman Kingston, the Lord Mayor extended congratulations to the competitors of the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games team who had won medals in the Commonwealth Games 2018 in the Gold Coast, Australia and extended the Council's best wishes to the athletes who had progressed to the next stage of their competitions, or who were yet to compete in the Games.

Request to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a request had been received from the BBC seeking to film part of the meeting.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

Request to Address the Council

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from Ms. G. Teggart from the organisation Amnesty International UK, Mr. R. Rowan from the Family Planning Association (FPA) and Ms. D. McAvoy from the organisation Both Lives Matter, to address the Council in the context of the motion which Councillor Nicholl would be proposing later in the meeting on Criminalisation of Abortion.

The Council agreed to accede to the requests.

Ms. G. Teggart was welcomed to the meeting. Ms. Teggart welcomed the Motion and suggested that the Council should stand by women and demonstrate solidarity that women should not be criminalised or face potential jail time for seeking to access and use their basic human right to healthcare. She suggested that the Council should show support for women as abortion was a healthcare and human rights issue and, regardless of personal views on the matter, the reality was that women and girls from across Northern Ireland were having abortions.

She advised that women were living under the threat of prosecution and the laws in Northern Ireland needed to be changed to include the decriminalisation of abortion, so that it could be regulated through a healthcare policy, like every other form of healthcare.

She outlined a range of support for the motion and explained that women who had accessed abortion pills in Northern Ireland had been convicted under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act. She highlighted that abortion pills were available free, on the NHS, in other parts of the UK. She suggested that making abortion illegal did not mean that it

**Meeting of Council,
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was not required and the laws were forcing women to put their lives in danger. She advised that the Public Prosecution Service had recently clarified that there was no offence in the criminal law for advocating and promoting abortion. She advised that Amnesty International welcomed the UN report which had confirmed that the UK was responsible for grave and systematic violations of women's rights in Northern Ireland by unduly restricting their access to abortion. She suggested that Politicians had the power to change the situation and should trust women to make choices that were right for them.

The Lord Mayor welcomed Mr. R. Rowan to the meeting. He advised that the Family Planning Association provided a range of services including non-directive pregnancy counselling and support services for women of all backgrounds. He highlighted there was no such thing as a typical client and each client came with their own set of circumstances. He advised that the Family Planning offices had been picketed on a daily basis, which caused distress to clients and staff. He suggested that the availability of abortion pills online had increased and data from one online provider stated that requests had tripled in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland from 548 in 2010, to 1,748 in 2016. He suggested that, during post abortion counselling, women felt silenced after they have accessed the pills due to it being a criminal offence. He advised that the decriminalisation of abortion was supported by medical bodies such as the Royal College of Midwives, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist and the British Medical Association, together with Amnesty International and the Family Planning Association.

Ms. Teggart and Mr. Rowan were thanked by the Lord Mayor.

Ms. D. McAvoy and Ms. M. Woods were welcomed to the meeting. Ms. McAvoy advised that the Both Lives Matter organisation was a collaborative campaign which valued the life and health of women and the unborn children and perused the wellbeing of both. She explained that they believed that there were at least two lives in existence in every pregnancy and they believed that both lives mattered. She suggested that the law mattered and shaped culture and they would continue to defend the life affirming law in relation to abortion. She outlined a range of objections to the motion and suggested it showed a commitment, by some, to liberalise the law in Northern Ireland and would be the groundwork to remove any protection for unborn children. She suggested that this law had meant that 100,000 people were alive today who may not have been, if abortion was legal in Northern Ireland. She advised that legalising abortion in Great Britain, 50 years ago, had led to the tripling of abortion rates and suggested that women deserved to be enabled in their fertility, pregnancy and motherhood, not instead of.

She suggested that the laws were there to protect unborn humans and women in their pregnancy and the decriminalisation of abortion would remove existing legal protections for unborn children and potentially their mothers. She suggested that removing these laws would mean that a hawk's egg would have more protection than an unborn child. She advised that Northern Ireland had invested heavily in maternity care and infancy mortality rates were some of the lowest in the world.

She suggested also that there should be a better vision for women and all of society and that Both Lives Matter believed that, unfortunately, abortion had become a default solution for a society, which saw women's fertility, biology, pregnancy and motherhood as

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an inconvenient problem to be solved. She suggested that better support for women was needed and a serious debate was required. She advised that the Council did not have the power to change the law and factors and boundaries in relation to abortion needed to be thoroughly considered.

She suggested that the rise in use of abortion pills was unknown and it was wrong to suggest that medical professionals would not give the appropriate care to women and unborn babies that was required. She explained that charities such as Life Northern Ireland continued to support women and families through counselling, housing and care services. She suggested that there was no human right to abortion and the ending of life was not healthcare and suggested that the Council should oppose the motion.

Ms. McAvoy and Ms. Woods were thanked by the Lord Mayor.

The Chief Executive reported that the following requests, which had been received within the required seven days' notice period to be permitted to address the Council, had been withdrawn:

- Mr. Rodgers - to address the Council in advance of the motion on Special Schools; and
- Mr. Healy - to address the Council in relation to Autism Awareness.

The Chief Executive also reported that a request had been received from Mrs. M. Ferguson, to address the Council in relation to the motion which Councillor Attwood would be proposing later in the meeting on Hyponatremia-Related Deaths. She advised that this request had not been received at least seven days prior to the date of the meeting, therefore, it was a matter for the Council to decide if it wished to exercise its discretion and permit the representative to be heard.

The Council agreed to accede to the request.

The Lord Mayor welcomed Mrs. Ferguson and Ms. K. Doherty to the meeting. Mrs Ferguson advised that her daughter has died following an appendix operation in Altnagelvin Hospital in 2001, however, initially the family had not been told the correct reason for the death of their daughter and liability had been denied by the hospital.

Mrs Ferguson highlighted that she had spent 16 and a half years fighting for the truth in relation to the circumstances of her daughter's death and the campaign had led to a public enquiry, which had clarified the circumstances of how her daughter Raychel had died after being fed the wrong type of saline drip.

She suggested that the Council should support the establishment of a "Raychel's Law of Candour" so that all medical services would be compelled to tell the truth when things went wrong when patients were in their care.

Mrs. Ferguson and Ms. Doherty were thanked by the Lord Mayor.

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd and 27th March be approved and adopted, subject to the inclusion of the following - That applications for the Cultural Expressions Programme are encouraged from a wide range of groups (provided they are constituted) and that community events and festivals, regardless of whether there is a beacon/bonfire are eligible, provided that they meet the criteria and that applications are made before the deadline in so far as it relates to the minute of the meeting of 27th March under the heading "Options for the Delivery of Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2018".

Amendment

Independent Review of the Leisure Operating Model

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

Resolved - That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd March, under the heading "Independent Review of the Leisure Operating Model", be amended to provide that the Chief Executive intervenes to resolve the concerns of the Belfast City Council contracted staff outsourced to GLL in relation to the negotiations of the restructuring of leisure services.

Amendment

Capital Programme Update

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Howard,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd March, under the heading "Capital Programme Update", be amended to provide that the decision in relation to the 3G pitch at the Blancheflower Playing Fields be deferred until the research into the pitch facilities for Glentoran Football Club has been reported back to the East Area Working Group.

On a recorded vote, nine Members voted for the amendment and forty-four against, with three "no votes" and it was declared lost.

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<u>For 9</u>	<u>Against 44</u>	<u>No Vote 3</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); and Councillors Armitage, Long, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Nicholl and O'Neill.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Baker, Beattie, Boyle, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, Mullan, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	Councillors Attwood, Collins and Heading.

Exclusion of the Press and Public from the Meeting

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister),
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and

Resolved – That, in accordance with Section 42(4) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Council agrees to exclude the press and public from the meeting to allow consideration of confidential information in relation to the minutes of the meeting of the Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27th March.

In accordance with the aforementioned Act, the press and public were excluded from the meeting to enable the matter to be discussed in private.

Amendment

Report on the Investigation of the Collection and Storage of Bonfire Materials by Belfast City Council and other Bonfire Related Matters

Moved by Councillor Boyle,
Seconded by Councillor Mullan,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 27th March, under the heading "Report on the Investigation of the Collection and Storage of Bonfire Materials by Belfast City Council and

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other Bonfire Related Matters”, be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

On a recorded vote, nine Members voted for the amendment and forty-eight against and it was declared lost.

<u>For 9</u>	<u>Against 48</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen Browne, Convery, McGimpsey, Rodgers; and Councillors Boyle, Dudgeon, Johnston and Mullan.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); Aldermen Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Bunting, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Murphy, Newton, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, O'Neill, Pankhurst and Reynolds.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendments in relation to the Cultural Expressions Programme and the Independent Review of the Leisure Operating Model, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd and 27th March were thereupon approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Alderman Sandford,
Seconded by Councillor Carson,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 6th March be approved and adopted.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th March be approved and adopted.

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Belfast – City for Investment

At the request of Councillor Attwood, the Council agreed that a report be submitted to a future Committee in relation to the recommendations outlined in the OECD Report published in 2008, in particular, to examine the potential for the Council to have its own Investment Company and the possibility of reenergising 'Friends of Belfast', for consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 7th March were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Alderman Spence,
Seconded by Councillor Hutchinson,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 21st March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Armitage,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 13th and 15th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd.
Shareholders' Committee**

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 12th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

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Notices of Motion

Criminalisation of Abortion

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

"This Council notes the increasing number of women who are accessing abortion pills via the internet, which leaves them vulnerable to prosecution.

The Council further notes the impact on healthcare professionals who, under Section 5 of the Criminal Law Act (Northern Ireland) 1967, may have a duty to provide information to the Police Service. Therefore, if a woman requires medical assistance after accessing these pills, the threat of prosecution and life in prison is likely to act as a real deterrent, thus potentially having a detrimental impact on her health.

Accordingly, the Council believes that abortion should be regulated like any other medical care and not by criminal law, while still enabling incidents of malpractice to be addressed, as with any other health service, through the general criminal law or medical disciplinary procedures.

A woman who has an abortion is not a criminal, nor are healthcare professionals who care for them, and the law should not treat them as such."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Campbell.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Lyons,

That the Motion standing in the name of Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor Campbell be amended to provide for the deletion of the final two paragraphs and the insertion of the following: "Accordingly, the Council believes that this is a healthcare issue not a criminal justice issue. Women or health care professionals who care for them should not be treated as criminals."

On a recorded vote, thirty-four Members voted for the amendment and sixteen against, with five "no votes" and it was declared carried.

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<u>For 34</u>	<u>Against 16</u>	<u>No Vote 5</u>
The Lord Mayor (Councillor McAllister); The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard); and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Baker, Beattie, Campbell, Canavan, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Corr, Corr Johnston, Dudgeon, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Hutchinson, Long, Lyons, Magee, Magennis, McAteer, McConville, McDonough-Brown, McReynolds, Milne, Murphy, Nic Biorna, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara and O'Neill.	Aldermen Convery, Haire, Kingston, McCoubrey, L. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Boyle, Bunting, Craig, Dorrian, Graham, Mullan, Newton, Pankhurst and Reynolds.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland); Aldermen R. Patterson and Rodgers; and Councillors Johnston and Kyle.

Hyponatremia-Related Deaths

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Attwood sought the consent of the Council to alter his motion, as follows:

“This Council notes the shocking and heartbreaking findings in the Report Inquiry into hyponatremia-related deaths (IHRD), led by Mr. John O’Hara.

The Council notes that the family of Raychel Ferguson, who died after being fed the wrong type of saline drip following an appendix operation in Altnagelvin Hospital in 2001, have called for the establishment of a ‘Raychel’s Law of Candour’.

The Council supports all the families who were devastated and heartbroken by the death of their children due to hyponatremia related causes.

The Council agrees to write to the Department of Health calling on it to bring forward legislation to establish a new statutory duty of candour that would compel health care organisations to be open and honest and impose criminal liability on anyone in breach of the duty.”

The Council agreed to the request.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Lyons.

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After discussion, the motion, as amended, was put to the Council and passed.

Special Schools

In accordance with notice on the agenda, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland proposed:

“This Council expresses its grave concerns at the plans by the Education Authority in Northern Ireland to close a number of special schools and also to amalgamate others in the city of Belfast.

The Council believes that if the plans go ahead they will have a devastating effect on staff and on pupils and their families, many of whom have serious physical and mental health problems.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to request the Chief Executive and members of the Board of the Education Authority to meet with an all-party delegation from the Council to discuss this as a matter of urgency.”

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rodgers.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Corr,
Seconded by Councillor Garrett,

That the Motion be amended to delete the last paragraph and to insert the following:

“This Council calls on the Education Authority to call a halt to this consultation process until they engage fully with the schools, parents, pupils and all the stakeholders involved.”

The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland, with the consent of the Council, agreed to accept the amendment as an addition to the Motion without the exclusion of the final paragraph.

Accordingly, the following motion, as amended, was put to the Council as the substantive motion and passed unanimously:

“This Council expresses its grave concerns at the plans by the Education Authority in Northern Ireland to close a number of special schools and also to amalgamate others in the city of Belfast.

The Council believes that if the plans go ahead they will have a devastating effect on staff and on pupils and their families, many of whom have serious physical and mental health problems.

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Accordingly, the Council agrees to request the Chief Executive and members of the Board of the Education Authority to meet with an all-party delegation from the Council to discuss this as a matter of urgency.

This Council calls on the Education Authority to call a halt to this consultation process until they engage fully with the schools, parents, pupils and all the stakeholders involved.”

Standing Order 23

During debate on the previous motion, the Council’s attention was drawn to the fact that, in accordance with Standing Order 23, any meeting of the Council which has lasted continuously for five hours shall stand adjourned unless the Council shall by resolution decide to continue sitting.

The Council resolved to continue to sit to deal with the remaining business.

Childcare Strategy

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O’Hara proposed:

“This council agrees to explore options and take practical steps, including through the Belfast Agenda and City Deal, with a view to creating a childcare strategy for the city that will encourage greater maternal employment, redress gender inequalities in the workplace, increase GVA in the city and, most importantly, improve educational and social outcomes for our children.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor O’Neill.

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

Greenway Strategy

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

“That this council will support the further development of the Greenway strategy in Belfast, including assessing the benefits of a Sydenham Greenway, linking East Belfast and Holywood.

Council will engage with potential partners to assess how such a strategy would be implemented, with focus on improving connectivity and benefiting health and well being in our community.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 20th April, 2018

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Hutchinson, McDonough-Brown,
O'Neill and Reynolds.

Also attended: Councillor O'Hara.

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

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Long and Walsh.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 23rd March and 27th March (x2) were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meetings on 9th April.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Corr and Hutchinson declared an interest in respect of item 3e Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services – Capital Update and left the meeting while this item was under consideration.

Deputations

Designation of Belfast district (or the city centre) as a 'holiday resort' providing large shops with an option to extend Sunday trading hours between the months of March and October

The Chief Executive submitted for the Committee's consideration a report on the updated findings from the public consultation as to whether Belfast City Council should designate the Belfast district or the city centre as a 'holiday resort' under Article 6 of the shops (Sunday Trading &c.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. She reminded the Committee

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that it had considered this the previous year, however, following representations to look at the matter again, a further consultation had been undertaken and the results of which had been circulated.

The City Solicitor reviewed the high-level consultation response and the comparisons between the previous consultation in 2017 and the current consultation. He referred also to the equality and good relations implications outlined in the report.

It was reported that a number of requests had been received from deputations wishing to address the Committee and the Committee needed to decide whether to receive them.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputations.

Deputations - Usdaw, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Retail NI and Visit Belfast

Usdaw

Mr Michael Aylward, representing Usdaw, addressed the Committee. He indicated that he was disappointed that the item was back on the agenda less than a year after previous consideration. He referred to the economics argument and that in 2011 research undertaken by the Northern Ireland Assembly had indicated that there would be no economic benefit by extending Sunday trading. He stated that the pilot undertaken during the London Olympics had shown a decline in sales during that period.

He stated that the Union believed that the proposals for the extended Sunday hours would have a negative impact on retail workers. He stated that Usdaw had surveyed its members across the UK and that 94% did not wish to have extended Sunday trading. With regard to protections and workers' rights, he was of the view that, with what was currently in place, there was no protection for staff who refused to work the proposed extended Sunday hours and this could leave staff financially worse off.

He concluded by requesting the Committee to give serious consideration to the proposals. The Union did not believe it would benefit the local economy, that there were any major retailers asking for it and the negative impact it would have on smaller retailers by allowing larger store extended Sunday opening.

Mr Aylward then answered a number of questions, including issues relating to statutory protection for workers, and retired from the table.

Retail NI

Mr Glynn Roberts, representing Retail NI, was invited to address the Committee. He commented on the request he had made at the Committee meeting the previous year, when it had been considering this matter, for the Council to instigate with the various different players, that is, the Unions, Retail NI, the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, roundtable meetings to discuss and chart a weekend strategy for Belfast. He stated that he was disappointed that this has not happened. He referred to the current

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consultation of which 50.7% of the responders had opposed the extension of Sunday trading. He highlighted the impact he believed this would have on local independent retailers and stated that the extra hours they had to trade were vital to their businesses. The fact that the large businesses already had an unfair competitive advantage through free car parking and no traffic enforcement at their businesses. He made the point that if the Committee were minded to designate Belfast as a 'holiday resort' this could have a major impact with other towns and cities following suit.

He stated that the existing laws had been a hard fought compromise. He accepted that more needed to be done to make Belfast a world-class city in terms of tourism but referred to those attractions already in place such as the Titanic building, the Ulster Museum and St. George's Market. He concluded by requesting the Committee to oppose the proposals.

Mr. Roberts then answered a number of questions from the Members and retired from the table.

**Hospitality Ulster, NI Hotels Federation
and Visit Belfast**

Mr. Colin Neill, Hospitality Ulster, Ms. Janice Gault, NI Hotels Federation, and Mr. Gerry Lennon, Visit Belfast, were invited to address the Committee.

Mr. Neill explained that, in terms of economic assets, tourism spend in Northern Ireland was half of that which was spent in the Republic of Ireland, with the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 5%, whilst the rest of the UK and the ROI was over 10%. There was a need to maximise the income from tourists by providing more for them to do. He made the point that the tourism industry respected the rights of people who worked in hospitality and retail and the rights to allow them to choose if they wished to work on a Sunday or not.

He stated that, to compete on a global tourism stage, the city must offer an attractive experience, one that added economic value to tourism. Hospitality Ulster believed the current restrictions were not providing visitors with the best experience and limited the opportunity to maximise the economic benefits. Accordingly, he requested the Committee to support the proposal to give Belfast 'holiday resort' status.

Ms. Gault stated that Belfast hotel room numbers were likely to increase in the region of 38% by the end of 2019. In order to grow as an industry, it was important that the visitor be offered choice, as it was a very competitive market where the visitor could choose to go to any city in the UK. She explained that issue most raised by visitors was what to do on a Sunday morning. People have expressed the desire to shop, to go out into the city and spend money. The industry felt it was important that visitors were offered those choices. In tandem with that, it was important that retail workers were offered a choice as well. Visitors to Northern Ireland spend approximately £169, whereas visitors to Scotland spend £335. Throughout Northern Ireland half a billion pounds is being invested in the hotel industry and it would like to be able to maximise that economy.

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Mr Lennon explained that, from a Visit Belfast prospective, all its views were about its mission which was about driving up visitor numbers and spend. Thanks to the leadership shown by the Council, tourism has grown by 50% in the last 5 years to the point where overnight visitors were spending £300 million per year in the city. Research indicated that one third of that goes into retail. Retail is an important part of the visitor offering, it was crucial and the city was not maximising that to the full. There was 40-50% less spend here compared to the rest of the UK. The occupancy rates on a Saturday night were at 90% and it was estimated that were 10,000 visitors with time on their hands and money in their pockets on a Sunday morning. It was the view of Visit Belfast that the designation as a 'holiday resort' was a natural out working of the Council's already stated policy on tourism.

The Deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members and then left the table.

**Belfast Chamber of Trade
And Commerce**

Ms. Michelle Greeves, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Steven Simpson, Independent retailer, and Ms. Emer McKerr, retail worker, addressed the Committee.

Ms Greeves explained that the Chamber passionately supported choice. The choice for retailers to open or not and that choice was currently not there to open an extra couple of hours on a Sunday. Some retailers can open currently, that is, those whose premises were under 3,000 square feet in size and the Chamber was asking to treat all retail the same and allow that choice for all retail workers. In addition, in some parts of the retail sector, employees work longer than 1.00pm to 6.00pm and the Chamber was asking for consistency for all workers. This would also be extended to tourists and visitors to the city who would have the choice to shop. She stated that the city needed to be animated, and attracting people to the city was not just about retail, but that did add an extra choice. The Chamber welcomed the 'charter for Sunday workers' and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Council on what that charter need to cover.

Mr. Simpson referred to the current difficulties in the retail trade with many businesses having to close and therefore there was a need to introduce creative ways to bring people into the city centre on Sunday mornings. There were more tourists in the city centre on Sunday mornings and there was a need to look at ways to entice them to get involved in what Belfast has to offer. He explained that 50% of his staff were female and were originally managers and this would give them the opportunity to work more hours and earn more money, which they were in favour of.

Ms. McKerr expressed the view that she would like the choice to work on a Sunday morning, which she currently did not have. She was a working mother and worked every weekday and if she had the opportunity to work on a Sunday she could have a day off during the week to spend more time with her children. It would also allow her the choice of when to attend church as, at present, working from 1.00pm to 6.00pm she missed both the morning and evening services. She could also save on crèche fees.

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She met regularly with other staff in her organisation and the topic of Sunday hours had been discussed regularly and the overwhelming feedback was that they wanted the extended hours as they would have more flexibility and the choice whether to work or not on a Sunday.

The Deputation then answered a number of questions from the Members and then left the table.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until a special meeting to be held on Friday, 27th April at 9.30a.m.

Restricted Items

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of these items as, due to the nature of the items, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Organisational Development update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 31st May 2017, it had agreed that the City and Organisational Strategy Department (Strategic Hub) would be created to support the delivery of the Council's priorities and the Belfast Agenda. Accordingly, a report was submitted for the Committee's consideration seeking agreement to further the development of the organisational structure within the Strategic Hub within the current resourcing envelope.

The Committee approved the creation or reconfiguration of a number of posts reporting to the Director of City and Organisational Strategy, namely:

- the establishment of a permanent City Innovation Team (which would deliver the SMART cities framework alongside other innovative solutions for the city);
- the creation of a Portfolio Management function;
- the establishment of a Continuous Improvement Team; and
- to the commencement of work to review, reconfigure or create roles within the Hub and formally move functions and staff as agreed by the Committee on 31st May 2017.

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Bonfire Decision Making Process

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until a special meeting of the Committee to be held on Friday, 27th April; but agreed the following

- that the authority delegated to the appropriate Council officers to undertake a number of specified “Interventions” in line with the July/August 2017 arrangements, which had been agreed by the Committee at its special meeting on 27th March, be extended to include delegated authority for officers to undertake community engagement.

Local Development Plan (LDP) Draft Plan Strategy

The Chairperson advised the Committee that the Planning Committee, at its meeting on 17th April, had deferred consideration of the Local Development Plan to enable a special meeting to be held to enable it to formulate and give full consideration to the matter. Accordingly, he requested the Committee to defer consideration of the report until that meeting had taken place.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

Hillview Market

The Committee noted the contents of a report in relation to issues which had been raised by a recent Spotlight programme regarding the car boot sale at Hillview Retail Centre.

Peace IV Objective 3.1 – Shared Spaces and Services – Capital Update

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the current status of Objective 3.1 - Shared Spaces and Services under Peace IV which had been designed to support capital projects and specifically an update on the status of the two projects, the Shankill Women’s Centre (SWC) and Black Mountain Shared Space (BMSS), for which the Council had previously agreed to act as delivery agent.

After discussion, the Committee:

- noted the update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services theme and that as a result of only 2 projects (both outside of the Belfast area) successfully receiving a commitment for funding under the last round of funding that the call for applications under this theme has been re-opened;
- noted the feedback on the SWC and BMSS applications under the previous round of funding as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report and that both projects were informed that value for money including ongoing sustainability and quality of project design were key areas of concern for SEUPB;

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- noted that in the next round of funding that SEUPB have stressed that no project will succeed unless a number of key criteria are demonstrated particularly that the ongoing revenue costs are secured and evidenced. Reflecting this they are advising that each application must be submitted by a lead partner who will effectively act as the 'guarantor' for projects and who will be responsible for underwriting construction costs, ongoing sustainability costs etc.
- noted that there is strong support for, and commitment to, both the BMSS and SWC projects – both are in the Peace IV Springfield regeneration area and the Council are the owners of the BMSS site;
- in light of the above, agreed, given the previous Committee decision to act as delivery agent and on the basis of the points set out below, that the Council continues to support the BMSS and SWC applications under this second call and acts as the lead partner for both projects - and noted the potential implications of this decision particularly from an ongoing revenue perspective:
 - the Council is in ownership of one of the sites;
 - the council's commitment to Shared Space;
 - the Council's commitment to Interface Regeneration;
 - the existing partnership and relationship in the development of the projects;
 - the scale of the potential of the investment for Belfast (over £10 million); and
 - to ensure Belfast gains maximum investment from the Peace IV programme;
- in agreeing that the Council acts as the lead partner for BMSS and SWC, the Council reserves the right to relook at the scope of both applications and their business case, designs, governance etc. and that, in parallel to supporting the application process, a robust financial due-diligence is undertaken from a Council perspective in relation to the ongoing revenue implications and their potential impact from a rates perspective with the results of this due-diligence process to be brought back to Committee;
- noted that given the stringent requirements on demonstrating ongoing sustainability it was likely that the Council may be approached by other groups within the city to support their applications and take on the role of lead partner – given the implications of this and the resources requirements needed to help support groups it was agreed that the Council does not accede to any further requests for support.

Community Development Grants Programme 2018/19

The Committee considered a report in relation to the current situation regarding the Community Support Programme and Letter of Offer from Department for Communities.

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The Committee agreed:

- (1) To accept the Department for Communities offer of grant funding under the regional Community Support Programme in 2018/19;
- (2) To note a revised level of funding and agreed to a further report outlining the impact on the Council's Community Development Grants programme with options for 2018/19 grants awards.; and
- (3) That discussion be undertaken with the Department in relation to the reduction of over £33k on the overall contribution.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion - Childcare Strategy

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 9th April, had agreed to the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor O'Hare and seconded by Councillor O'Neill, in accordance with Standing Order 13 (f), be referred to the Committee for consideration:

"This Council agrees to explore options and take practical steps, including through the Belfast Agenda and City Deal, with a view to creating a childcare strategy for the city that will encourage greater maternal employment, redress gender inequalities in the workplace, increase GVA in the city and, most importantly, improve educational and social outcomes for our children."

It was reported that a number of targeted initiatives were in the pipeline to address some of the issues identified in the Motion. They included a proposed Childcare Employment Academy which would help interested individuals to establish childcare businesses. In addition to providing the participants with employment opportunities for themselves and any staff, the increased childcare provision would ensure that parents wishing to enter the workforce would have more options in terms of childcare access.

In addition, a budget had been set aside as part of the Council's Employability and Skills investment for this year. That would be available to individuals to access the support programmes by providing resources to address potential barriers, such as childcare.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor O'Hara, in whose name the motion was standing, addressed the Committee.

The Committee agreed that a report on the matter be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

City Region Growth Deal – update

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To update Committee on the ongoing development of a Belfast City Region Deal Proposition including engagement with partners, emerging projects and next steps.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note;

- Ongoing work to develop the next proposition document for the Belfast City Region Deal
- The initial emerging projects under the key themes
- The next steps for engagement including a proposed joint members Forum in May 2018.

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Department for Communities and Local Government, is now in full operation.

The programme is being developed to fulfil the agreed objective for the BRCD of *'more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI'*.

Programme Update

3.2 Innovation

In line with the process adopted for other successful city deals the universities are working with the BRCD on the Innovation strand of the proposition. Queens University and Ulster University have developed outline innovation proposals for potential inclusion in the BRCD and examples of emerging projects include;

- A Digital Innovation Centre
- A Financial (and Legal) Technology Centre
- Academic Medical Research Institute
- Creative Industries Centre of Excellence
- A Global Innovation Institute

3.3 Discussions with University partners, and the relevant NI departments has begun to further explore and develop these and other projects for inclusion in the next iteration of the proposition document.

Employability and Skills

3.4 The Chief Executive of Belfast Metropolitan College, on behalf of the Regional Colleges, is working with Council partners on the development of an initial proposition on Employability and Skills for discussion with government departments and agencies. A significant amount of engagement has taken place with the FE colleges in the region as well as council officers from all six councils in the development of a draft framework. The emerging framework has three principal strands:

- Targeting economic inactivity
- Addressing skill supply issues
- Meeting the skills needs of our growth sector

3.5 Specific priority areas and programmes are being developed to support the key strands in areas such as;

- Careers Enhancement,
- Apprenticeship Hub,
- Graduate Development,
- Employability for All,
- Economic Activation,
- Business Productivity,
- Digital skills.

3.6 The skills proposition will underpin and support the other strands of the deal. It will seek to both support the skills needed to deliver growth in the high value added sectors such as digital and creative industries and also to enable and to facilitate inclusion through programmes to support the large number of people of working age who are currently economically inactive.

3.7 A key element of the employability and skills proposition will involve establishing a new integrated approach which is more responsive to the needs of business in the region and which

reflects the changing requirements to remain competitive in a global economy.

- 3.8 A first draft of the proposition has been developed and a meeting is scheduled with NI departments in mid-April, after which there will be a need to be for direct engagement with business representatives across the region.

Digital

- 3.9 Future City Catapult has been engaged on behalf of the Belfast Region City Deal Partners to develop a Digital Strategy to identify the digital infrastructure required across the region in order to advance economic growth and social inclusion. It will consider

- What digital infrastructure is required to support our key growth sectors
- What future digital skills will be required to ensure digital infrastructure is used to achieve economic efficiencies
- How digital infrastructure can progress social inclusion and inclusive economic growth

- 3.10 A significant amount of work has been undertaken to date and FCC has conducted an extensive programme of engagement with Council partners and key stakeholders, including a session with local businesses facilitated by the CBI.

- 3.11 The emerging vision and proposition highlights a range of strategic objectives for the digital infrastructure strategy which include

1. Take action to increase digital readiness of the regional economy
2. Accelerate the development of data and Internet of Things capabilities
3. A Pathway to a future-proof digital infrastructure
4. Embed digital into services prioritising those that will trigger economic growth

- 3.12 Work is continuing to develop specific projects to support these objectives which will be included in the city deal proposition document at the end of April.

Infrastructure

- 3.13 At the last meeting, committee was provided with an update on the emerging infrastructure projects in Belfast that were

identified for initial consideration in the next city deal proposition. They were selected given their significance to the development of the city and wider economic region. These projects had already been priorities identified in a number of council strategies including the Belfast Agenda, the City Centre Regeneration Strategy and the Local Development Plan and include; The Belfast Story, Belfast Rapid Transit phase 2- Linking the north & south of the city, Lagan Bridges and Links, Transport Hub phase 2 (Weavers Cross), York Street Interchange. The Living with Water Project has also been identified as significant in terms of supporting the city's infrastructure and has been included for further consideration.

- 3.14 Members are reminded that in all of the work strands the initial list of projects are in early draft and it is important to recognise that the value of the projects being identified by Council partners has a value far in excess of even the level of financing that could be available through a £1billion BRCD. There are therefore a significant a number of steps, including discussions with DCLG and NI Government Departments on both financing and deliverability, still to be worked through in relation to all the projects that are being considered as part of the deal.

Next Steps

- 3.15 Work has also begun on developing the tourism ask in the city deal. An early draft of this is due at the end of April and will help to inform this element of the proposition document. At the same time members will be aware that the Council continues to work on the development of a new potential city centre tourist attraction as well as developing a framework for neighbourhood tourism.

Engagement

- 3.16 Councils will continue to consult with the NI Executive Departments to test the emerging project list and updated proposition paper which will form the basis of discussion and negotiation with DCLG at the end of April / early May. It is anticipated that further prioritisation will form part of this process as well as the need for more information to take projects forward including detailed financial modelling with funding streams and development of individual business cases.
- 3.17 As projects now begin to emerge, further detailed discussions will take place with all partners and the private sector to

maximise the benefits of any deal, including identifying other funding opportunities. A further Joint Members Forum will also be held in May.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.18 Finance for the development of the Belfast City Region Deal has been included in the revenue estimates.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.19 To be considered in preparation of Belfast City Region Deal.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Inclusive Growth Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Members have expressed their desire to embed inclusive growth within the programme and project decision-making process of Council. As a result, the draft Corporate Plan 2017-21 includes a commitment to ‘work to drive inclusive growth’ through the development and adoption of an inclusive growth framework.

The purpose of this report is to set out the proposed approach and timescales associated with the realisation of this commitment and embed inclusive growth in our portfolio approach of the Belfast Agenda.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the proposed approach and suggested timescale associated with the development of an inclusive growth framework.
2. Agree to the commissioning of expertise to support Members to develop and implement an inclusive growth framework and action plan.
3. Agree to participating in a Members’ workshop with a view to defining the inclusive growth priorities.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The OECD states that inclusive growth is: ‘Economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society.’**

Recognising the importance of securing inclusive growth for Belfast, Members have engaged in a number of activities designed to support the development of an inclusive growth agenda. This has included a roundtable discussions facilitated by the RSA Commission on Inclusive Growth, work with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies and a Rockefeller Foundation Resilient Cities workshop. This work has been complemented by the findings of a poverty report produced by the Belfast Youth Forum and by work by Ulster University’s Economic Policy unit on economic inactivity in the City.

The evidence for an inclusive growth agenda is apparent. Despite the wider success of the Belfast economy over the last decade, and a range of public policy interventions, there is a clear challenge (Source: JRF):

- 376,000 people (21 per cent) in Northern Ireland are living in poverty;
- The level of working age poverty at 20 per cent is equal to the highest recorded since 2002/03;
- 101,000 of Northern Ireland’s children (23 per cent) are in poverty;
- 63,000 pensioners are in poverty (21 per cent).

- 3.2 This need for a set of new interventions to address growing economic inequalities has informed the priorities of the Belfast Agenda with inclusive growth being centre to the vision of the Community Plan. In particular evidence from partners and from the Belfast Conversation that informed the development of the Belfast Agenda, identified a set of particular challenges:**

- Growing levels of in-work poverty
- Number of households in poverty
- High levels of economic inactivity and long term unemployment
- High claimant counts levels
- Low skills and poor educational attainment, resulting in low paid jobs and poor progression

- 3.3 The outworking of this commitment within the Belfast Agenda has seen Council implement a range of programmes of work and interventions to support those most in need within our City. This has included significant investment in employment and skills interventions, interventions to address barriers to employment, the adoption of the living wage, educational support programmes, investments in social enterprise and co-operatives, fuel poverty interventions, robust adoption of social clauses and early years support and intervention.
- 3.4 While the on-going implementation of the Belfast Agenda, the successful delivery of the Belfast City Region Deal and the outworking of the Local Development Plan will provide opportunities for all citizens of Belfast, members have expressed their desire to embed inclusive growth more clearly within the programme and project decision-making process of Council. One such mechanism to ensure this is the adoption of an inclusive growth decision-making framework.

3.4 Why an Inclusive Growth Framework?

The RSA Inclusive Growth Commission and work by Metro Dynamics (with support from JRF) has resulted in the development of an inclusive growth decision-making framework. This framework is designed to support the development of a bespoke inclusive growth approach, embedding inclusive growth within existing functions and ensuring that it is incorporated within the social and economic agenda of a decision-making authority.

In essence, it is a technical led approach to creating an inclusive growth-led council. On the basis of 'what gets measured is what gets done', it is intended to drive behavioural change in investment strategy, so that inclusive growth outcomes are at the heart of the prioritisation. Furthermore, by leading the way in adopting a framework we can work with partners to progress the adoption of an inclusive approach throughout the City.

We anticipate that the embedding of an inclusive growth framework for the Council will involve a number of steps :

3.5 Step 1: Defining inclusive growth for Belfast

It is vital that that there is an agreed, and Belfast specific, definition of inclusive growth. To do this we must use data and evidence to determine challenges facing the city, and its population, and collectively develop a common narrative

about the vision for change. Doing this will ensure a common framework is in place for all policy and decision makers.

To support this process we seek approval to host a Members' workshop in May. This workshop will explore the inclusive growth challenges within Belfast, examine in-depth the evidence and seek to agree the definition.

3.6 Step 2: Developing and adopting a Belfast City Council bespoke framework

Building on the outworking of this workshop, and working with established experts and practitioners, officers we will develop an inclusive growth framework to ensure that inclusive growth is placed at the heart of policy, capital and programme decisions. This will ensure that the Council has a practical and simple framework to use in future decision making to quantify the inclusive growth benefits of investments and interventions.

3.7 Step 3: Assessing current interventions

This step will involve an assessment of whether the Council's and the actions of other agencies / partners are sufficient, along with the development of a plan to address deficiencies or build on strengths.

3.8 Step 4: Measuring our progress

Members will be aware the Community Planning and Smart Cities teams are currently working with Community Planning Partners to pilot a City Dashboard; it is proposed that the agreed measurements of inclusive growth form part of this dashboard. This will enable Members to assess progress.

3.9 Step 5: Ensuring Delivery

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy, via the Council's newly established Strategic Hub, will oversee the successful implementation and delivery of the Council's inclusive growth framework. The work of the hub in taking forward a number of workstreams, including: the ongoing delivery and implementation of the Belfast Agenda, the development of a comprehensive consultation and engagement agenda, including working with CNS to strengthen community and civic voice, will be critical in ensuring that Council's ambitions in relation to inclusive growth are fully realised.

In addition the commencement of the Commissioner for Resilience in June, will provide increased focused and momentum to the inclusive growth agenda.

3.10 Proposed timescales

It is proposed that the process begins with a Members workshop in May, leading to a programme of work that will take place over the next 12 months to embed inclusive growth throughout Council.

3.11 Linked priorities

There are a number of linked work streams already underway. These include the ongoing development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and the development of anti-poverty interventions. In relation to the BRCD, the vision agreed by Council partners has inclusive growth at its core. By adopting the various work streams above and working in collaboration with our BRCD partners, it is anticipated that we can integrate inclusive growth principles, particularly around the strand of employability and skills.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

To support Members in the delivery of an inclusive growth framework we anticipate initial development costs of approximately £30,000. Provision for these development costs has been made in the 2018/19 budget.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Equality and good relations implications will be taken into account; equality screening will be undertaken in line with agreed Council policy. However, it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Capital Programme Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Council’s Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report outlines highlights of current status of projects under the Programme along with projects recommended to be moved Stages.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

General

- note the update in relation to the Capital Programme as outlined in 3.1 and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital project (section 3.1)

Proposed movements on/additions to the Capital Programme

- agree that the IT Programme - Corporate Asset Management System is moved to Stage 3- Committed - Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending the tender return price at which stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver (section 3.3-3.7)
- agree that the following projects are moved to Stage 2 - Uncommitted on the Capital Programme
 - Waste Plan – New citywide kerbside collection system – OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.9 - 3.10)
 - Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade - OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (section 3.11)
 - Belfast Zoo – Works at the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary - OBC to be worked up and brought back to Committee for further consideration (3.12-3.14)

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.

Projects recently completed/in final stages of completion

- the £3.8m upgrade of the Tropical Ravine which has been handed over to the C&NS Department – the project was officially opened on Wednesday 11th April by the Lord Mayor, Cllr McAllister and Sir Peter Luff, the Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The opening was extensively covered by local media and reaction to the new building has been overwhelmingly positive
- New 3G pitches and pavilions at Falls Park and Cherryvale as part of the Pitches Strategy
- Works on Phase 2 of Olympia which includes includes the construction of a new pitch and play park, re-provision of Midgley Park, a new tree lined boulevard leading from the Boucher Road and the development of two commercial sites at the front of the site. Works are due to complete in the coming weeks with an official opening planned for the end of May. In addition Members are asked to note that the two sites which front onto the Boucher Road have now been put out to the market with a particular emphasis on uses which would be complementary to the sports village such as a hotel or leisure. Members are asked to note that a report will be brought to Committee following receipt of offers and that any deal would be subject to Planning and the purchaser(s) would be expected to develop within an agreed timeframe.
- Playground Refurbishment Programme 2017-2018 - three major refurbishments at Hanwood, Botanic Gardens and Blythefield and minor/partial refurbishments at six other sites across the city

Projects currently on the ground

- Works on the new leisure facilities at Andersonstown, Robinson and Brook
- New mini 3G pitch at Clarendon
- Upgrade works at the West Wing outdoor space, City Hall (including the Cenotaph)

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- Environmental upgrades at Falls Park and Skegoneil
- Phase 4 of the citywide alleygating programme

Projects at tender preparation stage

- Preparatory work is continuing on a wide range of projects including Avoniel and Templemore leisure redevelopments, the City Cemetery HLF project, the baby plot memorial at the City Cemetery and a range of IT projects including a new HR/payroll system

Proposed movements on 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

Project	Overview	Stage
Corporate Asset Management System	Part of the IT programme – development and implementation of a fit for purpose corporate asset management system	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held as at Tier 0 - Scheme at Risk pending tender return
Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system	The implementation of a new city wide kerbside collection scheme for dry recyclables and food waste. Required to help the Council meet its challenging recycling targets Identified in the 10 Year Waste Plan agreed by the People and Communities Committee in June 2017	Move from Stage 1 Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted
Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station upgrade	Construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station at the North Foreshore, to accept segregated dry recyclables and food waste from a kerbside sort collection scheme, as well as other associated recyclables. Required to help the Council meet its challenging recycling targets Identified in the 10 Year Waste Plan agreed by the People and Communities Committee in June 2017	Move from Stage 1 Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted
Belfast Zoo – Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary	Members have previously agreed their ambitions and objectives for the Zoo and will be aware that a feasibility study on the longer term management options for the Zoo is currently underway. This proposal	Move from Stage 1 Emerging to Stage 2- Uncommitted

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	<p>focuses on proposed immediate works required to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary.</p> <p>Members are asked to note that work is also underway on looking at the wider capital investment requirements at the Zoo and the development of a wider capital financing strategy for these</p>	
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Move to Stage 3 – Committed

IT Programme - Corporate Asset Management System

3.3

Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	January 2016
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Gerry Millar
Client Department	Property & Projects

Members will be aware that prior to local government reorganisation in 2015 the Council already owned and managed a substantial estate. This was significantly enhanced under LGR with the addition of over 70 assets which transferred from Lisburn and Castlereagh and has further increased since this time with the completion of new assets. Due to the growing estate there is a requirement for the Council to have a fit for purpose corporate asset management system to support the strategic objectives of better financial management, information management, planning and performance and asset management.

3.4 Over the last number of months a series of Envisioning/Discovery' Workshops have been held to assist in the identification of outcomes, business aims and scope of system in order to produce a final systems specification for procurement purposes for the new system. In addition a cross departmental Steering Group, consisting of representatives from Estates, Facilities, PMU, Digital Services, Finance, C&NS and Legal, has been set-up and is meeting regularly to identify all asset related data, interdependencies, relevant processes and business service linkages in relation to the use and management of land and property information across the Council.

3.5 As part of recent pre procurement market research, officers attended a number of system demonstrations and undertook a comparative costing exercise. These are however impacted by the fact that there are a number of different options available which are impacted by how the system is hosted (i.e.

on premise versus hosted by another organisation). Given this, it is not possible to this point to accurately allocate a budget and that the only way to obtain definitive costings will be to go out to the market for tender via an open procurement process. In parallel to the procurement process, officers will continue the process mapping exercise, collation of asset related data-sets and cleansing of data..

- 3.6** It is therefore recommended that the Corporate Asset Management System is moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme but that this is recommended to be moved to Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending the tender return price. An update will be brought back to Committee at this stage along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
- 3.7** In addition Members are asked to agree that the necessary procurement processes be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver for the above projects as required – this will be subject to SP&R approval in relation to the final budget allocation.

Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted

- 3.8** Members are asked to note that moving a project to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme does not constitute a decision to invest in any project. OBC’s for these projects will now be worked up which will include firming up the options and the costs and further information will be brought back to Committee in due course.
- 3.9** **Waste Plan – New kerbside collection system**

Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	January 2016
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Gerry Millar
Client Department	Property & Projects

Members will be aware of that the Council has significant waste targets to meet and as part of this in June 2017 the People and Communities Committee agreed the Council’s 10 Year Waste Framework. This Framework set out the challenging targets which the Council is required to meet in terms of recycling levels including the statutory obligations under the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) aimed at reducing the tonnage of waste disposed of at landfill and achieving a 50% recycling rate by 2020 as well as aiming towards a 65% recycling target by 2030. In addition other legislation such as the Food Waste Regulations (2015)

has shifted the dynamics on how waste will be collected and treated. Given this there will be a requirement for capital investment in order to ensure that the Council can meet these targets and one of the options proposed under the Waste Framework is the implementation of a new citywide multi-sort, kerbside collection of dry recyclables and food waste.

- 3.10 Members are asked to note that DAERA is seeking to drive improved recycling performance in order to attain the 50% recycling rate for NI by 2020 as required under the EU Waste Framework Directive. It is supportive of the above proposed new kerbside system and is in the process of determining the level of financial support available to Councils which embrace segregated waste collection arrangements. It should be noted that the window of opportunity in terms of the funding arrangements with DAERA is likely to be extremely tight and it is therefore recommended that this project is now moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme so that further detail can be worked through the development of the OBC.

3.11 Waste Plan – Waste Transfer Station Upgrade

Agreed as an Stage 1- Emerging Project	November 2017
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services

The Council currently relies heavily upon the private waste management sector to store, treat and dispose of its waste and the Waste Plan therefore identified as a priority the need for increased self-sufficiency for the Council. Related to the above proposed project Members are asked to note that the challenging recycling targets and the proposed implementation of a new city-wide kerbside collection system will have an impact on the Council's current waste infrastructure. The Waste Plan therefore identified a potential expansion and improvement to the waste facilities at the North Foreshore involving the construction of an additional Waste Transfer Station (WTS) for segregated materials arising from the proposed change to kerbside collection schemes and any associated recyclables which may arise from further segregation of the residual waste stream. Members are asked to note that the development of a new Waste Transfer Station will also provide additional capacity and contingency arrangements in the event of an unplanned closure of one of the bays in the existing WTS. It is therefore recommended that this project is now moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the

Capital Programme so that further detail can be worked through the development of the OBC.

3.12 **Belfast Zoo –Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary**

Agreed as an Stage 1- Emerging Project	January 2018
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services

As part of the discussion of the long-term future of Belfast Zoo, Members have identified priorities for change that include:

- Enhancing the customer offer to generate additional revenue streams
- Building a reputation for providing a high-quality visitor experience which brings people back time and again as well as attracting new customers and increasing dwell time
- Providing assurance that the health and wellbeing of the animals is maintained
- Providing strong education and conservation programmes
- Providing an ability to access external grants and potential for generating third party investment for improvements
- reducing the current Belfast City Council subsidy
- Contributing to the Belfast Agenda

3.13 The SP&R Committee agreed in January that the ‘Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works’ project be added to the Capital Programme as a Stage 1- Emerging Project and that this would focus on two key work streams including

1. *Short-term* – eradicate immediate health and safety issues that will in-turn generate additional revenue opportunities for the Zoo including proposed works at the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary
2. *Medium to long-term* – this will follow the resolution of operator model considerations and the NFS proposals. In consideration of these it will be imperative that, in the long-run, a new Master Plan is required to address outdated buildings and infrastructure, changing animal care and guest needs including accessibility, and to ensure the Zoo continues to evolve and be an example of a modern Zoo. Work is continuing on this

3.14 Members are asked to note that it is recommended that *Belfast Zoo - Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary* is moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow the health and safety issues which have been identified to be addressed. Members are asked to note that the Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works which will look at the longer term requirements of the Zoo will remain as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project on the Capital Programme with further information to be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.15 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – Corporate Asset Management System – Budget to be brought back to Committee for sign-off following the tender return process.

Costs for the other projects will be 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.

3.16 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update

The Committee considered the following report :

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

- note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1.

- note the update in respect of the options appraisal for the future management arrangements for Templemore as outlined at 3.2 to 3.4 and endorse the recommendation from the East AWG that “*Option 4 – the Council enter into a contractual relationship with the TUT for the original building only, that being the interpretative area and the existing pool, with the new build being outsourced for management by the Council’s strategic partner*” be adopted as the preferred future management option for the Templemore Baths.
- note, however, that given the tight timescales for this work given the HLF timescales and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall East leisure provision, the agreement of the East AWG that ‘*Option 6 – Outsource the management of the building in its entirety to a strategic partner / the Council’s existing strategic leisure partner*’ would be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 could not be satisfactorily reached.
- note the next steps as outlined in 3.5 below and that Committee will be kept up to date on progress in the next two months

3.0 Main report

Programme level

- 3.1 Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council’s £105m leisure programme which will ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below –**

CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre completed. Works underway on outside phases. Due for completion May 2018 – Opening event being arranged for 30 th May
Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Site works underway
Robinson	Aquatic Centre	£20	Site works underway
Brook	Outdoor Centre	£15m	Site works

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CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS
	of Excellence		underway
Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Stage 2 consultation undertaken.
Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Revised facilities mix and design agreed. Options appraisal on the future management arrangements currently underway
Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC

Templemore – Future management arrangements – Options appraisal

- 3.2** Members will recall that they were informed last month that an options appraisal in respect of the future management arrangements for Templemore was underway. This was on the basis that the Council had received legal advice that a direct award to the Templemore Users Trust to run the new facility would leave the Council open to legal challenge. At the same time however, there was a recognition of the significant work that the Trust has done over the years to keep the existing Baths open and the East AWG members have continually stressed their desire that the TUT continue to have an active role in management of the facilities. It has been highlighted this needs to be balanced against the fact that the new facility is an entirely different proposition to the existing centre and that the new centre is a core part of the city's overall leisure offering.
- 3.3** The East AWG, at its meeting on 10th April, were updated on the outcome to date of the options appraisal by the consultants. At this meeting, Members considered the options put forward and agreed to recommend to the SP&R Committee that the Council should progress '*Option 4 - BCC enters into a contractual relationship with the Trust for the existing building only (i.e. existing pool and interpretative space). New build managed by the BCC's strategic partner. (Precise contractual structure to be agreed with Council)*'. It was noted that this option is subject to a satisfactory partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding being reached that meets the Council's and HLF's requirements including, but not limited, to an agreement by TUT to apply Council policies in relation to pricing, a commitment to the Council's monitoring

arrangements and full co-operation with both the HLF and the Council in relation to the design, funding application and maintenance.

3.4 Members are asked to note that the Council has now received definitive timescales from the Heritage Lottery Fund and are now required to submit all project documents to them by 10th August for the pre-application review with the final application to be submitted by 5th October. As previously advised HLF have indicated that there will be no possibility for an extension to this deadline and there is therefore an extremely tight window in the coming months to progress this. It must be emphasised that if the HLF monies are not secured the current proposals for Templemore cannot be achieved within the Council's budget provision of £12m for the centre. This will not only impact Templemore but will have a wider impact on the overall leisure provision within East as the Templemore and Avoniel projects are inextricably linked.

3.5 To ensure the tight HLF timescale is met the East AWG members agreed the timetable agreed the timetable and next steps as set out below:

- By end of April 2018 - discussion period with TUT (starting asap) with the aim of agreeing the aforementioned principles/ Heads of Terms. Discussions with Strategic Partner.
- 18th May 2018 – Update to SP&R
- May-Mid June 2018 – Detailed negotiations with TUT and Strategic Partner to agree specific division of roles and responsibilities (to be encompassed within a partnership agreement or Memorandum of Understanding)
- 22nd June – Update to SP&R
- By 10 August 2018 – Submission of all project documents to HLF as part of a pre-application review – to include partnership agreement or MoU, Business Plan & Management & Maintenance Plan

Members are asked to note that there is a significant piece of work to be undertaken in the coming months and it was therefore recommended that independent facilitation continue to be provided in support of this.

3.6 Committee is asked to note that all Members of the East AWG expressed their support for Option 4 and for a continued role for TUT in the future management of the building. However that they also noted the tight timescales as set out above and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall

East leisure provision. They therefore further agreed that '*Option 6 – Outsource the management of the building in its entirety to a strategic partner / the Council's existing strategic leisure partner*' would be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 cannot be satisfactorily reached.

- 3.7 Members are therefore asked to endorse the recommendation of the East AWG that Option 4 be adopted as the future management option for the Templemore Baths. Recognising however the tight timescales and the potential impact of the loss of HLF monies on the overall East leisure provision note the agreement by the East AWG that Option 6 (as above) will be the fall back option in the event that consensus on Option 4 cannot be satisfactorily reached. Members will however be kept up to date of progress in the coming months.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no direct equality implications .”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Asset Management

Acquisition of Land Adjoining Twinbrook Wildlife Park

The Committee approved the acquisition of two plots of land adjoining the Council - owned Twinbrook Wildlife Park, which would be acquired from Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department for Infrastructure at a cost of £7,000 and £6,800, respectively

Belfast Flare Pavilion, Manderson Street

The Committee approved the grant of a licence for an eighteen-month period to Landmark East to permit the locating of a temporary pavilion on Council land at the entrance to the C S Lewis Square, just off the Newtownards Road, subject to terms to be agreed by Estates and Legal Services. The annual licence fee would be £90 for the area of land required for the pavilion. All costs including repair, maintenance and insurance would be met by Landmark East.

**Land at Springfield road/Ballygomartin Road:
Acquisition of Land**

The Committee approved the acquisition of an area of land at Springfield Heights from the Crown Solicitors office. The area would transfer to the Council for £1,000 plus costs of £400 plus VAT.

Acquisition of Land at Grampian Avenue

The Committee deferred consideration of the two plots of land within the Grampian Avenue children's park to enable further information to be obtained.

**Proposed Licence for Temporary use for
Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion**

The Committee approved the grant of a licence to Ballysillan Swifts FC to use part of the Ballysillan Bowling Pavilion, the minimum utility cost of which would be covered through existing site revenue budgets.

The Committee agreed also to allow free use of this site by the organisation and to the Council providing key-holder access until the licence had been signed off.

Land at Former Beechmount Leisure Centre Site

The Committee agreed to rescind its previous option with Forbairt Feirste in respect of land adjacent the former Beechmount Leisure Centre site, and agreed that the Property and Projects Estates undertake an initial feasibility study in relation to the potential development and use of the land.

Area Working Update

Minutes of the Area Working Groups

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Area Working Groups as follows:

- North Area Working Group of 20th March;
- West Area working Group of 22nd March;
- South Area working Group of 26th March; and
- East Area working Group of 10th April.

North Area Working Group

The Committee to the recommendation from the North Area working Group in respect of the North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast project and that that project was now being progressed to due diligence.

West Area working Group

The Committee noted that the West Area Working Group had approved a minor change to WLIF2-14 MNA Regional Centre of Excellence in respect of the project promoter.

Local Investment Fund - Proposed Awards Ceremony and Dinner

The Committee considered a report on a proposal to hold an Awards Ceremony and Dinner in the Autumn time to mark the extent of the projects delivered under the Council's highly successful £9m Local Investment Fund Programme.

The Committee:

- agreed to host an award ceremony/dinner in the City Hall to mark the impact of Local Investment Fund in the Autumn time to which community groups who had a benefit from funding, all Elected Members (including Members who had left Council since the launch of LIF) and Council officers who have supported LIF would be invited; and
- noted that further details on the ceremony and arrangements, would be brought back to the Members in due course for consideration.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Contracts for Award

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 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;
- agreed to accede to Standing Order 55(a) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the Council acting on recommendations of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts set out in Appendix 1, Table 2; and
- noted the contracts which had been awarded in the last quarter:

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Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 – New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Centralised Postage	R Cregan	3 years
Asset Management	R Cregan	5 years
Supply of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	G Millar	3 year
Tender for the Franchise of the coffee shop in City Hall	G Millar	3 year
Tender for the provision and servicing of toilet hygiene equipment and floor mats for various Council properties	G Millar	3 year
PCSP Crime Prevention Equipment	N Grimshaw	3 year
New Parks Inspections	N Grimshaw	5 year
Supply & Deliver of Fertilisers Grass Seed	N Grimshaw	5 year
Provision of Pitch Drainage Services	N Grimshaw	5 year
Collection and Treatment of Paints and Varnishes	N Grimshaw	4 year
Sharps Removal	N Grimshaw	3 year
Litter Bins	N Grimshaw	3+ year
Enterprise Awareness Programme	J Greer	3 year
Driving Employment Academies	J Greer	1 year
Hospitality and Hotel Employment Academy	J Greer	1 year
Lead Development Agency	J Greer	3 year

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Cyber Security Programme	J Greer	2 year
Creative and Music Development Programme	J Greer	3 year
E&S, IF and ED Economic Growth Service Evaluation	J Greer	4 year
Student Enterprise Initiative	J Greer	3 year
Business case for Investment (Infrastructure Proposal)	N Gallagher	1 year
Financial / Commercial Investment Advice	N Gallagher	1 year
City Centre Living	N Gallagher	1 year
Public Sector Land and Strategic Site Assessment (incl car parks)	N Gallagher	1 year
Car Park Action Plan (incl. sites assessment)	N Gallagher	1 year
Belfast Telegraph - commercial advice	N Gallagher	1 year
Residential Market analysis	N Gallagher	1 year
Meanwhile Animation Castle Street	N Gallagher	3 year
Meanwhile Animation North Street	N Gallagher	3 year
Tender for the provision of event management and support services for MIPIM 2019	N Gallagher	1 year

Table 2 – Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System/Product	Supplier	Annual estimate
Clockwise – (Being replaced)	Softworks	£50,000
PS Enterprise – (Being replaced)	Bain Capital Private Equity	£67,000

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E-Bravo	Bravo Solutions	£30,000
Travel & Substance (T1) system	Selima	£45,000
Health & Environmental Services (Flare)	Civica APP	£153,507
Invoice management (SAP)	Vendor Invoice Management (VIM)	£67,334
Provision of Kerbside collections and treatment services for recyclable materials	Bryson Recycling	£1,400,000
Energy Management	M&C Energy group Ltd (Schneider Electric)	£51,470

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 9th April and agreed to the following recommendations:

Peace IV Recommendations

- to authorise the eleven small scale sites for the Shared Space and Services project;
- to agree the selection criteria and that the Area Working Groups be permitted to consider and make the recommendations regarding the selection of the sites to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- to agree to adopt the PEACE IV Partnership Agreement and the Partner Delivery Agreement with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and
- to grant officers authority to reframe the tender for the Young Advocates Project and that it be re-advertised.

Other Recommendations

- to note the allocation of £166,692 to support 31 organisations to deliver Good Relations projects from April til September, 2018 through the Good Relations small grants funding and the allocation of £83,369 to support 21 groups to deliver diversionary projects from June til August 2018 through Summer Intervention funding;

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- to approve the allocation of £2,000 from the District Council Good Relations Programme to support four local initiatives as parts of Neighbours' Day 2018; and
- to approve the recommendations in respect of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

Language Strategy Launch and Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd September, 2017, it had granted approval to implement the recommendations on the draft Linguistic Diversity Policy. The recommendations which had been presented to the Committee had followed a period of public consultation which had ran from 23rd May to 18th July, 2017, and a number of key priorities had been included in an action plan to run from October 2017 until March 2018.

An update on some of the key priorities are set out below:

- rebrand of draft Linguistic Diversity Policy to a Language Strategy was complete and now incorporated consultee comments and revisions from the consultation period. An event was scheduled to take place on Monday, 14th May, 2018 when the Language Strategy would be launched by the Lord Mayor. The keynote speaker's message would focus on the challenges and opportunities which linguistic diversity brings in achieving the Belfast Agenda outcomes; and
- the recruitment of an Irish Language Officer and Language Officer was underway, with part funding now secured for the Irish Language Officer. Advertisement of both posts was scheduled for mid-May.

The Committee noted the update which had been provided and approved the arrangements for the launch event.

Operational Issues

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

The Committee approved the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to April, 2018 as set out in Appendix 1 below:

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APRIL 2018 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2018 EVENTS						
Birth Mothers and their children for Justice NI	27th April 2018	From The Heart – Exhibition, audio video installation, candle lit vigil, presentation and testimonials from survivors of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home. Numbers attending – 200+	C & D	No (charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i> No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Theatre NI with EquityUK	4 May 2018	Celebrating the Theatre and NI Creative Industries – reception with speeches and performances to celebrate the contribution of performing arts to Belfast and NI economy. Numbers attending – 150+	C	No (charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved via Delegated authority from Director.</i> No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS)	18 June 2018	Launch of Refugee Week 2018 – Annual event to celebrate the achievements of the refugee community and link with partner organizations. Reception with speeches. Numbers attending – 80	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Ulster History	20 June 2018	Official Launch of Ulster History project – resources to gain better understanding of the role the people of Ulster in shaping the United Kingdom.	D	No (Voluntary)	Yes - Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception

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		Numbers attending – 75				
Belfast Bible College	October / November 2018 <i>Final date tbc</i>	75th Anniversary Reunion and Signature Event – celebration of life of the college with invites to former students. Drinks Reception, small exhibition of college life, speeches, prayers and dinner. Numbers attending – 100	C	No (Charity)	No	Approve No Charge Drink Reception
Bright Lights Dance Group	3 November 2018	Made in Belfast – Celebration of Dance – event to celebrate 30 years of this Dance company with various dance performances and a dinner reception Numbers attending – 100	C	TBC – query charity status	No	Approve Charge TBC No Hospitality
Department for the Economy	6 November 2018	Apprentice of the Year Awards 2018 – 18th year of these awards to marking the achievements of apprenticeship training in NI - Speeches, Lunch Presentations & Entertainment Numbers attending – 250	C	Charge £300	No as Government body	Approve Charge £300 No Hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	21 November 2018	Belfast Trust Chairman's Awards 2018 – award ceremony, reception and dinner to recognize the achievements of trust staff. Numbers attending - 300	C 1 in 3	Yes - £825	No as Government body	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality

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Horn of Africa People's Aid	8th March 2019	International Women's Day – Celebration event with speakers, entertainment and drinks reception. Numbers attending – 50+	C & D 1 in 3	No (Charity)	No - got at previous event	Approve 1 in 3 rule applied No charge No Hospitality
The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT)	23rd March 2019	ASiT Gala Awards and Dinner with drinks reception as part of 3-day conference at Belfast Waterfront. Numbers attending - 250	A & C	No (Charity)	Yes – Wine reception linked to Visit Belfast	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Aquinas FC Dinner	19 October 2019	50th Anniversary Gala Ball with Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending - 400	C & D	Yes - £300.00 not £825 as voluntary/ community group	Yes – Wine reception	Approve Yes, £300 Wine Reception

Minutes of Meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 12th April.

Business in the Community 2018 – Responsible Business Awards

The Committee was advised that the Council had been shortlisted as a finalist in the “Diversity and Inclusion” category of the 2018 Business in the Community Responsible Business Awards and had been invited to attend this year’s awards event. The awards event was scheduled to take place on the evening of 24th May 2018 in the Belfast Waterfront Hall.

The Committee:

- agreed to the Council’s attendance at the 2018 Business in the Community Responsible Business award event; and
- approved the attendance of the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (or nominee) the Chair of the Equality and Diversity Network (City Solicitor), or his nominee, and the Human Resources Manager.

**Elected Member Development Charter –
Level Two Accreditation**

The Committee considered the the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To seek approval from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to proceed with an application and assessment process for re-accreditation of the Elected Member Development Charter Award.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve Corporate HR officers to begin work on an application to enable an assessment process to be conducted for Belfast City Council’s re-accreditation of the Elected Member Development Charter Award.**
- **Note members’ participation will be required as part of the Charter assessment process.**
- **Note the council’s preference to have North West Employers, given its approach, conduct the re-accreditation assessment.**

3.0 Main report

Background

3.1 Belfast City Council was the first Council in Northern Ireland to be successful in gaining the Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development in 2011. The award was in recognition of excellence in elected member development. In 2015 the council gained re-accreditation of Charter status (level one).

3.2 Intrinsic to gaining this accreditation was the Council demonstrating that members are developed in such a way that they are able to work strategically with partners and stakeholders, engage and lead local communities and deliver tangible, sustainable and beneficial outcomes for the citizens of the city.

Current Position

- 3.3 The Charter is awarded for a three-year period which means that the Council, should it wish to retain Charter status, is required to apply for re-accreditation this year.
- 3.4 It is proposed the Council proceeds with a Charter Level Two assessment, to be conducted by September 2018. This level requires evidence that the Council has continued with, and improved, its strategies for member development and that this work has clear links to the aims of the Belfast Agenda and outcomes which directly impact and deliver benefits for local communities.
- 3.5 NILGA works with both South East Employers and North West Employers as awarding bodies for the Charter. Having considered both organisations approaches in respect of level two accreditation the North West Employer's approach best fits our needs in respect of the measurement of the link between member development and community benefits. North West Employers will therefore be asked to conduct and oversee the assessment process should the Council decide it wishes to proceed.

3.6 **Key issues - Charter Level Two Assessment Process**

Charter Level Two considers if and how the Council can demonstrate how the community has benefitted from investment in elected member development. The main evidence requirements that the assessors will look for when considering awarding Charter Level Two are set out at Appendix One.

- 3.7 Given that Level Two has a clear focus on outcomes and in particular community impact it is proposed that selected geographically dispersed LIF and BIF projects are the focus for the application. This will allow the Council to demonstrate that the impact of delivering specific projects, and corresponding member development interventions, has helped to resolve issues being experienced by communities.

Next Steps

- 3.8 It is proposed that the Council submits an application for Charter Level Two. Initial feedback will be provided by North West Employers advising if sufficient evidence has been provided to proceed with a formal level 2 assessment.
- 3.9 If agreed that the Council is in a position to be assessed for Charter Level Two an assessment visit will be arranged. The assessment team will comprise a councillor from North West

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Friday, 20th April, 2018**

Employers' Regional Development Committee, a local (NI) councillor (as a peer mentor/ assessor) and an officer from North West Employers supported by NILGA.

3.10 The assessment process will be designed around the specific project(s). The assessment team will interview elected members, community representatives, officers, representatives from partner organisations and key stakeholders. Given the nature of the Charter Level Two award members' participation and involvement in the assessment process will be critical to the possibility of achieving a successful outcome.

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

The cost of the Level 2 assessment will be in the region of £4,180, plus travel costs incurred by the external assessors for the assessment visit. It is anticipated a 25% contribution to the assessment cost, if re-accreditation is achieved, will be made by NILGA/Local Government Training Group. The costs will be met from the 2018-2019 Corporate OD budget.

3.12 Corporate HR will work with key departmental officers, specifically Property and Projects staff, to collate the evidence required for the assessment process.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
North Foreshore Steering Group**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group of 16th April.

Arising out of the discussion, the Director of Property and Projects drew the Members attention to the ongoing work on exploring a further option regarding the Film Studio; and that Councillors would be invited to hear the Developer submissions on the commercial leisure lead/mixed use development.

Noted.

Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 27th April, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Garrett (Chairperson);
Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, Rodgers and Spence;
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Carson, Campbell, Corr,
Craig, Graham, Hargey, Hutchinson, Long, McDonough-
Brown, O'Neill, Reynolds and Walsh.

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

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Designation of Belfast district (or the city centre) as a 'holiday resort' providing large shops with an option to extend Sunday trading hours between the months of March and October

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter until its next monthly meeting to be held on 18th May to enable a high level integrated discussion with all interested stakeholder groups.

Restricted Item

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of this item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

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Bonfire Governance Arrangement

Decision Making Protocol

The Chief Executive tabled for the Committee's consideration a paper which outlined possible future Bonfire Governance arrangements.

After lengthy discussion it was

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

That the decisions in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme be delegated to the Bonfire Panel on the basis that the decisions have political consensus. Where there was no consensus reached then a special meeting of the Council be held to consider the matter.

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

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the Committee agrees to the decision-making Protocol as set out in the report and that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be designated as having fully delegated authority for decisions pertaining to bonfire related issues and that the Bonfire Panel also be established as a consultative forum.

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

The Committee noted that, whilst the decision in relation to the decision making process had been agreed, a further report would be submitted on the final wording to be included in the paper on Bonfire Governance Arrangements.

Amendment to Standing Order 37(a)

The Committee was advised that to give effect to this decision it would require Standing Orders to be amended.

Accordingly, it was agreed that Standing Order 37(a) Duties of Committees – Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be amended to provide that "In addition, the Committee shall have delegated authority for decisions in relation to the Bonfire Management Programme where the Chief Executive, or in her absence the Deputy Chief

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Executive, determine that a decision which would otherwise be taken under an officer's delegated authority requires political direction."

Sites not in Council Ownership

The Committee agreed that the authority which had been delegated to the appropriate Council officers to undertake at Council-owned sites a number of specified "interventions" in line with the July/August 2017 arrangements, which had been agreed by the Committee at its special meeting on 27th March, and the delegated authority for officers to undertake community engagements, which had been agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 20th April, be extended to include sites which were not in Council ownership. Clarity should however be given on the fact that the Council would not be taking on any 'responsibility' for the site and all efforts need to be made by the landowner in the first instance.

Area-based Festivals

The Committee was advised that correspondence had been received indicating that discussions had been taking place between various community organisations and some Members regarding the possibility of developing a number of larger scale area-based festivals this year by way of proof of concept. The Chief Executive reported that, at this stage, the proposal was not sufficiently worked up to be presented to the Committee for agreement. It was therefore proposed that the groups be requested to submit a detailed proposal which provided a balanced cross-city programme in time for consideration at the meeting of the Committee to be held on 18th May.

The Committee agreed that a broader report be submitted regarding a wider process for this type of approach.

2018CityXChange

The Director for Finance and Resources reported that an invitation had been received for the Chief Executive and the Commissioner of Resilience to attend the 2018 CityXChange event which was to be held in Bellagio, Italy from 20th till 24th May. The event, which would bring together technology innovators and investors behind some of the most promising solutions to major challenges facing 21st Century cities, was being hosted by the The Rockefeller Foundation in partnership with the 100 Resilient Cities. Ten cities would be represented and 100RC specifically allocated a place to Belfast. All costs for the event would be met by the organisers.

The Committee approved the attendance of the Chief Executive and the Commissioner of Resilience (or other expert) at the event.

Standing Order 14 – Committee minutes to be submitted

In accordance with Standing Order 14, the Committee agreed, as the meeting had been held later than seven clear days before the meeting of the Council, that the minutes of the meeting be submitted to the Council on 1st May for ratification.

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The Committee agreed further that, due to the urgency of the matter, all decisions taken at the meeting not be subject to call-in.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Thursday, 12th April, 2018

MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland);
Alderman Rodgers and McCoubrey; and
Councillors Armitage, Baker, Carson, Corr, Corr Johnston,
Heading, Lyons, Magennis, Murphy, McReynolds, Nic Biorna,
Newton, Nicholl and Pankhurst.

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

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf on Councillor McCusker.

Minutes

The minutes of the special meeting of of 6th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 9th April.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson (Alderman Sandford), the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland), Alderman Rodgers, Councillors Newton and Pankhurst declared an interest in respect of agenda item 6 (g), Request for use of Barnett's Demesne, in that they were Members of the Orange Order.

Councillor Armitage declared an interest in respect of agenda item 5(e), Belfast Flare Pavilion Manderson Street, in that he was on the Board of the Eastside Partnership.

Items Withdrawn from Agenda

Motion - Childcare Strategy and Temporary Structure at Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park

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

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

Motion – Development of a Greenway Strategy in Belfast

It was agreed that the aforementioned report would be deferred until the May meeting to enable Councillor Dorrian, the proposer of the motion, to be in attendance.

Restricted Items

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of this item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Proposed Country Musical event in lower field, Botanic Gardens

The Committee considered a report, which had been prepared by the Assistant Director, from an events Company seeking permission to use the lower field in Botanic Gardens to hold a Country Musical Event.

The Committee granted permission for the use of the lower field in Botanic Gardens to hold a three-day Country Musical event in September 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, subject to the organisers meeting all legal and statutory requirements and the production of an appropriate event plan and legal agreement.

Committee/Strategic Issues

People and Communities Plan Committee Plan 2018/19

The Committee approved the draft People and Communities Committee 'Plan on a Page' for 2018-19 and noted that a detailed Committee Plan for 2018-19 would be submitted for consideration at the May meeting.

Housing Provision in Belfast

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the following Notice of Motion:

'This Council notes that, with the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan coming into reality, there will be a need for 66,000 new housing units by 2035. This will need an imaginative response by all, including the Council.'

The Council calls upon all statutory bodies to review their land ownership and to determine if any such land is surplus and suitable for housing. Subject to legal requirements, the Council asks that consideration be given to making that land available to meet any identified housing needs and projected needs in terms of growth.

The Council is committed to a shared future and, therefore, is committed to shared housing. This shared housing should consist of community background, private and social housing.'

1.2 Proposed by Councillor Armitage and seconded by Councillor Nicholl, at Council on 3rd January, and was referred to the People & Communities Committee for consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the update provided.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members are reminded that the Notice of Motion that was brought to the January Council meeting around housing provision was discussed by this Committee at its meeting on 6th January. It was agreed at that meeting that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services would liaise with officers from other services within the Council to ensure that there is no duplication of work. A summary of the work ongoing is outlined below. Members should note that one of the ambitions in the Belfast Agenda is that our city is home to an additional 66,000 people by 2035, which will require approximately 32,860 housing units.

3.2 The Council is currently undertaking an Urban Capacity Study (UCS), which is an assessment of the potential for land across the city to accommodate housing and employment uses (or both in some cases). It will form a key part of the evidence base for the Local Development Plan and will be published as a technical supplement to the LDP when it goes out for consultation in the coming months. It is key to note that at this stage the UCS only considers land that is obviously surplus to requirements.

3.3 One of the key actions in the Department for Communities' (DfC) delivery plan for the draft Programme for Government is

the creation of a central register of surplus public sector land that may be suitable for housing. Officers have met with DfC and they have advised that this work is ongoing and that they are currently identifying surplus land within the estates of 4 departments. They did not provide the detail of which departments they are working with.

- 3.4 The Council's Planning Service also complete an annual monitoring report which is a high level report of the land zoned for housing and land that has planning approvals for housing. This report provides a monitor of how much land has housing built on it but it will not identify surplus land if it has not already been zoned for housing.
- 3.5 The City Centre Development team are currently undertaking a number of pieces of work that relate to housing provision in the city centre. 'City Centre Living' is a workstream that builds on a previous Council motion around housing, and an update was taken to City Growth and Regeneration Committee in January following a study visit and workshop in the autumn. The City Centre Living workstream is considering a number of issues, including how to promote residential development above commercial and retail premises. It is also specifically looking at how to make use of publicly owned land in the city centre, and the City Centre Development team are already working with DfC, NIHE and others on this. Alongside the use of land itself, City Centre Living is also about public and private sector partners promoting mixed use, mixed tenure housing schemes that incorporate tenure-blind design and other positive design features. In terms of the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (CCRIS), the Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan. A report providing Members with an update on this work was brought to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting in January 2018. This update provided information on the study visit and workshop which had taken place in October 2017.
- 3.6 Additionally, the City Centre Development Team is currently undertaking consultation on the draft Inner North West Masterplan. This document will help to guide and direct development in the area between Queen Street and Donegall Street in the city centre, informing types of uses and character of developments coming forward, whilst also establishing design principles such as how this area connects to surrounding neighbourhoods and other parts of the city. This consultation ends on 8th May.
- 3.7 Members are assured that Officers from the various services will continue to liaise around overlapping pieces of work in

relation to housing provision, and updates will be brought to the relevant Committee as required.

3.8 Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

The Committee noted the update.

GAA Strategy for Belfast City Council

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Ulster Branch Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and County Antrim Board have developed a strategy for Belfast following extensive consultation across their members and other stakeholders. A five-year action plan for development of the sport in Belfast has been developed and costed at approximately £319,000 per annum, this model is based on funding from four key stakeholders and GAA have asked Belfast City Council to be a supporting partner in delivery of the action plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Committee is asked to give approval in principle to;

- 1. permit officers to work with GAA to deliver and fund the Belfast Action Plan through the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative partnership agreement**
- 2. develop appropriate arrangements for management of GAA bookings to streamline processes and improve sporting outcomes**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 GAA has a good record of working in partnership with Council, having invested significantly in development of a range of sites

with the installation of 3G pitches to improve accessibility to training and competition opportunities within the City.

- 3.2 County Antrim GAA worked with their governing body at Ulster Council and National level to develop a comprehensive action plan based on five hubs which will focus development in partnership with identified clubs, schools and community organisations. The hubs identified are at Beechmount, Cliftonville, Cherryvale, Woodlands and Sally Gardens.
- 3.3 Existing structures cannot support delivery of the strategy, accordingly revised structures will be put in place within GAA in Belfast and the action plan will see the employment of up to 12 additional staff at a range of designations including managerial, administrative, development and promotional levels. A pilot programme at Woodlands in summer 2017 engaged 169 coaches, 1,377 players and 20 new volunteers and was used to test the model in advance of governing body investment being confirmed.
- 3.4 To maximise the impact of the action plan in each area of the city will require careful manipulation of the programming mix across the wide range of target groups and users. Co. Antrim has proven its ability to do this successfully under the existing Partnership Agreement at Woodlands. Under this Agreement Co. Antrim is required to confirm six months' of bookings to Council's booking service in advance. This method also works well with Association Football leagues which are required to confirm their series of bookings in advance of the season to Council. The detail of the fixtures are not advised at that time, but developed by the booker according to their needs as the season progresses.
- 3.5 The Belfast Action Plan has been costed at £319,000 per annum to include £240,000 for staffing and £79,000 for facility hire, equipment and programme costs and will enhance the community and sporting benefit alongside the future development of Casement Park.
- 3.6 Council has an existing partnership arrangement with the Department of Communities and the Irish Football Association (IFA) titled Belfast Community Benefits Initiative for the delivery of sports programmes in the community. This partnership will maximise the impact of the redevelopment of the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park for the benefit of the wider community in Belfast. This agreement is currently funded jointly by Council and IFA and was drafted with GAA in anticipation of the redevelopment of Casement Park. The Belfast GAA strategy action plan will have elements

amalgamated into the existing action plan and GAA will become a fourth partner in this agreement.

Financial Implications

- 3.7 GAA has requested that Council provides £63,800 to support the action plan i.e. 20% of the overall annual cost. Within the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative Council has committed £100,000 per annum from 2016 to 2026, GAA will be able to access 50% of this funding for delivery of agreed programmes upon joining the partnership.
- 3.8 There are no financial implications from agreeing new booking arrangements at the designated Council sites.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.9 None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Minutes of Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Strategic Cemetery and Crematorium Working Group held on 14th March, the following key items had been considered:

- update in respect of the provision of water bowsers at Roselawn Cemetery;
- snow clearance for funerals and cremations; and
- consideration of a request to film a mock-up cremation for a BBC documentary, which the Working Group had recommended be refused.

Following a query in respect of the request to film, the Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from a local production company, Doubleband Films, seeking permission to film in the non-public areas of the City of Belfast Crematorium for a BBC documentary. The officer reported that the Members of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group had considered this request and had recommended that it be refused.

Whilst the Members accepted the Working Group's recommendation not to permit filming on this occasion, discussion ensued regarding the need to educate people on the use of cremation and also to highlight the huge expense of funeral costs on families and to investigate cost effective funeral options.

The Committee:

**People and Communities Committee,
Thursday, 12th April, 2018**

- approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group held on 14th March;
- ratified the Working Group's recommendation to refuse permission to film a mock cremation at the Crematorium; and
- agreed that a report would be brought back to a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee which would consider cost effective funeral options and educating the general public regarding the use of cremation.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Playground Improvement Programme 2018/19

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the successful 2017/18 Playground Improvement Programme and outline plans for playground refurbishments in 2018/19. Members are asked to note that the refurbishments are funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed to for this work, in this financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **note the refurbishment of playground sites below under the Playground Improvement Programme which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme for financial year 2018/19**

Table 1

Fullerton Park
Duncairn
Barnett's Demesne
Glenbank

3.0 Main report

Playground Refurbishment Programme

3.1 Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme has made a significant impact on overall quality and play value to the city's playgrounds; this has greatly

improved accessibility and play value, providing new inclusive equipment, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works.

- 3.2 With continued investment over the last six years, the Council has achieved desired improvements at each of the sites refurbished under the programme. Play facilities are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit. The 2017/18 Improvement Programme, which consisted of three major refurbishments (Hanwood, Botanic Gardens and Blythefield) and six very minor/partial refurbishments are nearing completion, moving their quality scores to the desired higher standard.
- 3.3 Members should note that Play Services Ireland Ltd. has undertaken this year's cycle of independent inspections once again. The 'quality' score allocated for each playground is based on compliance with European safety standards BS EN 1176 & 1177.
- 3.4 The independent playground inspection reports also identify and prioritise much-needed repairs to existing playground equipment. Facilities Management and our own Playground Inspectors continue to undertake these repairs. A sample copy of the Independent Playground Inspection report 2018, which categorises playgrounds, giving each one a 'quality score' is available on mod.gov:
- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Score 9 – 10 | Excellent |
| Score 8 – 9 | Very Good |
| Score 7 – 8 | Good |
| Score 6 – 7 | Fairly Good |
| Score 5 – 6 | Sufficient |
| Score 4 – 5 | Fair |
| Score 3 – 4 | Insufficient |
| Score 2 – 3 | Poor |
| Score 1 – 2 | Very Poor |
| Score 0 – 1 | Extremely Poor |
- 3.5 Following the independent inspection assessments of all 99 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed the sites listed in Table 1 above are refurbished under this year's Playground Improvement Programme, which has an allocated budget of £580,000 under the Capital Programme.
- 3.6 The playgrounds recommended for refurbishment are the ones with the lowest overall quality scores. Because of the proposed refurbishment works, these playgrounds will move from 'Fairly

good' to the higher classifications of 'Excellent' (quality score 9.0 – 10.0) when reinspected.

- 3.7 Members are asked to note that Twinbrook/Brook Activity playground will be rebuilt and moved to a new location close to the existing site as part of the Leisure Transformation programme. The old playground situated at Avoniel was removed/replaced by a new playground; close by within in the Flora Street Walk Way site as part of the Connswater Community Greenway project.
- 3.8 Members are asked to note that two other brand new playgrounds have recently been constructed at Blacks Road and in Poleglass (Colin Valley FC site)

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.9 Refurbishment work at existing Belfast City Council sites will be funded through the Capital Programme and a budget of £580,000 has been allocated to this. Staff from the Landscape, Planning and Development Unit will continue to deliver the Playground Improvement Programme. As in previous years, Community Park Managers and Outreach officers will continue to assist with the distribution of information relating to playground improvements to Members of the local communities.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.9 The process proposed in this report will be subject to the Council's existing equality screening process."

Following a query, the Assistant Director undertook to update the Member directly regarding the number of swings that the Council had in its Parks that were suitable for use by children with a disability.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out under section 2.1.

Partner Agreements and Facilities Management Agreements Update and Review

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at seven sites and she then provided an update on the progress in relation to the Agreements for October – December 2017.

She explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance had been completed monthly at six of the seven sites.

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In addition, following the recent audit review, the reporting documents had been amended in accordance with the requirements and these had been sent to the Partners one month in advance of the reporting deadlines. She reported that, at the time of writing the report, only two of the seven Partners had been compliant with the Partner Agreement, however, in the last week all but Sirocco Works Football Club were now compliant.

Following a query, the Assistant Director confirmed that officers from the Council were scheduled to meet with representatives from Sirocco Works Football Club to ascertain why it was not compliant and she undertook to update the Committee at its next meeting.

The officer advised that, in addition to the Partner Agreements, the Council also operated Facility Management Agreements with a range of sporting and community organisations to undertake management task and delivery of programmes at other Council sites. A number of these Agreements were supported by a financial payment related to these tasks.

The Committee noted that, as part of the review process, officers had consulted with Agreement holders to identify ways to streamline payments and simplify administration. The officer explained that currently Facility Management Arrangements were paid monthly, subject to officer approval of documentation and Partner Agreements were paid quarterly with 80% in advance and 20% in arrears, subject to officer approval of documentation.

The Committee were asked to note that a full review of facility arrangements was currently being undertaken. However, it was suggested that, in the interim, payment arrangements should be standardised across all agreements, with payments to be made quarterly in advance, subject to the receipt of all required documentation and approval of satisfactory reports for the previous quarter.

The Committee noted the quarterly progress to date in relation to Partner Agreements and agreed to support a change in the payments process to facilitate efficiencies and enhance the partners' ability to deliver quality programming on designated sites.

Alleygating - Notice of Traffic Regulation Order 2018

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Members will be aware that Council made £700,000 available from the Capital Programme to install alleygates across the city (Phase 4 Alleygates).**
- 1.2 Phase 4 has been divided into 3 sub-phases to accommodate the different stages of Elected Member decision making across the city as well as a range of technical and legal issues, primarily associated with the replacement of community gates. Phase 4(a) was completed in March 2008 and the Road Traffic**

Order for Phase 4(b) is included in this report for Members consideration.

- 1.3 Members will be aware that the legislative authority for introducing gating Orders transferred to local Councils through the commencement of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 on 4th May 2011.
- 1.4 The 2011 Act inserts new Part 6A (Articles 69A to 69E) into the 1993 Order. These new provisions allow action to be taken quickly, easily and with a degree of flexibility not previously available. District councils are now able to make, vary or revoke gating orders in respect of relevant roads (as defined in Article 69A(5) of the 1993 Order) affected by crime or ASB within their area, permitting a gate to be installed at each end of the road.
- 1.5 The orders are an effective way of enabling councils to restrict public access to any relevant road by gating it (at certain times of the day if applicable), without removing its underlying road status.

Councils however still require the approval of the Transport NI ('DRD') to:

- a) make a gating order; or
- b) vary a gating order so as to further restrict any public right of way over the road to which the order relates.

- 1.6 The required statutory and community consultation has been undertaken and the purpose of this report is to seek formal approval from Committee to make the Traffic Regulation Orders enabling these gates to be installed.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to recommend to Council that a resolution is passed to make the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Orders 2018 for Phase 4(b) for the locations as set out in Schedule 1.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 The pre-consultation exercise with affected residents and Statutory bodies / service suppliers has been completed and the Notice of Intention (formal consultation stage) was advertised on Friday 2nd March.
- 3.2 No formal objections to the Traffic Regulation Orders were received.

- 3.3 Legal Services have recommended that alleygating can proceed at all locations, as Council can be satisfied the requirements of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments Act (2011) have been met in establishing that this area is affected by crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.4 Manufacture of the gates included in this Traffic Regulation Order will take place in May / June 2018 with installation commencing in summer 2018.
- 3.5 Ongoing work is taking place to commence the consultation for the remaining and final proposed gate locations approved by Council in 2018 as part of Phase 4 Alleygates.
- 3.6 A further Traffic Regulation Order is planned for autumn 2018 to include those final gates remaining to complete Phase 4.
- 3.7 Members should be aware that the level of response to the pre-consultation exercise was generally at a low level and also that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 requires that sufficient evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour should be established before alleygating can proceed.
- 3.8 Legal Services have therefore recommended further engagement (post Phase 4) with Members on the process by which areas/locations are selected for alleygating.
- 3.9 **Financial and Resource Implications**
- There are no specific financial implications associated with the enactment of this Traffic Regulation Order.
- 3.10 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**
- No Equality or Good Relations implications have been identified; however, this is being monitored on an ongoing basis.”

Schedule I

Affected Roads

- To the rear of 2-48 Locan Street, 1-45 Amcomri Street and 36-46 Beechmount Avenue and to the side of 2 Locan Street and 1 Amcomri Street
- To the rear of 50-98 Locan Street and 47-97 Amcomri Street

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- To the rear of 2-46 Amcomri Street, 1-47 Clowney Street and 22-34 Beechmount Avenue and to the side of 2 Amcomri Street and 1 Clowney Street
- To the rear of 48-98 Amcomri Street and 49-93 Clowney Street
- To the rear of 2-50 Clowney Street, 1-49 Beechmount Parade and 10-20 Beechmount Avenue and to the side of 2 Clowney Street and 1 Beechmount Parade
- To the rear of 52-100 Clowney Street and 51-99 Beechmount Parade
- To the rear of 2A-58 Beechmount Parade and 1-53 Beechmount Drive
- To the rear of 60-108 Beechmount Parade
- To the rear of 1-5 Iveagh Crescent and 2-26 Iveagh Street
- To the rear of 7-39 Iveagh Crescent and 28-60 Iveagh Street
- To the rear of 41-67 Iveagh Crescent and 62-94 Iveagh Street
- To the rear of 2-40 Fallswater Drive, 1-37 Iveagh Drive and 240-250 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Fallswater Drive and 1 Iveagh Drive
- To the rear of 2-40 Iveagh Drive, 1-45 Iveagh Parade and 228-238 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Iveagh Drive and 1 Iveagh Parade
- To the rear of 218-226 Falls Road, 2-44 Iveagh Parade and 1-55 Fallswater Street and to the side of 2 Iveagh Parade and 2 Fallswater Street
- To the rear of 216 Falls Road, 2-42 Fallswater Street and 3-47 Nansen Street and to the side of 3 Nansen Street
- To the rear of 200-214 Falls Road, 2-60 Nansen Street and 5-63 Broadway and to the side of 2 Nansen Street and 3 and 5 Broadway
- To the rear of 4-22 Beechview Park, 447-465 Falls Road and 1-69 Rockdale Street and to the side of 4 Beechview Park and 1 Rockdale Street
- To the rear of 2A-54 Rockdale Street, 1-55 Rockville Street and 467-477 Falls Road and to the side of 2A Rockdale Street and 1, 35 and 37 Rockville Street
- To the rear of 2-64 Rockville Street, 1-67 Rockmore Road and 479-489 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Rockville Street and 1A, 1 and 67 Rockmore Road
- To the rear of 6-70 Rockmore Road, 3-57 Rockmount Street and 491-501 Falls Road and to the side of 3 and 57 Rockmount Street
- To the rear of 2-54 Rodney Parade and to the side of 2 and 54 Rodney Parade
- To the rear of 1-27 Rodney Parade, 1-59 Rodney Drive and 2-30 St James's Crescent and to the side of 1 Rodney Parade, 1 and 59 Rodney Drive
- To the rear of 11-79 St Katharine Road and to the side of 11, 39, 41 and 79 St Katharine Road
- To the rear of 1A-21 St James's Parade and 2-6 St James's Road and to the side of 1A, 1 and 21 St James's Parade
- To the rear of 1-23 Hugo Street and 438-442 Falls Road and to the side of 1 Hugo Street

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- To the rear of 2-24 Hugo Street, 1-29 Clondara Street and 426-436 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Hugo Street and 1 Clondara Street
- To the rear of 2-38 Clondara Street and 416-424 Falls Road and to the side of 2 Clondara Street
- To the rear of 1 - 11 Inver Avenue, 2 - 40 Victoria Gardens, 179 - 205 Cavehill Road, and 2a - 4 Charnwood Avenue, and to the side of 2 and 40 Victoria Gardens
- To the rear of 13 - 17 Inver Avenue, 1 - 39 Victoria Gardens, 6 - 8 Charnwood Avenue, and 50 - 70 Salisbury Avenue, and to the side of 8 Charnwood Avenue and 17 Inver Avenue
- To the rear of 3 - 5 Skegoneill Avenue, 24 - 52 Glantane Drive, 2 - 6 Glandore Gardens, 535 - 549 Antrim Road, and to the side of 2 Glandore Gardens, and 52 and 54 Glantane Drive
- To the rear of 1-17 Cliftonville Street and 119-123 Cliftonville Road and to the side of 1 Cliftonville Street
- To the rear of 278-294 Limestone Road and the side of 34 Oceanic Avenue
- To the side of 2, 18 and 19 Jamaica Road and the side of 25 Havana Gardens
- To the rear of 2-18 Jamaica Way and to the side of 2 Jamaica Way
- To the rear of 2-40 and to the side of 2 and 40 Clifton Crescent and to the rear of 1-45 and the side of 1 and 45 Manor Street and to the rear of 1-3 and to the side of 3 Harcourt Drive and to the rear of 66-76 Cliftonville Road.
- To the rear of 4-54 and side of 2 and 4 and Manor Street.
- To the rear of 2-16 Glasgow Street and 2-18 Ritchie Street and 6-10 and 5-9 Grove Court and to the side of 2, 12 and 14 Ritchie Street and 16 Glasgow Street.
- To the rear of 22 - 40 River Terrace and to the rear of 19 - 31 Cooke Court
- To the rear of 14 - 20 River Terrace and to the rear of 13 - 17 Cooke Court
- To the side of 9 Raby Street and 10 Jameson Street, and to the rear of 312 - 320 Ormeau Road, 9 - 71 Raby Street, and 10 - 74 Jameson Street, and to the side of 61 and 63 Raby Street
- To the rear of 9 - 15 Capstone Street, 1 - 67 Moonstone Street, 12 - 16 Mowhan Street, and to the side of 1, 45, 47, and 67 Moonstone Street
- To the rear of 1 - 19 Mowhan Street, 2a - 28 Charleville Avenue, and 597 - 605 Lisburn Road, and to the side of 1 and 19 Mowhan Street and 28 Charleville Avenue
- To the rear of 2A-58 Rosebank Street and 1A-55 Columbia Street
- To the rear of 2-36 and the side of 2 Carrington Street and to the rear of 1-31 Park Parade and 133-143 Ravenhill Road
- To the rear of 145-173 University Street, 1-47 Fitzroy Avenue and 137-147 Ormeau Road
- To the rear of 1-35 and to the side of 7 and 9 Harper Street and to the rear and side of 1 Edgar Street and to the rear of 92-120 Madrid Street

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- To the rear of 9-23 Lisbon Street and to the rear of 2 Madrid Street and to the side of 4 Madrid Street and to the rear of 1-13 Madrid Court and the side of 9 and 11 Madrid Court

The Committee recommended to Council that it pass a resolution to make the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Orders 2018 for Phase 4(b) for the locations as set out above.

Proposed relocation of Moyard Playground

The Committee agreed to defer the report to await an update from the Education Authority to establish its position in respect of the Moyard Playground being relocated to the Vere Foster Primary School site and also to enable the Council to undertake a scoping exercise in respect of land at the foot of the Belfast Hills to establish if it could be incorporated into the Upper Springfield Master Plan.

Belfast Flare Pavilion Manderson Street

(Councillor Armitage, who had declared an interest in this agenda item, withdrew from the table whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Landmark East seeking the Council to grant it a licence to construct a temporary pavilion at the Newtownards Road entrance to C. S. Lewis Square, East Belfast.

The Committee approved the granting of a licence for an 18 month period to Landmark East to permit the location of a temporary pavilion at the entrance to the C. S. Lewis Square, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and to the appropriate terms being agreed by Estates and Legal Services.

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

Operational Issues

Waste Collection Update

The Director provided the Committee with an update regarding the waste collection service which included a detailed update in respect of the following key areas:

- customer call handling and management interventions; and
- the waste collection improvement plan.

The Committee noted the Waste Collection update and that the next update would be submitted to the August meeting.

Anti-social behaviour in Parks Update

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Further to discussion at People and Communities Committee on 9 January 2018, Members requested that quarterly updates on anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces be provided. Members further agreed that the initial focus would be on Falls Park/City Cemetery and Orangefield Park/Avoniel Park.

1.2 The purpose of this report is therefore to update Members on the following:

- **Current Context**
- **Animation/Programming**
- **Operational Co-ordination**
- **Awareness Raising**
- **Maximising Strategic Opportunities**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Note the progress against these actions and to receive a further progress report in June 2018.**

Current Context

3.1 Reported Anti-Social Behaviour To Council

Ongoing analysis of reports from members of the public, along with anti-social behaviour witnessed by Council Officers has identified the following parks/open spaces as having issues with persistent anti-social behaviour.

3.2 Please note figures provided below are for the rolling year to date. Reports of anti-social behaviour in the last quarter have been minimal across the city, but Falls Park/City Cemetery continues to have consistently higher levels of reports during that period.

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Park/Open Space	Area	Reported Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West	59
Waterworks	North	40
Woodvale	North	38
Grove Playing Fields	North	27

3.3 Please also note that the list below only represents the parks/open spaces with the highest numbers of reports of anti-social behaviour. Reports of anti-social behaviour are received for other parks/open spaces across the city but at a much lower level.

3.4 Repairs at Parks/Open Spaces

As indicated above, anti-social behaviour is often under-reported. Officers therefore regularly review requisitions for repairs at parks/open spaces due to vandalism, criminal damage or arson. The list below provides details on those parks/open spaces with the most repairs needed (in descending order of cost of repairs for this financial year with highest costs at the top) along with an assessment of the frequency of issues (based on requisitions for repairs):

3.5

Park/Open Space	Area	Reason Repairs Needed	Frequency
Musgrave Park	South	Arson/Criminal Damage	Unpredictable
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West	Arson/Criminal Damage/Burglary	Persistent
Marrowbone	North	Criminal Damage	Persistent
White Rise	West	Criminal Damage	Persistent
Dunville	West	Arson	Unpredictable
Sally Gardens	West	Criminal Damage	Unpredictable
Ligoniel	North	Criminal Damage	Unpredictable
Lenadoon	West	Arson	Unpredictable
Whiterock	West	Criminal Damage	Unpredictable

3.6 Member Feedback

Elected Members engage regularly with Officers articulating concerns about anti-social behaviour in parks/open spaces. Officers have reviewed their Elected Members contact on this

issue and the following parks/open spaces present most frequently as of concern:

Park/Open Space	Area
Falls Park/City Cemetery	West
Dunville Park	West
Marrowbone	North
Orangefield	East
Victoria Park	East

3.7 Animation/Programming

Progress to Date

- Community led Youth Outreach Teams have been proactive around a number of parks and open spaces, but in particular around Falls Park/City Cemetery, Dunville and Orangefield/Avoniel
- A range of community events took place in parks and open spaces across the city over the St. Patrick's Day weekend (Dunville, Bog Meadows, Colin Glenn, Whiterock Leisure Centre and CS Lewis Square). Unfortunately, a scheduled event had to be cancelled in Marrowbone due to the health and safety implications of the severe wind
- Historical and Educational Tours of the City Cemetery were scheduled throughout the day on St. Patrick's Day to use the space positively and avoid anti-social behaviour

3.8 Next Steps

- The Parks Outreach Schools Programme will be commencing as the weather improves to encourage ownership of the parks and open spaces
- The Spring/Summer 2018 programming and animation schedules to be finalised both internally and with statutory and community partners for priority parks and open spaces
- Specific discussion with senior Education Authority Officers scheduled for mid-April 2018 to identify how they can better support this work

Operational Co-ordination

3.9 Progress to Date

- A number of workshops have been completed with statutory, community and voluntary youth providers in West, North and East Belfast on how to more positively engage the large groups of young people moving across parks and open spaces in the city. The South Belfast workshop is scheduled for Quarter 1 18/19.
- A citywide framework is emerging from these workshops with common themes identified as Outreach, Communication, Programming and Environmental Improvements
- Effective youth provider co-ordination in East Belfast has resulted in a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces in recent months
- Council Officers continue to work jointly with PSNI and local youth workers around parks and open spaces every weekend in trying to address any negative issues and support any vulnerable young people
- A pilot citywide tasking approach is being developed using existing publicly available data
- Council Mobile CCTV has been proactive every weekend around priority Council owned parks and open spaces in deterring anti-social behaviour. All evidence has been passed to PSNI.

3.10 Next Steps

- The citywide framework for working in partnership to more positively engaging the large groups of young people moving across parks and open spaces in the city to be finalised
- Internal testing of citywide tasking approach to take place before testing with partners and securing commitment to develop further
- Further development to take place of the emerging Youth Providers Forum around Lenadoon to include the Falls Park and wider West Belfast area.
- Initiation of Youth Providers Forums in North Belfast and South Belfast

3.11 Awareness Raising

Progress to Date

- Joint communication (PSNI, Council and HEI's) was issued to every post primary school in Belfast before the St. Patrick's Day period
- Joint (PSNI, Council and HEI's) media briefings were undertaken to highlight proactive work being undertaken across the city
- The scoping with partners for the Inter-Agency Community Safety Schools Programme has been completed and key community safety issues currently affecting young people have been developed

3.12 Next Steps

- Ongoing development of partnerships with post primary schools across Belfast to take place, seeking co-operation around communication with parents and pupils regarding wider community impacts and risks of anti-social behaviour
- Inter-Agency correspondence on this issue to be continually issued through schools/youth groups to parents and pupils over the spring/summer period
- Engagement to take place with organisations who advocate and lobby for young people in the development of messaging to maximise impact e.g. Children's Commissioner
- Preparation of Inter-Agency Community Safety Schools Programme for implementation in the 18/19 academic year
- Detailed scoping of how to proactively encourage parental responsibility around this issue

3.13 Maximising Strategic Opportunities

Officers continue to work to ensure alignment and connectivity between other strategic programmes of work to maximise benefit for people and communities in the city. For Members information, please see below some detail on other related programmes of work with the potential to positively impact on the ongoing challenges in parks and open spaces:

- PEACE IV Shared Spaces Project – This project provides capital and programming investment (£5.1 million) connecting a range of parks and open spaces in the wider Springfield area of West Belfast. The aim of this

work is to create a 'necklace' of shared civic space, thereby transforming land into a shared civic space, which will improve connectivity between the city centre and outlying communities and neighbourhoods.

- **Wider PEACE IV Programme – The wider PEACE IV Programme is providing investment in Children and Young People in the city (£1.66 million) and Building Positive Relations £2.30 million). Open tenders for delivery of these programmes of work will become available in the coming months.**
- **Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) – Council was recently successful in securing £40,000 of funding from the Department for the Economy to facilitate innovation around how to better encourage positive use and deter negative use of parks and open spaces. Officers are currently working with partners to refine the 'challenge' to be issued to SME's (including community and voluntary organisations Limited by Guarantee) for open call. There a high levels of interest in this 'challenge' because of its regional and national transferability, with the potential for a larger application to the 'GovTech' Fund whose purpose is to help the public sector modernise for the benefit of society**
- **Smart Belfast 'Things Connected' Project - Councils' Smart Cities Team is involved in a consortium project with Ulster University supported by Digital Catapult, to provide SME's with free access to a state-of-the-art wireless network linked to a range of low cost sensors. The sensors have the potential to assist in better understanding how our parks and open spaces are currently being used and to better anticipate future needs. All Data Protection and Privacy Impact requirements will be in place before any sensors are placed.**
- **Fresh Start – Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan – Officers are currently working with Executive Office Officials and individual lead departments/organisations in maximising the benefit of the following work streams within the action plan for communities in Belfast.**
 - **B4 'Communities in Transition' – TEO/Co-operation Ireland**
 - **B12 'Young Men at Risk' – Probation Board**
 - **A4 'Youth Outreach for young people at risk' – Education Authority**

3.14 Financial & Resource Implications

Staff Resources

The above approach continues to support the values and principles of the City and Neighbourhood Services and wider Corporate Change Programme of customer focus, service integration and neighbourhood working. Learning from this work will continue to inform the ongoing transformation of the organisation.

Financial Resources

All of the above work continues to be accommodated from within existing Council and (D)PCSP revenue budgets. The work is intended to maximise existing resources, reduce duplication and facilitate joined up decision making and resource allocation in the identified parks/open spaces.

3.15 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or Good Relations implication at present, however, this will monitored on an ongoing basis.”

Several of the Members welcomed the joint initiatives that were being progressed and asked that their appreciation be recorded to the officers involved.

The Committee noted the progress against the actions and that a further progress report would be submitted at the June meeting of the People and Communities Committee.

Memorial Bench in Woodvale Park

The Assistant Director advised the Committee that the Council had been approached by representatives of Suicide Awareness and Mental Health Initiative (S.A.M.H.I.) seeking permission to install a memorial bench in Woodvale Park, adjacent to a memorial tree that had been planted a number of years ago.

The Committee approved the installation of a memorial bench in Woodvale Park to raise awareness of suicide.

Dunmurry Community Association

The Assistant Director advised that the Dunmurry Community Association (DCA) had a license agreement with the Council in respect of a portion of the changing pavilion located within Fullerton Park. She reminded the Members that Fullerton Park had transferred to the Council in April 2015, as a result of Local Government Reform.

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The officer outlined that Lisburn City Council had entered into a licence agreement with DCA with effect from April 2014. This agreement permitted the Association to use a section of the building for community purposes, with kitchen and toilet facilities being shared with other sporting users. The agreement was for an initial period of two years, with an extension of a further year having been granted which ended on 31st March.

The Committee was advised that the Association had requested that the Council enter a new licence agreement to enable it to continue to offer a programme of activities to the local community.

The officer detailed that the facility was maintained by Belfast City Council and, in addition, the Council through its Community Service budget provided a revenue budget to help with running costs. She advised that the group had initially sought a lease agreement, however, officers had met with the Association and following discussion it was proposed that:

1. the Council would agree to hold over on the existing licence agreement for a period of 6 months, up to 30 September 2018;
2. the Council would review and revise the existing agreement, with a view to providing a key holding agreement to the Association to deliver a pre-agreed programme of community development work;
3. the Council would retain maintenance responsibility for the building; and
4. the Council would work with the Association to establish financial needs to meet programme costs and identify how the costs might be met.

The officer advised that the Association had also highlighted the lack of office accommodation as an issue but officers felt that this should be deferred until a new agreement had been reached and the community development programme had been agreed.

Following consideration, the Committee agreed:

- to the extension of the existing licence agreement for a period of 6 months up to 30th September 2018;
- to a review of the existing agreement to be replaced with a key holding agreement which would be provided on the back of an agreed Community Development Programme and which would be developed in conjunction with Community Services and the Association; and
- that minor works be undertaken to facilitate the needs of the Association and the sporting users of the facility.

Dealing with Banned Breeds

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 further update the Committee on the motion that was brought to Council on 1st September**

2016 with regard to dangerous breeds of dogs and to provide a report on the work that has been undertaken to review how the Council handles any future cases involving dangerous breeds. The motion called for a review of breed specific legislation to avoid the removal from their owners of prohibited dogs that have not posed a danger to the public, as follows:

'This Council calls upon the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to conduct an urgent review of Breed Specific Legislation. Recent tragic events in England demonstrate the need for effective controls in respect of dangerous dogs. However, the removal from their owners of dogs that have not posed a danger to the public should be avoided. The Council supports and encourages responsible dog ownership and those who exercise appropriate care and control of their dogs.'

- 1.2 The Council wrote to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Minister McIlveen MLA, regarding the motion on 5th October 2016. A reply from the Minister's office has been received. The Minister has stated in her response as follows;

'The Department understands that the Council is currently reviewing its handling of a high profile case involving the seizure, assessment and return of a pit bull. We would be interested in learning of the findings of that review, and will then consider whether the existing legislative provisions could be reviewed to allow the impact of seizure on dogs and their owners, to be more effectively managed, while ensuring appropriate protection for the public.'

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee are asked to;

- Note the contents of the report and in particular the summary of current actions at paragraph 3.14.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Key Issues

An internal officer group (comprising of officers from City and Neighbourhoods Department, Legal Services and Corporate Communications) has been reviewing the legal position and processes involved in dealing with cases of suspected banned breeds. The processes used by the Council's Dog Warden Service have been developed based on the legislative requirements of The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order

1991 (as amended) aimed at dealing with banned breeds of dogs, specifically those dogs from the pit bull terrier type breed which are the predominant banned breed found in this Council area.

- 3.2 Since the seizure of a pit bull terrier type dog known as 'Hank' in July 2016, the Council has seized a further three dogs which were subsequently found to be pit bull terrier type dogs but were assessed as suitable to be admitted to the exemption register. Those dogs were returned to their owners following court proceedings permitting the dog to be placed on an exemption register. In cases of this nature, a determination on whether a dog is of a breed banned under the legislation is made based on the animal's physical characteristics and temperament. This is a two stage process. The ultimate decision in terms of action is based on; the dog's physical characteristics which determine if it is a pit bull terrier type breed, an assessment as to the temperament of the dog and whether it poses a danger to the public. Sixteen dogs have been placed on the exemption register and returned to their owner by the Council since 2011, out of seventeen dogs assessed to be pit bull terrier types during this period, sixteen dogs have had conditions attached to their return, which are aimed at addressing issues of public safety.
- 3.3 The prohibition on possessing pit bull terrier type dogs was introduced with the intention of preventing serious injury to human life. The legislation classifies four breeds of dogs which are deemed to be dangerous dogs, namely;
- Pit Bull Terrier,
 - Dogo Argentino,
 - Fila Brasileiro,
 - Japanese Tosa
- 3.4 It is illegal to own or be in possession of one of these breeds or breed types unless a Court Order has been made exempting it from the prohibition on keeping such a dog. Once the Council is aware of the whereabouts of a dog that may fall within one of the prescribed breeds, officers will assess the situation to determine whether the owner is likely to agree to hand over their dog to be assessed. If not, or it is not possible to contact the owner, officers will seek a warrant from the court permitting the Council to seize and remove the dog from its home environment to allow an assessment to take place.
- 3.5 Whilst the removal of the dog from its home is understandably distressing for dog owners, the Council must balance that against its obligation under the legislation to protect the public

and ensure that there is a comprehensive, impartial assessment of the dog's physical and behavioural characteristics. That assessment cannot take place in the owner's home, as it is important to see how the dog will react in surroundings and circumstances which are not familiar to it.

- 3.6 The purpose of the assessment is to determine whether, in the Council's view, the dog is a pit bull terrier type dog and if so whether its behaviour is such that it could be admitted to an exemption register. In order to admit the dog to the exemption register and return it to its owner the Council must obtain a court order. That order will contain a number of conditions, not least of all that the dog must be kept on a lead, muzzled, neutered and insured as a pit bull terrier type dog. It is officers understanding that the relevant insurance can only be obtained when a court order is made making possession of the dog lawful.
- 3.7 The officer review considered the option of allowing a dog deemed to belong to a banned breed to 'stay at home' after its assessment and pending court proceedings for exemption. There is legislation in England and Wales which makes provision for the dog to remain at home following assessment, pending exemption. No such legislation exists in Northern Ireland. In order to explore the liabilities associated with a 'stay at home' option pending the outcome of court proceedings for exemption, on the advice of legal services, an opinion was commissioned from a leading expert on pit bull terrier type dogs and from a leading barrister.
- 3.8 Mr. Peter Tallack, a recognised expert in the field of identifying and dealing with banned breeds, advised as follows:
- He has investigated 14 fatalities caused by dogs on behalf of police forces in GB, ten of which involved pit bull terrier type dogs.
 - The biggest problem with this breed of dog is with people who own the dog but lack any appreciation of the enormous strength and tenacity of the dog.
 - That these breed/type of dogs are different to normal family domestic pets and sometimes do operate to different behaviour rules than ordinary domestic breeds.
 - That whilst all dogs can bite, the severity of the injuries that can arise from an attack by a pit bull type dog are at such a level that they would not generally be appreciated without supporting evidence.
 - It is standard procedure for the police service on the mainland to remove the dog from its home for assessment.

- Prior to the legislation permitting a 'stay at home' option in England, 'stay at home' policies were trialled but were discontinued, after the Independent Police Complaints Commission identified concern with this particular practice.

3.9 Under the most recent legislation introduced in 2015 in England and Wales, which makes provision for a 'stay at home' scheme pending exemption, it is the Chief Police Officer who must make this decision and only where they are satisfied that the dog does not constitute a danger to public safety. In determining whether that is the case, they must consider the temperament of the dog, whether the person in charge of the dog is a fit and proper person to keep the dog and any other relevant circumstances. If the Chief Police Officer does decide to return the dog, the owner must comply with a number of strict conditions before the dog can be returned home.

3.10 Mr Tallack has advised that very few authorities have applied this approach. The report stated that;

'It is my opinion that one of the main considerations in regard to leaving a dog at home after being brought to the attention of an enforcement agency is liability. The legislation is most unusual by reversing liability, therefore as soon as the dog is brought to the attention of the enforcement agency, technically the suspect and the dog are guilty of the offence until the court makes a judgement or order. Therefore, if anything were to happen to any person as a result of the dog not being in custody, whether it is a member of the family or not, must raise huge concerns for the agency involved and therefore its chief officer could be made responsible'.

3.11 Mr. Tallack pointed out that there have been no fatal incidents involving a pit bull terrier type dog in Northern Ireland and he expresses the view that our dog licensing system and Dog Warden Services are better resourced and consistent across Northern Ireland which carries many advantages. Mr.Tallack recommends that the Council should protect its position by ensuring that there are robust procedures in place to deal with dogs suspected of belonging to a banned breed, which must be taken into the Council's care pending a determination on breed and court proceedings.

3.12 The opinion of a leading barrister in NI was sought in relation to the Council's legal duties and administrative processes. The potential liability to the Council in allowing a dog from a banned breed to remain at home with its owner, pending legal proceedings for exemption, was considered as part of the

review into the Council's processes for dealing with dangerous dogs. The following comments form the basis of the legal opinion that has been provided to the Council in respect of its handling of dogs from banned breeds:

- The risks involved with the ownership of a 'dangerous dog' extends to fatalities of the most vulnerable, namely young children and elderly people.
- The objective of the legislation must always be the primary focus of those that operate under the processes of the legislation, namely to protect the public from serious injury and to prevent fear of an attack from such dogs.
- The current process of removing the dog from its home for assessment and fast tracking the court exemption process is the proper approach and works well in the vast majority of cases.
- The Council's approach to considering whether a dog is suitable for exemption is well measured and professional.
- The application of robust procedures, well recorded and documented as presently apply, appear likely to provide the best approach to the complexities that can arise.
- The experience of England and Wales of increasing attacks is a situation which does not apply to Northern Ireland and the comparison that can be made is strongly supportive that the processes adopted of handling dogs in Northern Ireland have produced a better outcome for all concerned.

- 3.13 The legal opinion concludes *'I am of the view that anyone fully informed of the risks and potential liabilities involved in the seizure and assessment of dogs under the legislation could but only form the reasonable view that what is being done, needs to be done and would and should be supportive of same'*

In light of the above, officers are concerned at the potential risk to the public generally, and indeed the Council, if it permitted dogs to remain at home to be assessed and/or pending a court hearing.

- 3.14 The following improvement actions have been implemented as part of this review;
- The Council does not adopt a 'stay at home' policy for dogs suspected of belonging to a banned breed who are eligible for exemption pending court proceedings.

- When a dog which is suspected of belonging to a banned breed comes to the attention of the Council, the Council must respond and identify the breed as quickly and as professionally as possible. In advance of seizing the dog, the Dog Warden Service will endeavour to engage with the owner of the dog and encourage the owner to voluntarily hand the dog over for assessment. Each case must be assessed on its own merits and in some cases, it will be necessary to seize a dog without the owner's consent or presence.
 - It is recognised that the removal of a dog from its owners is a stressful situation. Dog Wardens will ensure that every effort is taken to settle the dog into its temporary surroundings and they will liaise regularly with the owner of the dog, while it remains in the Council's care to keep them fully informed of the welfare of the dog.
 - The dog will be assessed as soon as it is settled into kennels in order to determine if it is suitable for exemption.
 - Once a dog is deemed suitable to be placed on the exemption register, the Court proceedings for exemption will be fast tracked by the Councils' Legal Services so as to minimise the time spent in kennels. In recent cases, the dogs have been returned home within ten days from their removal.
- 3.15 In relation to visitation of dogs impounded in kennels by their owners, there is limited research to support or refute whether such visits are beneficial for the dog and its owner. For security and health and safety reasons, the location of the dog while in care will remain undisclosed. The dog will receive daily human contact and exercise from both kennel staff and the Dog Wardens. All aspects of its stay are documented to help allay the concerns of the owner. In most cases the duration of the stay will be relatively short. For dogs who may be required to stay for an extended period of time, the Council will explore how visitation can be facilitated taking into account our duty of care to the kennel provider, the welfare of the dog and the health and safety of the staff involved.
- 3.16 Financial & Resource Implications
- Costs associated with the expert advice will be met within existing budgets.
- 3.17 Asset & Other Implications

None

3.18 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the review.”

The Committee noted the contents of the report and in particular the summary of current actions at paragraph 3.14.

Street Naming

The Committee approved:

- the naming in respect of Donegal Park Gardens, off Antrim Road, BT15 and Rose Street, off Springfield Avenue; and
- the continuation of an existing street in the City namely Wandsworth Court, off Wandsworth Parade, BT4 and Lagmore Avenue, off Stewartstown Road, BT17

Request for use of Barnett's Demesne

(The Chairperson, Councillor Sandford, who had declared an interest in this agenda item, withdrew from the Chair whilst it was under discussion and took no part in the debate or decision-making process.)

(Councillor Carson, Deputy Chairperson, in the Chair.)

The Assistant Director reported that the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast had written to the Council regarding the use of the Barnett's Demesne for its Belfast demonstrations on 12th July.

The Committee agreed to the request from the County Grand Lodge for the use of Barnett Demesne on the 12th July 2018, subject to the organisers meeting all statutory requirements and an appropriate legal agreement being prepared by Legal Services.

(The Chairperson, Councillor Sandford, in the Chair.)

Japanese Knotweed

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The People and Communities Committee meeting of 6 February 2018 considered a motion by Councillor McReynolds. The motion called on the council to do more to assist individuals whose homes are negatively impacted upon by Japanese**

Knotweed and should therefore write to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to see if they would be content to co-fund a Belfast City Council 'not for profit' service to treat properties across Belfast'.

- 1.2 An action arising from the Committee meeting was therefore for officers to consider the feasibility of this request. This paper serves to provide an update to Members regarding preliminary work that has been undertaken in the intervening period.
- 2.0 Recommendations
- 2.1 Committee is asked to;
 - Note the content of this report.
- 3.0 Main report
- 3.1 Members will be aware that Japanese knotweed is one of thirty-five plant species that have been proscribed via Article 15 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 for the purposes of preventing their planting or growth in the wild. The relevant authority is the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).
- 3.2 Methods for the control of Japanese knotweed are typically grouped into physical controls, involving the mechanical removal or deep burial of the plant, together with the installation of growth barriers, or chemical controls involving the use of herbicides such as glyphosate, 2,4 D, Triclopyr or Picloram. Chemical treatments routinely have to be repeated until no regrowth is observed (usually for between 3 to 5 years), although it should be noted that glyphosate based herbicides are readily available from DIY stores.
- 3.3 In terms of treatment approach, it is considered that the council would have to determine, or seek professional advice regarding the most expedient method to control or eradicate a Japanese knotweed infestation; either excavation, burial or chemical treatment. Such advice may however have legal implications, particularly given the issues around the potential impact of Japanese knotweed on the sale of properties or the depreciation of assets. It is additionally considered that it would be difficult to forecast the likely demand for a knotweed treatment scheme as there is limited information available on the incidence of invasive species across Belfast.
- 3.4 In terms of offering a chemical treatment service, the council could opt to appoint a commercial contractor to deliver a '*not for profit*' type service or it might seek to deliver such a service

on an equivalent financial basis from within existing staff resources, although this capacity does not presently exist. Any option could have significant financial impact on revenue estimates for the Council. It is considered however, that mechanical removal or deep burial would have to be undertaken by a specialist contractor and that excavated materials would have to be disposed offsite to an appropriately licensed landfill site, with attendant haulage and disposal costs.

- 3.5 In order to determine the council's vires for establishing a Japanese knotweed treatment scheme for the city, officers have sought the views of the council's Legal Services regarding potential treatment approaches and on the likely risks associated with such a scheme.
- 3.6 In addition, in order to determine NIEA's views on the establishment of a Japanese knotweed treatment scheme, council officers have written to their counterparts in NIEA regarding the manner of the scheme delivery and regarding the potential for part-funding for such as scheme.
- 3.7 Finally, officers are presently undertaking a review of how GB councils manage Japanese knotweed, including whether any councils offer a treatment service for residents.
- 3.8 It is proposed that officers will complete the above-mentioned research and provide a further report to Committee containing recommendations or options for a Belfast treatment scheme.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The provision of a 'not for profit' treatment service has not been included within existing revenue estimates for the 2018/2019 financial period. Any option could have significant financial impact on revenue estimates for the Council. It is anticipated that there may be significant administrative and financial resource implications should the council wish to establish a commercial contractor led 'not for profit' Japanese knotweed treatment scheme or if the council wished to provide an equivalent scheme from 'in house' resources.

3.10 **Equality & Good Relations Implications**

There are no equality or good relations issues associated with establishing a Japanese knotweed treatment scheme."

The Committee noted the update.

Update on Houses in Multiple Occupation Regulation

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The new legislative control, the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 completed Final Stage on the 15th March 2016 and received Royal Assent on the 12th May 2016. On commencement of this Act HMO regulation will transfer to local Councils. This paper provides an update to the Committee on the progress with the transfer of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) function from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to Councils.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- Note the update information regarding the Houses of Multiple Occupation function and the current status of the programme of transfer.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 The programme for the transfer of the HMO function is being overseen by a Regional Board in NI consisting of officers from Department for Communities (DfC), NIHE and the three lead Councils (Belfast City Council, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, and Derry City and Strabane District Council).

3.2 An economic appraisal commissioned by the Department for Communities considered a number of delivery options for the new service. The appraisal included financial and option modelling

3.3 This appraisal recognised that whilst an 11 council model was the most desirable it would mean that full cost recovery for councils would prove difficult and would create a potential rate base burden on councils as the service would have to be provided within existing resources. It was considered that the only way to negate these risks and provide a cost neutral and fit for purpose service was to cluster councils and provide the new regime via a shared service.

3.4 The proposed model for service delivery is to cluster councils on a geographical basis, the cluster leads being those areas with the largest number of HMOs, Belfast, Causeway Coast and

Glens, and Derry City and Strabane. It also reflects the location of existing staff.

3.5 Under the current proposed cluster arrangement in the economic appraisal, Belfast City Council is described as stand alone. It is accepted by the Regional Board that the Cluster leads will need to provide support to each other in order to ensure the effectiveness and provision of a fit-for-purpose service. This will require providing support across each other's respective cluster areas.

3.6 Members should be aware of the following emerging factors in the current programme.

3.7 Fee setting process

Members are reminded that the new regulatory regime comes with a number of additional powers and the financial modelling included in the economic appraisal forecast an uplift in fees will most likely be required to allow for full cost recovery. Derry City & Strabane District Council are in the process of appointing a consultant to undertake the next step in the fee setting process. The cost of the consultant will be funded by the DfC as a transition cost.

3.8 Date of transfer

The date for transfer of functions will be 31 March 2019. This date was considered appropriate given the amount of work that was required, especially regarding the fee setting process and the procurement processes, prior to the transfer.

3.9 Transferring staff

Whilst it is not a strict transfer of the existing registration scheme or function to councils by way of a Transfer of Functions Order, advice obtained from the Department for Communities Personnel Department confirms that TUPE transfer arrangements remain as there is a change in control of the regulatory HMO function that was provided by the Housing Executive and is now being taken over by councils.

3.10 The Committee should also be aware that the NIHE currently employ 14 staff to manage the current HMO function. It is suggested that Belfast City Council could become the employing authority for all the currently employed NIHE staff, including those currently based in Coleraine. Arrangements for office accommodation and staffing will be brought to a future meeting.

- 3.11 The specific details of the responsibilities of the councils across the region will be outlined and covered by an agreed SLA. The costs for staffing will be covered from fee income.

ICT

- 3.12 It is envisaged that a new ICT system will be required to support the transferring HMO function. The current system does not provide a public interface, provides limited ability to make online payments and applications, and does not provide for mobile working for technical officers undertaking site visits and inspections.

- 3.13 BCC's Digital Services will shortly undertake to procure new ICT systems required for the new scheme. To underpin this work, a collaboration agreement between Belfast City Council and the 10 other councils will be required. This will provide detail on how BCC will carry out this process on behalf of the other councils.

- 3.14 The purchase of new ICT systems will be funded by the DfC. A letter of assurance regarding the estimated costs has been received from DfC.

3.15 **Financial & Resource Implications**

It is anticipated that procurement costs for the consultant and for the new ICT System will be paid for as transition costs by the DfC. It is essential that the scheme will be cost neutral to the councils and that all costs will be covered by fee income.

3.16 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the delivery of the new function."

Following a query, the Assistant Director confirmed that the proposed date of transfer and the commencement of the new functions was 31st March 2019. She provided an overview in respect of some of the work that was currently ongoing with the other 11 Councils to try and ensure that this deadline was achieved. The Assistant Director undertook to keep the Members informed with regular update reports.

The Committee noted the update in respect of the transfer of the Houses of Multiple Occupation function to Councils and agreed that officers would submit a further update report in due course.

Home Safety Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that the April 2017 meeting of People and Communities Committee approved that, from April 2018, the Council would procure and manage the Home Safety Check and Repair Service on behalf of partners.

1.2 This report provides an update to Members on the progress of the Belfast Handy Person Home Safety Check and Repair Scheme to date and the plans going forward.

1.3 The Council’s Home Safety team sits within the Environmental Health Section. The team receives funding from the Public Health Agency (PHA) to deliver the Under 5 Home Safety Check scheme and numerous safety projects with older and vulnerable adults, parents and young children.

1.4 This report also provides an update to Members on the work of the home safety team.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- That from 1st April 2018 the Council will manage the contract for the Home Safety Check and Repair Service on behalf of partners;
- Changes to the equipment criteria for the Family Home Safety Check Scheme;
- The ongoing home safety project work.

3.0 Main report

Belfast Home Safety Check and Repair Service

3.1 This scheme has operated for the last three years and, following an evaluation, it was agreed that the Council would procure and manage the scheme for the next three years.

3.2 Following a public procurement process, the contract for this service was awarded to Bryson Energy and the Council will commence management of the contract from 1st April.

- 3.3** This scheme offers residents aged 65 and over (or vulnerable adults) a free home safety visit during which they will be provided with advice, information and home safety equipment (e.g. helping hand grips, magnifier reader, long length shoe horn, jar opener and sock aids) which will be fitted free of charge. Residents can also avail of a reduced rate repair service (£5 per hour for people in receipt of benefits and £15 per hour for people who are not in receipt of benefits). These rates were previously agreed at the August 2015 meeting of the People and Communities Committee.
- 3.4** Following agreement with the District Police and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) the new contract extends into the area of Home Security/Crime Prevention. Residents aged 60 and over who have been a victim of burglary in their home will be visited by the Crime Prevention Officer and referred in to the scheme, where they will be able to avail of free security equipment (e.g. door chains, window/door alarms, bin locks, key safes, door braces, call blocking devices, property marking kits and electricity timers) which will also be fitted free of charge.
- 3.5** The objectives of this project are as follows:
- identify vulnerable households using relevant stakeholders/referral partners;
 - reduce the risk of accidents in the home by making it a safer environment;
 - empower people to change their behaviours;
 - develop understanding about risk of accidents in the home by raising awareness and providing educational resources;
 - promote effective training, skills and knowledge in home accident prevention across all relevant stakeholders and groups;
 - improve the evidence base regarding home accidents by collecting relevant data.
 - reduce the risk of crime and the fear of crime perpetrated against vulnerable members of our community; and
 - help minimise the likelihood of repeat victims.
- 3.6** The objectives of this service link directly to the ‘Living Here’ priority of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan by supporting older people. The older population of Belfast is rapidly growing: it is estimated that 22% of people aged 60+ are affected by income deprivation which has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing for the residents.

- 3.7 Furthermore, these objectives reflect the objectives listed in the Northern Ireland Home Accident Prevention Strategy 2015-2025 and the provision of a Handy Person service has been made a priority under the Age Friendly Belfast Action Plan, under the Belfast Strategic Partnership supported by the Belfast Health Development Unit.
- 3.8 A Home Hazard Steering group has been established including staff from the Council, Public Health Agency (PHA), Bryson Energy and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of the scheme.
- 3.9 All occupants that received repair work under the scheme to date were left a Customer Quality of Service (CQS) form to complete and return via free-post. A remarkable 70% return has been observed, with 100% satisfied to very satisfied responses on the handyperson's performance and standard of workmanship and overall experience of the Scheme. Evaluation of the project to date has reported that the scheme has had a positive impact on those who have received it.
- 3.10 This project is funded by the PHA, PCSP and BCC.

Belfast Family Home Safety Check Scheme

- 3.11 Council staff deliver the Belfast Family Home Safety Check scheme. This scheme offers families with children (under the age of five) a home visit to provide advice and information on how to prevent an accident. Occupants may also receive a range of home safety equipment (e.g. stair gates, fireguards, cupboard locks, anti-tipping furniture and TV straps, blind cord safety devices, carbon monoxide alarms and safety packs).
- 3.12 In 2016/17, 1,321 checks were carried out across the City. The majority of referrals are received from Health Visitors, Social Workers and Sure Start staff.
- 3.13 In January 2018, new eligibility criteria was introduced by the Public Health Agency to ensure that families living in the most deprived areas and who are affected by income deprivation are receiving the safety equipment they require. Families who do not meet this criteria can still receive a home safety visit for advice and information.
- 3.14 This service links directly to the 'Living Here' priority of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan by being committed to ensuring children and young people are safe. Five out of the ten most deprived wards in NI are in Belfast and it is estimated that 39% of children in Belfast live in income deprivation.

This scheme aims to alleviate some of the risks to these children.

- 3.15 Customer surveys are completed on a quarterly basis with a 10% random sample population.

Home Safety Project Work

- 3.16 The Public Health Agency (PHA) provides annual funding for a range of home safety projects across the City.

- 3.17 The Council organises an annual falls prevention project targeting older people across the City. This year the project theme was 'Foot Care for Falls Prevention' and we worked with a BHSCT podiatrist to deliver the workshops to 533 individuals from 28 community groups across the City. Evaluations were completed with a sample population to assess knowledge increase and behaviour change.

- 3.18 The Council's Home Safety Officer also delivers an annual Community Family Safety Project in conjunction with the City's Sure Starts. In 2017/2018, we delivered 32 workshops to 253 parents on the topic of burns and scalds and blind cord safety. At these events we also provided heat proof pouches and blind cord safety devices free of charge.

- 3.19 We organise annual visits for primary 7 pupils from schools across the City to visit the Risk Avoidance Danger Awareness Resource centre (RADAR) where they learn about: home safety; fire safety; road safety; anti-social behaviour; e-safety and bus safety. In addition to the funding received from the PHA we also received funding from PCSP which allowed us to pay for the centre admission fees for 2,186 pupils from 46 schools across the City in January-March 2018.

- 3.20 The projects delivered by the home safety team aid toward delivering outcomes from the Belfast Agenda including ensuring 'Belfast is a safe City for all' and 'Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing'.

3.21 Financial & Resource Implications

The City Council contribution is included within existing budget estimates.

3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no relevant equality considerations associated with the proposed scheme."

The Committee noted the update.

**Connswater Community Greenway
Animation Programme 2018/19**

The Assistant Director drew the Members' attention to the proposed Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) Animation Plan for 2018/19.

The officer advised that the programme had important regeneration outcomes in relation to health, volunteering and reducing anti-social behaviour. The Committee noted that the plan had been developed to support the strategic direction of the EastSide Partnership, the Belfast Agenda and the Programme for Government.

The Assistant Director requested that the Committee, in anticipation of increased requests from external event and activity providers, grant authority to the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, under the scheme of the delegation, to approve such requests.

The Committee:

- granted authority for the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, under the scheme of delegation, to approve event and activity requests for the use of the parks and open spaces along the Connswater Community Greenway in 2018/19, delivered by the Connswater Community Trust in partnership with Belfast City Council;
- granted authority for the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, under the scheme of delegation, to approve event and activity requests which might include licensing arrangements such as trading or the selling of alcohol at the main event spaces along the Connswater Community Greenway, including the C.S. Lewis Square, Orangefield Park and Victoria Park; and
- noted that an entertainment license was already in place for the CCG.

Tropical Ravine, Botanic Gardens

The Assistant Director reminded the Committee that the Tropical Ravine was due to be re-opened to the public in mid-April and she proceeded to provide the Members with an update in respect of issues relating to the operation of the newly refurbished facility.

The Committee noted that, as part of the Business Plan for the facility, it was anticipated that an income could be generated by using the building for conferences and events. Fees for commercial use of the Tropical Ravine would be charged in line with the current fee structures within the corporate policy.

Following consideration of the report, the Committee:

- granted permission for the location of a donation box in the Tropical Ravine, Botanic Gardens, with the funds to be used for the purpose of enhancing services for visitors to the Tropical Ravine;

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- agreed to open the Tropical Ravine from Tuesday to Sunday, with Monday reserved for Corporate events, staff training and routine maintenance; and
- agreed to run a series of promotions to market the Tropical Ravine and to generate income where appropriate.

**GLL Service Level Agreement and
Swimming Pool Testing**

The Assistant Manager reminded the Committee that, as the Council's Strategic Operating Partner, Active Belfast Board Ltd (ABL) was responsible for overseeing the direct delivery and development of the service in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract which included performance monitoring and reporting.

As the appointed Strategic Service Provider, Greenwich Leisure (GLL) was contracted by ABL to manage the Council's leisure centres and to deliver the service as set out in the partnership documentation.

The officer reported that the Environmental Health Service had traditionally sampled Belfast City Council pools for bacteriological analysis on an informal basis for many years to help provide advice and reassurance regarding pool hygiene for users. This process, whilst not guaranteed on a monthly basis, was of benefit to all and it was felt that this arrangement should be formalised.

The Committee endorsed the draft Service Level Agreement between Greenwich Leisure Ltd and Belfast City Council with regard to swimming pool testing and authorised the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to sign the agreement on the Council's behalf.

Use of Lower Crescent - Belfast Book Festival 2018

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from the organisers of the Belfast Book Festival seeking permission to hold a Fun Day and Belfast Book Festival 'Lit Crawl', on Saturday, 16th June in the Lower Crescent Green Space.

The Committee noted that this event had been held annually for the past six years and had proven to be a successful outreach programme for the festival. The officer detailed that the ethos of the fun day was to bring the world of books to those in the community who would not normally access the arts and to introduce children to the fabulous world of books. The fun day would be free for all to attend with arts and craft, author readings and entertainment.

The officer advised that, as a new addition to the 2018 Programme, the organisers had decided to organise a 'Lit Crawl'. This would take place for three hours around the Queen's Quarter, which would come alive with free events in various locations in and around Botanic Avenue and Stranmillis.

The officer reported that, usually once the fund day ended, the marquee would be taken down. However, this year the organisers were seeking permission to use the

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marquee and park as a 'Lit Crawl' venue. She detailed that from 7.00 p.m. there would be a number of events in the marquee, which would conclude with a festival finale at 11.00 p.m.

The Committee was asked to note that the event would be ticketed, with the number of tickets limited to 200. In addition, bar and food vendors would also be in attendance.

The Committee granted permission for the use of Lower Crescent green space for a Belfast Book Festival Fun Day, subject to satisfactory terms in line with the above being agreed with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and on condition that:

1. the event organiser resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
2. an appropriate legal agreement is completed; and
3. the event organiser meets all statutory requirements of the Building Control Service, including the terms and conditions of the Parks Entertainments Licence.

Update on the Reference Group on Older People

The Assistant Director advised that, at the meeting of the Older Peoples Reference Group held on 20th March, the following key items had been considered:

- update in respect of Older Volunteer of the Year Awards;
- update in respect of Age-Friendly Belfast;
- update on Age-Friendly Belfast Events;
- review of Positive Ageing Month;
- update in respect of the Age-Friendly Network for Northern Ireland; and
- update on the Age Sector Platform.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Reference Group on Older People held on 20th March.

Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) - National Conference, London

The Committee authorised the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson (or their nominees) and the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services (or his nominee), to attend the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) National Conference, in London from 13th – 14th June.

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland, Walk NI

The Assistant Director advised that a request had been received from Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) seeking the Council to part fund, as part of its partnership arrangement with ORNI, the ongoing marketing and promotion of walks within Belfast Parks through the WalkNI website, available [here](#)

She reminded the Members that ORNI provided a number of services to the Council, as follows:

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- it audited a number of the Council's Parks' walks;
- promoted the Council's 24 short and medium walks;
- promoted the Ulster Way throughout the Council's Parks; and
- listed detailed information on its website on behalf of Belfast Parks.

The officer advised that the Council wished to promote its 23 short quality walks (totalling 73 kilometres), 1 medium walk (totalling 17 kilometres) and 8 kilometres of Ulster Way through the WalkNI website. She asked the Committee to note that there was a section of the website which was designated specifically to Belfast, available [here](#)

The Committee agreed to continue to provide financial support to ORNI with funding of £3,445 for 2018/19, to enable ORNI to market support for walking routes within Belfast Parks.

**Appointment of Elected Members to
Community Centre Committees**

The Committee considered a report in relation to the revised appointment of the Elected Members to Community Centre Committees and noted that Political Parties had recently submitted new appointees to replace those Members who were no longer Members of the Council.

Following a query from a Member regarding functioning centre committees, the Assistant Director confirmed that not all centres had functioning centre committees, for example, both the Ardoyne and Whiterock Community Centres did not currently have a functioning committee. She advised that officers were currently conducting a community centre scoping exercise as part of area working and it was anticipated that this would provide specific details in respect of the current position across all centres.

A further Member suggested that he had never been invited to attend a committee meeting for the community centre to which he was appointed, however, he believed that there was still a functioning committee.

Discussion ensued, during which it was agreed that an updated list be circulated of the Elected Members appointed to each Community Centre to both the Elected Members and also to the secretary of the relevant Community Centre.

The Committee further agreed to authorise the following changes in Community Centre Committee membership:

- the replacement of the former Councillor McCabe with Councillor Murphy on the Ardoyne and Ligoniel Community Centre Committees;
- the replacement of the former Councillor McKee with Councillor Pankhurst on the Concorde Community Centre Committee; and
- the replacement of the former Councillor Austin with Councillor Nic Biorna on the Whiterock Community Centre.

Community Services: Proposed Services Closures

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present information regarding Council’s ongoing commitment to the professional development of frontline staff to deliver high quality services to children and young people and to identify the impact of planned training on service delivery.
- 1.2 In order to enable identified staff to access training, we are seeking permission to close limited services as required against a schedule for Director approval.
- 1.3 As part of the continuous improvement plan for customer delivery, it is proposed that registration to our Summer Scheme programme should take place on one day across the city, potentially on Wednesday 16th May 2018. In order to support this amended approach to registration, there will be a need for limited service closures on this date.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- i. Note plans for the delivery of Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training to all Play Development and Assistant Community Development Officers and to agree to the limited closure of some services noting that any closures will be kept to a minimum.
 - ii. Agree limited access to some services to support city wide registration to Council Community Summer Scheme programmes on Wednesday 16th May (TBC).

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 Belfast City Council employs 20 professionally qualified Play workers who deliver a range of play initiatives across a number of settings including After-schools services and outreach play programmes for Parent and Toddler groups across the city. We also deliver a range of after-school programmes for children aged 5 to 11 at our BCC Community Centres.

- 3.2 These are delivered by the Assistant Community Development Officer team supported by volunteers and include homework clubs, sports programmes and arts and craft activities.
- 3.3 Council adopts an open access policy for children attending these services, however, analysis of registrations over recent years points to an increasing number of children who are presenting with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism and other challenging behaviours.
- 3.4 Working with challenging behaviour can be difficult for both staff and children and a high level of self awareness is required so that staff move from reacting to situations to responding to situations. It requires a level of emotional intelligence so that staff can manage their emotions and understand their responses.
- 3.5 Working with young children aged 5-11 years means staff are often dealing with children who are only now developing their emotional capacity and who may have an outburst when they cannot understand, manage or control their emotions. Knowing the child, understanding the triggers for that child and having strategies that work to de-escalate any situation, will enable the child to remain in the session and help staff to apply the appropriate strategy to ensure their effective participation.
- 3.6 It is also important that a child learns from their experience and that staff have the skills to help children reflect on what has happened and problem-solve a different solution which they feel will work for them.
- 3.7 The planned training in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention will further develop the capacity of the Playworker and Assistant Community Development officer teams by equipping them with the skills to manage challenging situations with children, promote positive behaviours, and support the child in their learning. This training is considered as being essential for these frontline staff and is designed to be delivered over three
- 3.8 The TCI training is designed to be delivered to groups of no more than 10 participants and three training programmes have been scheduled for delivery before the end of May 2018. Where possible efforts are being made to accommodate staff attendance at this training within their current working pattern.
- 3.9 Having Council staff trained in TCI is regarded as essential to the safe delivery of services for children and the HR forum approved the request to procure this training. The proposed dates for delivery are as follows:

- 9th, 10th and 11th April 2018
- 16th, 17th and 18th May 2018
- 5th March (already completed), 21st and 22nd May 2018

3.10 In order to support access to the training, committee is asked to support limited closure of some services. Every effort will be made to keep any disruption to a minimum including access to additional agency resources to cover gaps. Where the closure of services may be required, Director approval will be sought. A communications plan will be put in place for service users to inform them of any planned closures. A maximum of three play services across the city will be closed during each training day and efforts will be made to rotate the closure of services across the city to limit the impact on children and parents.

3.11 **Summer Scheme Registration:** As part of its direct service provision Community Services manage, programme and staff 32 summer schemes across the city through its network of community and play centres. The Service delivers a comprehensive curriculum of educational, recreational, health, cultural and social activities for children and young people (5-14) in deprived and more isolated areas of Belfast.

3.12 As part of our normal business, we are reviewing our approach to summer scheme delivery to support continuous improvements in areas such as programming, evaluating access and impact, staff and volunteer support and resourcing. One of the review recommendations is to move to a single day for participant registration. This will streamline and simplify the process for our customers while also supporting better communication to parents and guardians.

3.13 This approach will necessitate the cancellation of some activity programmes however this will be managed to limit impact and will be supported by timely communication to service users.

3.14 **Financial & Resource Implications**

The cost of the TCI training has been met within the current 2017/18 Play Service budget.

3.15 **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

None.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Ribbon of Poppies Campaign 2018

The Committee agreed to defer the report to enable officers to obtain more information in respect of the Campaign and to submit a further report to a future meeting.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Monday, 16th April, 2018

SPECIAL MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Baker, Carson, Heading,
Lyons, Magennis and Murphy.

In attendance: Mr. S. Leonard, Environmental Health Manager;
Mr. I. Harper, Building Control Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland), Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Newton and Pankhurst.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation from Marie Curie NI

The Chairperson advised the Members that representatives from Marie Curie NI were in attendance to present to the Committee in relation to a whole society approach to end of life care. Mrs. Joan McEwan, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, and Mr. Craig Harrison, Policy and Public Affairs Officer for Northern Ireland, were admitted to the meeting.

Mrs McEwan commenced by thanking the Committee for the opportunity to present. She provided the Members with a brief overview of the work undertaken by Marie Curie and proceeded to outline some of the work it undertook in relation to providing care and support to people with advanced and terminal illnesses. She advised that each year Marie Curie provided care and support to around 4,000 people living with a terminal illness, their carers and loved ones.

The representative explained to the Committee that she wished to use her attendance at this meeting to try and raise awareness of the need for a whole society approach to end of life care and she highlighted the need to try and change the public's attitudes and perceptions towards death and dying.

She proceeded to outline the following benefits of a whole society approach to end of life care:

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- expands the reach of end of life care services by engaging the wider community;
- addresses a greater range of needs (including social, psychological and spiritual) that may not always be met by clinical services;
- mobilises untapped sources of social and spiritual care/support, as well as practical resources and expertise;
- increases social networks and reduces social isolation;
- helps alleviate the significant burden on caregivers;
- improves overall quality of life;
- reduces the burden on frontline/clinical services, including unscheduled care; and
- provides care in the community setting, usually the place of choice for both patients and carers.

Mrs McEwan then proceeded to outline a number of examples of community-based initiatives and ways that Belfast City Council might be able to support people affected by terminal illness. She stated that, whilst this was not a prescriptive list, it did provide real examples of initiatives that other local authorities, charities and voluntary groups across the United Kingdom had implemented in an attempt to try and support people either faced with or caring with someone with a terminal illness. The representative described examples of ideas, as follows:

- a Carer Passport scheme which would help to identify staff who were caring for someone with a terminal illness;
- introduce work-place resources to support staff affected by terminal illness and bereavement;
- undertake a review of Council policies on sickness leave, compassionate leave and carers leave to ensure that staff received the necessary support when affected by terminal illness;
- hosting a series of Death Cafes for staff and the public to raise awareness of the issues around death and dying and the support available for people affected by terminal illness (organised in conjunction with relevant organisations like Marie Curie or Cruse Bereavement Care);
- hosting information pop-ups on issues relevant to death, dying and loss; and
- supporting local art galleries and museums to run exhibitions exploring ideas of death, loss, grief and remembrance.

The representative requested if the Council would consider supporting Marie Curie NI in delivering its ambition of organising a one-day event that would provide an opportunity to promote awareness of the issues around death and dying and help provide a platform from which to share information about the many excellent support services that were available. The Committee noted that Marie Curie were also considering inviting the following potential exhibitors to participate:

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- Cruse Bereavement Care;
- Law Society NI;
- Carers NI;
- Macmillan Cancer Support;
- National Association of Funeral Directors; and
- Men in Sheds.

Following a query, the representation confirmed that Marie Curie NI would be willing to coordinate this event and organise it in conjunction with the Council.

Several Members endorsed the request in principle but noted that the use of the City Hall did not fall under the remit of the People and Communities Committee.

The representatives then answered a number of queries, following which the Chairperson thanked and praised the Charity for the invaluable work it undertook within the community and they left the meeting.

The Committee agreed that officers would investigate opportunities for the Council to support the proposal from Marie Curie NI for a partnership event in the City Hall which would endeavour to raise awareness of the issues around terminal illness and a whole society approach to end of life care and agreed that a further report would be submitted to the relevant Committee.

Presentation - Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Update Presentation on the New Build Programme 2018/19

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. J. Hawthorne (Belfast Regional Manager), Mr. J. Gillespie (Regional Programme Delivery Manager for Belfast) and Mr. R. Hawe (Head of Place Shaping for Belfast) representing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

The Members were presented with an update report on the New Build Programme for the period 2018/19 which included the following details:

- social housing completions 2017/18 (468 units);
- social housing units under construction at 31st March 2018 (990 units);
and
- programmed to start in 2018/19 – 2020/21 (1,631 units).

Mr. Hawe outlined the current demographic trends and the resultant social waiting list needs and he apprised the Committee with regard to the performance by the Housing Executive in relation to new build start and completion and future delivery timescales.

In response to a query in respect of land options for social housing in Belfast going forward, Mr. Hawe explained essentially there were two options, either building on land towards the outskirts of the City, or the encouragement of City centre living through the redevelopment of existing space in the City. Mr. Hawe explained city centre living and

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regeneration within the context of the Local Development Plan and stated this type of development would also be the Housing Executive's preference but stated that it needed to be mixed tenure housing.

Mr. Howe clarified that, whilst the Housing Executive continued to deliver social housing schemes, there still existed a shortfall between the demand and supply for social development housing. The NIHE was hoping to deliver more than 2000 units of social housing in Belfast during 2018/19 and its overall aim was to increase the stock of social housing.

Mr. Howe updated the Committee in respect of the Place Shaping Role within the Housing Executive which included consideration of housing need, land availability and development/regeneration within the context of the Community Plan, the Development Plan and the Belfast Agenda. He explained that one of the priorities of the organisation was to identify new development sites for social housing and that work was ongoing with the various agencies, including the Council, regarding the zoning of appropriate land. He reiterated that the Housing Executive would be liaising closely with the Council in progressing this area of work.

In response to a Members question regarding the Affordable Warmth Scheme and whether the NIHE might be able assist the Council in meeting the demand for the scheme within the Belfast City Council area, Mrs Hawthorne confirmed that the Housing Executive was currently in a position where it was able to deal with the current target number of referrals. She added, however, that if it were to receive an increase in referrals above the target she could not guarantee that the Housing Executive would have sufficient resources.

The Committee noted that there was still no confirmation in funding for the Affordable Warmth Scheme from the Department for Communities for 2018-2019.

Noted.

Planned Maintenance Programme for Belfast 2018/19

The Committee noted the contents of the Planned Maintenance Programme for Belfast which provided information on the Housing Executive's maintenance and upgrading schemes proposed for 2018/19.

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairperson thanked the officials from NIHE for attending and noted that the next quarterly meeting was scheduled to be held at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st August 2018.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 11th April, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor O'Donnell (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Howard;
Aldermen Haire, Kingston and McGimpsey; and
Councillors Beattie, Dorrian, Dudgeon,
Graham, Hargey, Hussey, Johnston, Kyle,
Magee, McAteer, McDonough-Brown and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Chief Executive;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Ms. N. Gallagher, Director of City Centre Regeneration
and Development; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Boyle, Mullan and Walsh.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 9th April.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Welcome

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. John Greer to his first meeting of the Committee following his recent appointment as the Director of Economic Development.

Presentations

Oxford Innovation Limited and Performance Update

The Chairperson advised the Committee that Ms. Anna McDonnell, Centre Manager at the Innovation Factory, and Dr. Majella Barkley, Innovation Director at Oxford Innovation, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

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Ms. McDonnell explained to the Committee that the Innovation Factory (IF) was the first of its kind in Northern Ireland, and that it was a £9.1million investment by the Council, Invest NI and the European Regional Development Fund. She outlined the outcomes for the Innovation Factory, which included accelerating business innovation and growth, attracting inward investment from Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and stimulating further development.

The Members were advised that the IF provided small businesses and start-ups with a flexible space to work and grow. She explained that a one size fits all approach did not work and that they therefore offered shared and private offices, virtual office packages, co-working membership, a business lounge, meeting and conference space and business innovation and growth services.

She stated that Oxford Innovation had been managing Innovation Centres for thirty years and managed a network of 24 centres throughout England. In relation to the sector mix of customers in the Belfast IF, she outlined that the majority were from the creative/digital and the financial/professional services sectors.

The Committee was advised that they had achieved a higher occupancy rate than they had targeted and that they were on target to reach 55% occupancy by the end of 2018. Ms. McDonnell also highlighted that the Innovation Factory's income was 7% ahead of the end of year target.

Dr. Barkley provided the Committee with an overview of the Innovation Factory's performance during 2017/2018, where it had exceeded all targets, and also of its targets for 2018/2019. She also provided the Members with examples of successful customers which had grown their business ideas with the help of the Innovation Factory.

A number of Members stated that they had visited the Innovation Factory and that they were very impressed with the building and with the Factory's performance so far.

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

The Committee noted the performance of the Innovation Factory since its opening in September 2016 and agreed the direction of travel for the 2018/2019 business plan which was presented by Oxford Innovation.

Restricted Item

City Animation and Meanwhile Projects

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development provided the Committee with an overview of proposals to animate the city centre, and the intention to proceed with a procurement process for organisations to deliver projects at locations in Castle Street and its environs and in North Street. She outlined that the Council would also seek to coordinate with other similar projects at Hope Street and the Titanic Quarter

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During discussion, a number of Members suggested ideas which the officers could consider.

The Committee:

1. noted the ongoing activity to deliver city animation projects in the city centre by the Council and other bodies; and
2. agreed the approach set out in the report, and that officers would proceed with the procurement of organisations to deliver city animation projects at Castle Street and its environs and North Street.

Request to Present

Project Hope and Transport Hub Alternatives Group

The Committee acceded to requests from Project Hope and the Transport Hub Alternatives Group to present at a future meeting.

Growing Businesses and the Economy

Working and Learning – Update

(Mrs. L. Toland, Head of Economic and International Development, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed programme of work to be delivered in the current financial year as part of the Committee’s ambitions to support delivery of the targets under two of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda: Working and Learning and Growing the Economy. The work programme is in line with the direction of travel which was presented to and approved by this Committee on 7 March 2018, as well as input from Members into the Employability and Skills proposals as part of the Committee workshop on 21 February 2018. If all targets are met, this activity will support the creation of 1664 jobs.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- **Approve the 2018/19 Work Plan to support the delivery of the Working and Learning and Growing the Economy strands of the Belfast Agenda, as set out in sections**

3.4-3.10 and detailed in Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov)

- Approve applications to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for new programme activity including the Kick Start Programme, Digital Transformation Programme, Go Social Programme and Procurement Support Programme as detailed on modern.gov
- Agree to the development of partnership structures within the Working and Learning work streams for Employability & Skills to facilitate the delivery of priority actions where there is alignment of purpose and where there is an opportunity to share resources, therefore increasing ability to achieve outcomes more cost-efficiently.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Members will recall that, on 7 March 2018, a paper was presented to this Committee identifying the priority activities to be delivered in 2018/2019 as part of the Committee’s ambitions to support the delivery of the targets under two of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda: Working and Learning and Growing the Economy. At that Committee, it was agreed that a follow-up paper would be presented to the April 2018 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee outlining specific details of activities. This report contains a series of more detailed propositions to secure Member approval for the work programme for the coming financial year. A summary of the key work streams, along with associated programmes, outcomes and assigned budgets for the 2018/19 financial year is available to view on modern.gov.

3.2 As detailed in the March 2018 Committee Report, our investments continue to be driven by the principle of Inclusive Growth and underpinned by a series of guiding principles. In terms of Inclusive Growth, in practice this means:

- Building linkages with employers that are committed to providing opportunities for long-term unemployed/economically inactive and supporting career progression
- Providing up-skilling support for those already in work – especially those in entry-level roles
- Ensuring that regeneration activity benefits local communities in terms of job creation, improvement in public realm and training opportunities
- Addressing barriers to employment such as transport, access and childcare

- **Supporting business development and growth for local companies – helping them grow and improve their productivity.**

3.3 The guiding principles that direct how and where we focus our resources include:

- **Employment/enterprise-led: focusing upon identified employment/ enterprise opportunities and gaps in provision;**
- **Needs-led: in order to deliver against the principles of Inclusive Growth, targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or under-represented groups while being accessible and open to all;**
- **Ambitious: to increase visibility and awareness of Council’s role within this environment and strategically build our position in this area;**
- **Intelligence-led and evidence-based: ensuring that our investment is based on a sound rationale;**
- **Adding value: ensuring we do not duplicate existing provision;**
- **Flexible: allowing for interventions to be developed around emerging market needs/opportunities; and**
- **Scalable: delivered seamlessly across the City, in line with need and opportunity – trying out new solutions on a pilot basis and increasing their coverage, if they have a positive impact.**

3.4 Work Plan 2018/19: Working and Learning

The detailed work plan is included in Appendix 1 (available on modern.gov). It includes information on the range of activities to be supported in the course of the year, in line with the paper presented to the Committee in March 2018. Against each activity, details of participant numbers, job outcomes and other relevant outcomes are set out. Financial information for the proposed expenditure in 2018/19 is also detailed. Please note that the figures in the appendix may vary from those set out below as the figures below are for the whole programme of activity, which may run more than one financial year, while the figures in Appendix 1 detail outcome and expenditure for the 2018/19 financial year only. Some of the highlights under the ‘Working and Learning’ theme include:

- **Employment Academies: These employer-led programmes focus on supporting those furthest from the labour market. The Academies work by adding value to existing training provision. In addition to the Hotel, Construction and Hospitality Employment**

Academies which were delivered in 2017/18, a series of new sectors being explored and developed include Tourism, Transport, Public Sector, Retail, Childminding, Domiciliary Care, Advanced Manufacturing and Creative and Digital Industries. Work is under way at present to establish strategic partnerships with employers in these sectors to understand their recruitment requirements and put in place programmes to meet their needs. While the focus will continue to be on the economically inactive, the interventions may evolve to consider upskilling support – helping individuals to move into higher-level jobs. Critically, the higher level Academies will be informed by the intelligence gathered within our Graduate Research, which is due to complete in April 2018. This is likely to include bespoke Academies for both unemployed graduates as well as upskilling Academies for graduates who are under-employed to facilitate career progression. The Academies delivered by the Council in the coming year will support at least 350 new jobs

- In keeping with the Belfast Agenda commitment to ensure that ‘every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential’, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee last year approved the commissioning of research to look at the employability and skills requirements to enable the Council and its partners to meet this commitment – under the heading of the ‘City Youth Pledge’. The research will be complete in April 2018. The research has identified a number of challenges and gaps that are acting as barriers to ensuring that young people have access to the guidance and information to make informed choices regarding their education, training and employment options. These gaps include the lack of meaningful work experience, inconsistent quality of careers advice and guidance, disjoints between different statutory stakeholders, competition for young people amongst schools and further education providers etc. It is therefore expected that activities informed by this research will include improving access to work experience and intensive careers interventions in schools and alternative education providers. Activities going forward will also include the development of strategic relationships with statutory stakeholders to improve access to good quality and independent careers guidance on the full range of options available to young people (from school-based

curriculum offer to vocational training and apprenticeship/higher level apprenticeships opportunities to employment options). It is likely that the research will also identify innovative early interventions for those young people who are at risk of dropping out of the education system as well as those who are not in education, training or employment. The development, implementation and delivery costs of this activity are expected to be £130,000 in 2018/19. It is estimated that 600 young people will be engaged and provided with opportunities to enhance their employability, skills levels and educational attainment under the auspices of the City Youth Pledge

- Match funding support for five European Social Fund (ESF) projects (Springboard, Workforce Learning, USEL, Specialisterne and LEMIS + consortium), as agreed at the 7 March 2018 Council meeting. The council's match funding is £240,000 each year for four years (subject to satisfactory performance) and Urban Villages (UV) have also provided £75,518 towards a number of those projects that are delivering activity in UV areas. In total, these projects will attract £5.4 million of funding over each year of operation. They will support 2,664 people who are unemployed or economically inactive by removing barriers to employment and enhance their employability and skills levels. Of these 2,664 participants each year, 616 people will find a job and a further 219 will progress to further education at Level 2 or above. Collectively, these participants will achieve 1,825 accreditations. In order to ensure that these projects are focused on areas of most need, Officers will gather participant and employment information at postcode level and will overlay that information with other information including deprivation levels, skills levels, poverty levels etc.
- Supporting and facilitating Jobs Fairs and career development events including Skills NI Careers Fair, aimed at young people aged 15-19, and The Belfast Jobs Fair in partnership with Department for Communities. The costs associated with these events will not exceed £20,000.
- Targeted support to ensure that under-represented groups including those in areas of highest deprivation and economically inactive are engaged and barriers to participation are removed (lone parents, those with

disabilities and health conditions, economically inactive, ethnic minorities, older people etc.). The development, implementation and delivery costs of this activity are expected to be £45,000 within 2018/19. It is estimated that 300 people furthest from the labour market will be engaged and provided with opportunities to remove barriers to participation on Council's Employability & Skills activities, such as financial support for childcare/care to enable those with caring responsibilities to access Employment Academies and other employability interventions, interpretation services and support for ethnic minorities etc.

- Establishment of an Employability Forum: this will bring together the key statutory partners including Department for Communities (DfC), Department for the Economy (DfE), Department of Education/Education Authority and private sector employers. The purpose of the forum is to improve the integration of current interventions to improve skills levels and address economic inactivity challenges in Belfast. There may also be an opportunity to pilot localised approaches to mainstream programme delivery. In the medium-term, there will be an opportunity to consider joint approaches to future delivery, potentially including co-commissioning of flagship Employability and Skills programmes such as Steps to Success, Apprenticeship NI etc.
- In collaboration with partners from the five neighbouring councils, support the development of the Employability & Skills strand of the Belfast Region City Deal. This activity has the potential to lever an additional £25million over the next 10 years. Work is under way to identify priority areas of activity and associated employment and skills development targets and potential outcomes.
- Working with the Council's Planning and Building Control Team to explore the potential for using Developer Contributions to lever resources and private sector buy-in to the Working and Learning activity.
- Undertake research, gather intelligence and scope innovative approaches to address gaps within Employability & Skills provision within the city with a view to piloting during 2018/19 such as:

- **Apprentice+ which would enable those over 25 years old to access an apprenticeship programme**
- **Training for Success+ which would enable those over 18 years old who could not access Training for Success to avail of the supports available with this programme, for example those who were in prison at 16-18 years old and missed out on the supports provided**
- **A Shared Apprenticeships Scheme for Belfast which ensures that skilled trade apprentices are assured of continuous employment to enable the completion of their Apprenticeship NI training**
- **Paid Internships for economically inactive who might consider to start their own business and become self-employed.**

3.5 Work Plan 2018/19: Growing the Economy Starting a Business

- **Enterprise Awareness and exploring enterprise support: promoting entrepreneurship to individuals from under-represented groups to help them understand and overcome the barriers to starting a business or finding work as well as working with individuals who are unemployed who want to find out about self-employment, explore or research a business idea. Activity will commence in May 2018, and will be aligned with the Employability and Skills work to support underrepresented groups and those experiencing specific barriers. Up to £101,000 will be allocated to this work this year;**
- **Graduate Enterprise Initiative: providing flexible support to student entrepreneurs in local academic institutions. Up to 80 students will have the opportunity to receive support through the programme. 10 graduates will receive financial support in the form of a salary grant to pursue and start their business. This initiative will commence in September 2018 with an annual cost of £200,000, £150,000 of which will be leveraged from Invest NI. Each participant will qualify for £15,000 to support them during the first 12 months of starting their business;**
- **Kick Start: aims to increase business survival rates by adding value to the Northern Ireland Business Start-up Programme (NIBSUP) through practical support and aftercare mentoring. A funding application to lever ERDF resources to support this programme will be submitted and if successful, the programme will**

commence in early 2019. The programme will be delivered over a four year period costing £60,000 per year (ERDF/Invest NI £48,000, Belfast City Council £12,000). A total of 300 businesses will be supported over 4 years through this programme with 240 jobs created;

- **Go Social: programme to support the development of new social enterprises and co-operatives in the city to build upon the success of the current Go Social programme, which is due to complete in June 2019. This programme is currently undergoing the ERDF application process and is expected to commence in early 2019 to be delivered over four years at an annual cost of £90,000 (ERDF/Invest NI £72,000, Belfast City Council £18,000) – A total of 240 social enterprises/cooperatives will be supported over 4 years with 255 jobs created;**
- **The Northern Ireland Female Enterprise Challenge - A collaborative programme between the 11 Local Councils, Invest NI, and Women in Business NI (WIB) to promote and support female enterprise. This programme will be part-funded by Invest NI (£200,000), WIB (£200,000), and 11 Councils (£200,000) over a three-year period. This initiative aims to promote female enterprise, increase the numbers of women considering starting a business and encourage existing female entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The cost to Belfast City Council for one year of delivery is £6,200. This will be supported via a funding agreement with the lead council.**

3.6 Growing a Business

- **Digital Transformation Programme: providing support to businesses to implement digital technology – aligned to the new investment in infrastructure as part of the Smart Belfast activity. This programme will commence in January 2019 and will lever ERDF and Invest NI funding. The total programme cost will be £80,900 per year (ERDF/INI £71,920, BCC £17,980). A total of 320 businesses will be supported over 4 years through this programme with 360 jobs created;**
- **Procurement Programme: support to enhance skills in tendering for SMEs, social enterprises and co-operatives. This intervention will enable participants to secure new business development opportunities**

through public procurement as well as wider supply chain development opportunities. An application for support to fund this programme through ERDF funds is currently being made. The programme is expected to commence in 2019 to be delivered over for years at an annual cost of £60,000 (ERDF/Invest NI £48,000, Belfast City Council £12,000). A total of 160 businesses over 4 years will be supported through this programme with approximately 134 jobs created;

- **Cyber Security Programme – Delivered via a funding agreement with CSIT (Centre for Secure Information Technologies). This programme arises from the NI Cyber Security Strategy for NI, which the Council supported. Part of this programme will test the resilience of local businesses against cyber attacks and support them to improve areas of weakness. The budget for this programme is £21,000. There will also be a Cyber Challenge to maintain innovation in this sector which will support one or two businesses through open competition to develop their new Cyber Security Solution. The budget for this element of the programme is £24,000.**
- **Creative and Music Development Programme: Officers will be procuring for the delivery of support for the city’s creative and digital industries. This will include Output Music Development Programme and Conference for activity over 3 years at a cost of £50,000 (per year). Complementary to this will be a programme for creative convergence (music/digital/tech) as part of the city’s Smart City Framework, delivered in the Immersive Lab, estimated at £20,000 per year;**
- **In partnership with the Council’s Waste Team, Officers are currently working on developing a Circular Economy Challenge to encourage furniture design students to develop a more circular economy approach to furniture design. We are also working with 10 hospitality businesses to develop Circular Economy practices. The total cost of these interventions is £20,000;**
- **We are working with the advanced engineering sector to deliver a support programme to support 12 businesses at a cost of £30,000;**
- **Innovation Factory (IF) currently supports 33 tenant businesses and engages 120 businesses per annum on**

their tailored support programmes. The centre currently supports 138 jobs. A separate report relating to IF performance is tabled to Committee for information.

3.7 Investing in Belfast

- As detailed in the International Relations Paper tabled to City Growth and Regeneration last month Members will recall the recommendation of a lead development agency for the finance and professional services sector to position Belfast in London and Dublin as an integrated solution for business relocation set up at a cost of £40,000 per year contracted for 2+1 years (subject to satisfactory performance). This will also provide support for indigenous businesses in this sector to develop their UK and ROI partnerships to expand the business as well as profiling Belfast as a dynamic investment location for this sector.

3.8 City Centre Development

- Festive Lighting – Officers are developing a design-led approach to festive lighting to consider improvements to city centre lighting as a longer-term project. The cost for this work to shape future direction is approximately £30,000. Additional funding for the delivery of the overall scheme will be levered from the private sector, DfC and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).

3.9 Marketing and Promotional Support

In order to promote the Council programmes and activities and maximise take-up it is proposed that a budget of £80,000 is set aside to promote the range of activities identified above. Working in conjunction with the Corporate Communications Team and the Departmental Communications Support, this is likely to involve a range of print media, PR and social media. While there is an extensive range of programme support available to individuals seeking employment or waiting to start or grow a business, the marketing message will be simplified and, once the individual or company makes contact with the Council, we will direct them towards the support that meets their needs.

- 3.10** The Belfast Agenda emphasises the importance of partnership working and collaboration towards common goals and outcomes. There are opportunities for targeted support in the Council's economic development and

employability and skills activity by engaging with key events and conferences. It is proposed that a budget of up to £70,000 is set aside for this activity in the coming financial year. The over-riding principle of this support is that the Council will financially support events, conferences, fairs and programmes delivered by our third-party stakeholders working with our target clients where our support and input can create a referral onto the Council's programmes and where the Council's ambitions and interventions can be profiled to key target audiences.

3.11 Performance Measurement and Evaluation

To independently measure and evaluate Development Department's performance across the Growing the Economy and Working & Learning work streams detailed in this report Officers wish to adopt an independent evaluation approach to verify outcomes on an annual basis. Evaluation and reporting will be undertaken over a four-year period aligned to the Belfast Agenda stretch goals. The approach will include participant and customer surveys, focus groups and telephone surveys. It is anticipated that there will be an annual performance review report with key recommendations and findings. This will be supplemented by a six monthly progress status report which will be tabled to Committee for information. The business programmes and initiatives delivered by Innovation Factory will also be evaluated through this commission. This evaluation will provide a full measure of the economic performance of the service areas and value for money assessments. The cost of this service will be a maximum of £30,000 per year over a 4 year evaluation period.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

The activities outlined in this report and work-plan attached as Annex 1 will be resourced from the set 18/19 financial budget for the Economic Development and Employability & Skills sections of Development Department budget.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications

Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. New projects or service areas are equality screened and considerations given to equality and good relation impacts at the initial stages of project development. Officers will work closely with the Equality and Good Relations Team on this activity."

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In response to a Member's question regarding the increasing importance of the digital sector, the Head of Economic and International Development confirmed to the Members that up to £70,000 had been set aside for this type of activity and to support events and programmes delivered by the Council's third-party stakeholders, such as the annual Digital DNA conference.

The Director of Economic Development highlighted to the Members the need for an integrated marketing campaign in order to promote the Council's programmes and activities and to maximise the uptake.

During discussion, a Member requested that further engagement with the Youth Forum would take place.

A further Member suggested that a Childminding Academy could be established, whereby each participant would be provided with the training to become a self-employed, fully registered childminder.

The Committee adopted the recommendations within the report and, in response to a Member's request, the Committee agreed that legal advice be sought regarding whether the Council could ring-fence jobs and training opportunities to Belfast residents, given that the programmes were being funded by Belfast ratepayers.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Inner North West Masterplan Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the ongoing Inner North West masterplan consultation and highlight the relationship to other workstreams including the Car Parking Strategy, Local Development Plan and City Centre Living.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- note the consultation process for the draft Inner North West masterplan that is currently underway and will conclude on 8 May 2018;**
- note the relationship between the INW and other work underway across the council and also with partners.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Members are aware that the consultation for the Inner North West (INW) masterplan commenced on 13 February 2018 and will run until 8 May 2018. As outlined previously to committee, the Masterplan seeks to provide a framework to help shape emerging opportunities and ensure a more comprehensive approach to development on both public and private sector owned land. The Inner North West Masterplan is underpinned by robust urban design principles that will help shape proposals coming forward.

3.2 The INW Masterplan seeks to facilitate a new city centre mixed neighbourhood that:

- incorporates a mix of uses, including residential, commercial, retail and leisure, all integrated through a strong and cohesive public realm;
- takes into consideration the heritage of the area and the historic urban grain;
- reinstates the historically vibrant economy of the Inner North West area;
- promotes 'city centre living', with its social and environmental benefits;
- strengthens the city centre's urban fabric and streetscapes;
- supports and strengthens pedestrian connections within the city centre and to/from adjoining neighbourhoods;
- delivers the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, in line with the Local Development Plan

3.3 Engagement to date

Targeted pre-consultation work in September 2017 and the workshop with Members in November 2017 informed both the final consultation document and council's approach to engagement. During the current formal 12-week consultation period council is seeking to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders in this area of the city, including residents, businesses, statutory partners and developers.

3.4 A focus on engaging with existing residents in the INW is an important feature of this consultation. Letters have been sent to each household advising them of the consultation, and residents were invited to participate on a walk-about of the

masterplan area. The consultation drop-in venues are located across the INW area to further encourage participation from local residents.

3.5 The scheduled consultation activities are as follows:

- Drop-in session in Smithfield Market, 14 February
- Drop-in session in Smithfield Market, 15 February
- Drop-in session in Berry St Presbyterian Church with evening presentation, 21 February
- Presentation to the Section 75 Consultative Forum, 27 February
- Drop-in session in CastleCourt, 27 February
- Presentation to the Campus Community Regeneration Forum, 27 February
- Drop-in session in St Patrick's Church, 7 March
- Drop-in session St Patrick's Church, 10 March
- Meeting with Ulster Reform Club, 15 March
- Residents' walk-about, 21 March
- Presentation to Shared City Partnership, 9 April
- Presentation to the West Belfast Partnership, 13 April
- Drop-in session in Central Library, 17 April
- Drop-in session in Central Library, 25 April
- Drop-in session in Central Library, 3 May

3.6 Exhibition boards summarising the masterplan are on display in the Cecil Ward Building until 13 April and will move to the Central Library from 16 April-8 May 2018.

3.7 Key communication channels are through letters, drop-in sessions, City Matters, the BCC website and council's online Consultation Hub, Twitter and Facebook pages and external press. All information is available on: <https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/>.

3.8 Statutory partners

Engagement with statutory partners continues and includes the Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure, Translink and the Historic Environment Division; all have had opportunities to comment on the draft plan. Feedback has also been received from council departments, and there is ongoing work to explore the potential to develop the council's assets to support wider regeneration.

3.9 Emerging themes

Notwithstanding the ongoing consultation for the INW, feedback from the recent events indicates general support for the regeneration of the INW area and the draft proposals.

3.10 Whilst not a comprehensive assessment of feedback to date, so far there have been expressions of support for:

- Increasing the city centre population via shared, mixed-tenure housing;
- Reuse of existing heritage buildings, including for residential use;
- Different housing typologies and sizes to accommodate a range of needs, including families and elderly residents;
- Creation of more open space, especially green space with seating;
- Maintaining a market function but improving or redeveloping Smithfield Market;
- Improving connections through the area, particularly through CastleCourt and Berry Street and to adjacent city centre neighbourhoods;
- Protecting and enhancing the built heritage.

3.11 Concerns have been raised during the consultation in relation to:

- Potential building heights and the prospect of tall buildings in the future;
- The lack of outdoor play space currently, and the need for 'social infrastructure' around education, health etc to support growing numbers of residents;
- Concern that the masterplan could bring blight, or lead to vesting;
- The possible redevelopment of Smithfield Market, and the impact on local traders;
- The need for effective management of existing and new public spaces, particularly the likes of Bank Square where there are issues around access, servicing, waste collection, and parking;
- General concerns over anti-social behaviour;
- The need for public spaces to be fully accessible;
- A perceived surplus of student accommodation.

3.12 Consultation period and next steps

Following the consultation period, the responses will be assessed and changes to the draft masterplan considered. A full Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Habitats Regulation Assessment are also underway and will inform the final plan, which will come back to the committee for approval in the autumn. Additionally, and in parallel, the development of land in public ownership is currently being discussed with DfC, and there are ongoing meetings with private developers as part of this consultation process.

3.13 Car Parking Strategy (CPS)

Members will recall that Aecom was appointed in October 2015 to carry out the Car Park Strategy (CPS) & Action Plan and a project steering group comprising Council officers (LDP, C&NS, CCDT, Economic Development, Estates, Legal, Finance, Communications) and DfI representatives was established.

- 3.14** In November 2017, Council ratified the CPS and in December 2017 it was agreed that the CPS Action Plan would transfer to the City Centre Development Team (CCDT) to bring forward. As part of the CPS Action Plan sites in the INW will be reviewed and we are working closely with DfC in relation to their landholdings, as well as with DfI with regard to all elements of the CPS Action Plan. Committee will be updated on progress in due course.

3.15 Local Development Plan

The INW is in line with the emerging policies in the Local Development Plan (LDP) draft Plan Strategy that support population growth, sustainable development and the city's ambitions in relation to the inclusive growth agenda. In particular, within the emerging draft Plan Strategy in the LDP there are a number of new policy requirements that are already incorporated within the draft INW Masterplan, for example around the need to deliver mixed-use development and mixed-tenure housing. The masterplan and emerging LDP are also both promoting well-connected and attractive communities, high-quality design and protection of built heritage. It is the intention that the INW Masterplan and its key design principles will be incorporated into the LDP at an appropriate date in the future.

3.16 City Centre Living

In January, Members received an update on the 'City Centre Living' workstream. This developed from a previous Council motion, Members' study visit to London in October, and the subsequent workshop. Officers continue to engage with DfC and NIHE on City Centre Living and this will be progressed alongside the development of the INW Masterplan and delivery of the Car Park Strategy.

3.17 Equality and good relations Implications

An EQIA Screening was undertaken for the Inner North West Masterplan and is part of the consultation.

3.18 Finance and Resource Implications

Resource requirements will be met from existing departmental budget allocations."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Residents' Car Parking Zones

The Director of City Centre Regeneration and Development provided the Committee with an update in relation to the Motion on problem parking which it had considered at its meeting on 7th February.

She reminded the Committee that it had agreed, in conjunction with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), to engage with those communities which bounded the city centre.

She advised the Committee that the DfI had acknowledged the parking issues around the residential areas which bounded the city centre and had welcomed the Members' approach to providing solutions.

The Committee noted that the Department was currently installing a Residents' Parking scheme in the Rugby Road/College Park Avenue area of South Belfast, with 117 parking spaces for residents and 119 pay and display parking spaces for residents and businesses. The Members were advised that short stay parking spaces on Rugby Road and a loading bay in Carmel Street would facilitate local businesses.

The Director suggested that a panel of Members would meet with the DfI to discuss the issues of problem parking, with the following proposed agenda:

- DfI to update on status of current Residents Parking Schemes and provide background (issues/success/lessons learnt);

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- DfI to outline the process for the establishment of Resident Parking Schemes;
- Group discussion to identify and agree problem areas to be targeted; and
- Group discussion to establish Community Engagement Strategy and outline timeframes.

The Committee agreed that a Panel, comprising one Member from each of the six main parties, be convened to meet with the Department for Infrastructure.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

MIPIM

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 To report on the outcomes of Belfast at MIPIM 2018 and seek approval to attend MIPIM 2019.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the outcomes from Belfast at MIPIM 2018 including the programme of events and media coverage generated.
- Authorise officers to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand at MIPIM 2019 to an area of higher footfall and / or increasing size of stand in current location.
- Approve, in principle, that the existing £60,000 investment be enhanced by £20,000 to enable a larger stand to be provided, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at a later Committee.
- Authorise officers to commence procurement for specialist support for programming, event management, communications, and design.
- Approve attendance at MIPIM 2019 by the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominated representatives.
- Approve the attendance of a number of senior officers at MIPIM 2019 to promote Belfast through the delivery of presentations, meetings with potential investors and presentations of regeneration schemes.

3.0 Main report

3.1 MIPIM is the premier event in the European real estate calendar where many of the world's investors, developers and funders from both the private and public sector, gather to showcase cities and investment and regeneration opportunities. Over 27,000 people attended MIPIM 2018.

3.2 Belfast at MIPIM Delegation

A delegation of over 80 people attended MIPIM as part of the Belfast delegation. This was made up of 35 supporting private and public sector organisations. In total, £269,825 private sector sponsorship was raised for Belfast at MIPIM 2018. This is an increase from £240,350 of private sponsorship in 2017.

3.3 Organisations supporting Belfast at MIPIM 2018 included: Arup; Aurora Prime Real Estate; Belfast City Council; Belfast Harbour; Benmore Developments; Bruceshaw; Bywater Properties; Carson McDowell; Castlebrooke; Causeway Asset Management; CBRE; Cundall; Davidson McDowell; Deloitte; Heron Bros; Invest NI; Killultagh Estates; KPMG; Lacuna Developments; Lanyon Communications; Mascott; McAleer & Rushe; Mills Selig; Press Eye; Queen's University Belfast; Richland Group; Signature Living; Sirocco; Titanic Quarter; TLT; TODD Architects; Tourism NI, Translink; Tughans and; Ulster University.

3.4 Belfast at MIPIM programme

The 4-day event conference involved a concentrated programme of events, meetings and engagements which allowed us to showcase Belfast as an exciting location for investment. The Belfast at MIPIM 2018 Programme included:

- 15 unique events organised by Belfast at MIPIM. Each event was designed to highlight a range of key strengths that underpin Belfast's strong investment proposition, including: Talent, Tax, Technology & Innovation, Locations, Fast Growth Sectors, Track Record for FDI and Quality of Life. Topics covered included:**
 - Creating and shaping city neighbourhoods**
 - Innovative thinking: Belfast - back to our future**
 - Belfast: why culture matters**

- **Belfast: accelerating growth with Eddie Irvine (ex. Ferrari formula one driver; real estate and technology investor – at no cost)**
- **Real estate investor showcases. Projects presented included Belfast Waterside Regeneration Project, Giant’s Park, Titanic Quarter, the former Belfast Telegraph building, Weavers Cross and Signature Living’s hotel developments**
- **Presenting at events organised by other cities or partner organisations including:**
 - **UK Cities: The Future of Real Estate with Estates Gazette**
 - **Role of Culture in Re-urbanisation organised by Invest Newcastle**
 - **Culture, Art, Heritage & Sport organised by DIT**
 - **Global cities: The New Powerhouses, part of the MIPIM 2018 official programme**
 - **Collaboration, Not Competition: Integrated UK offer of Financial & Professional Services organised by DIT**
 - **City Brand: Marketing & Investment in a National/International Context organised by Marketing Liverpool**
 - **Creating an economically resilient city organised by Invest Newcastle and Estates Gazette**
 - **New opportunities in Europe’s Waterfront Cities organised by Marketing Liverpool**
 - **A wide range of meetings between our delegation members and funds, investors, occupiers and developers.**

3.5 Belfast at MIPIM stand

3.5 The Belfast at MIPIM stand incorporated the new City brand and included eye-catching digital displays and a touchscreen display showcasing VU.CITY Belfast, the 3D interactive model of Belfast. This allowed potential investors and developers to view and interact with development and investment opportunities across the city.

3.6 With the support of Queen’s University Belfast, an electric DeLorean car was on display at MIPIM. Built in Belfast in the early 80s and made famous by the Back to the Future trilogy it demonstrated Belfast’s reputation for world-class talent and technological innovation and attracted significant interest from MIPIM attendees.

3.7 A dedicated Belfast at MIPIM investment guide was produced which highlighted Belfast's proposition to potential investors. It included an overview of key sectors, investment opportunities, property market outlook and profile of the Belfast at MIPIM sponsors. This was available for potential investors and developers on the stand or download from a dedicated website that BCC City Centre Team produced promoting investment in Belfast – www.investinbelfast.com.

3.8 Media coverage

Five media releases were issued during MIPIM 2018. These included releases to announce: the Belfast delegation is set for MIPIM 2018; Floral Hall aspirations; The Sixth redevelopment; Giant's Park development submissions; Waring Hotel announcement. These generated significant interest in Belfast from print, broadcast, trade and online media.

3.9 As of 22nd March 2018, over 73 media articles about Belfast have been published, with an estimated online coverage views of 407,000. Please note this does not include coverage achieved in print. This number is likely to increase with anticipated features in long lead trade and business press. The @BelfastMIPIM Twitter account issued 247 tweets and generated 6million impressions. The overall financial and reputational value is currently being researched to quantify the media coverage achieved.

3.10 The build-up to MIPIM 2018 also enjoyed significant media coverage. Four press releases were issued in the build-up to MIPIM, generating significant coverage.

3.11 Future focus

In the immediate future, officers will be following up in leads generated at MIPIM. The statistics for the number of visitors to the Belfast at MIPIM stand are being collated and members will be updated once they have been received. Follow ups with potential investors are underway to translate this pipeline into tangible investments.

3.12 It should be noted that at MIPIM 2018 many of the regional cities from the UK significantly improved and increased the size of their stand, substantially raising their profile. This emphasises our need to continue to improve and raise Belfast's profile at MIPIM. Members will be aware that for MIPIM 2018 requests were made to the event organisers to relocate or increase the size of the Belfast stand but they were

unable to accommodate this request due to lack of alternative space. For MIPIM 2019, further consideration is being given to the size and location of the Belfast stand. The 2018 stand was the same size as 2017, however we were limited in our ability to host larger groups and discussions and could only provide limited facilities for individual networking. In addition, while the Belfast programme successfully animated the stand, the location could be more prominent to obtain an increase in passing footfall and the opportunity for additional engagement.

3.13 The growing ambitions for 2019 underpins the requirement to start planning as soon as possible for MIPIM 2019 to ensure we can continue to deliver a programme that effectively markets Belfast as a location for investment.

3.14 Members are therefore asked to:

- Authorise officers to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand at MIPIM 2019 to an area of higher footfall or increasing the size of the Belfast stand in its current location.
- Approve in principle that the existing £60,000 investment be enhanced by £20,000, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at later Committee.
- Authorise officers to commence procurement for specialist support for programming, event management, communications, and design for MIPIM 2019.
- Authorise attendance at MIPIM 2019 of the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, or nominated representatives, and the appropriate senior officers, to attend MIPIM 2019. To ensure costs are kept to a minimum, Members are asked to authorise the booking of hotels and flights at the earliest opportunity. MIPIM is attended by 24,000 delegates and accommodation is quickly booked out.

3.15 Equality and Good Relations Implications

N/A

3.16 Financial and Resource Implications

Finance: Members are asked to note that a balanced budget for Belfast at MIPIM 2018 was £329,825 (80% of which was raised from the private sector). Although excellent value for money, both in terms of partnership support and investment outcomes, the overall spend illustrates the high level of

funding required to effectively market the city on the international stage.

Resources: Effectively delivering a project on the scale of MIPIM is a very resource intensive activity. Belfast at MIPIM was delivered by Belfast City Council officers, the Belfast at MIPIM taskforce and Lanyon Communications, a communications agency appointed in September 2017 to assist with event management; PR, marketing and communication; sponsorship and stand design for MIPIM 2018.

- 3.17 Members are asked to approve the appointment of external support to assist with the delivery of MIPIM 2019. Subject to approval from Members, these will be funded through the public-private budget outlined above.”**

A number of Members stated that they felt that the Council's contribution should remain the same and the private sector funding towards MIPIM increased.

A Member expressed concern that, while they could see the advantages of attracting investment to Belfast at MIPIM, it should not be to the detriment of the inner city communities which lived in Belfast.

A number of other Members stated that they believed that Belfast should seek to increase its presence at MIPIM in 2019 and that additional funding would be a worthwhile investment for the City.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Beattie
Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Council's contribution towards the 2019 Belfast delegation to MIPIM is not enhanced by a further £20,000, and remains at £60,000.

On a vote by show of hands, six Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in the report.

European Capital of Culture Legacy Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the status of the European Capital of Culture 2023 designation and to**

outline a planned programme of activity to support the development of an alternative legacy initiative.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of this report and agree that the budget set aside for the development of stage 2 of European Capital of Culture competition is now utilised for the development of a cultural legacy programme, which can be delivered with or without the designation of European Capital of Culture.
- Agree to receive a further report in due course that sets out a detailed legacy programme and funding strategy for approval in line with the funding strategy for European Capital of Culture as part of the legacy programme
- Agree for officers to develop a partnership project with Galway 2020, as part of the legacy programme to be brought back to Committee for approval.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

Members will be aware that Belfast City Council in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council developed and submitted in October 2017 a stage one application for the 2023 designation of European Capital of Culture. In November 2017, in advance of the formal presentation of the bid to the jury panel, all bidding cities were notified by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) of the European Commission's decision that the UK would no longer be eligible to host the competition.

3.2 Since November 2017, officers have been in regular discussions with DCMS and the other bidding cities to seek a satisfactory resolution to the situation. From the outset, the position of all bidding cities was that the preferred outcome of these discussions should be the reinstatement and completion of the competition. However, in March 2018 the other cities together with DCMS, reached the conclusion that further participation in the existing UK competition in its current form was no longer viable given the timeframe and the position maintained by the European Commission.

3.3 A delegation from Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council travelled to Brussels to meet with

the European Commission. Meetings were also held with representatives from the Committee for Regions and the UK Permanent Representation to the EU. These meetings further confirmed that pursuing the 2023 UK competition for European Capital of Culture was no longer an option. The delegation also sought clarity over current status and eligibility criteria for European funding programmes for cultural activity. Officers have agreed to follow up with relevant authorities to seek written clarification to these queries. They are also pursuing all potential avenues for Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council to be awarded the title at any stage going forward.

3.4 The decision to bid for European Capital of Culture recognised the significant economic and social benefits derived from flagship cultural programmes including:

- generating a direct economic return
- raising the city’s international profile
- significantly boosting tourism
- supporting investment and job creation
- supporting skills development and enhancing entrepreneurship
- improving connectivity
- breathing new life into a city's culture sector and addressing long term capacity issues
- enhancing European and international linkages in context of Brexit

3.5 While it is recognised that it will be difficult to achieve the full scale of benefits without the brand value of the European Capital of Culture title, a number of unsuccessful cities have gone on to deliver significant legacy programmes that have clearly demonstrated an economic and social return on investment. Examples include the ongoing investment of Dublin City Council in the legacy programme, Dublin Culture Connects, developed following their unsuccessful bid for the 2020 title. Leeds and Dundee have also announced large scale legacy programmes to follow through on proposals set out in their 2023 bids and to ensure that the energy, enthusiasm and investment to date is built upon.

3.6 Approach to developing a legacy programme

The bid for European Capital of Culture responded to the opportunity for cultural transformation as well as the need to support the next phase of tourism development in the city. These challenges remain and the work undertaken in stage one of the bid process provides an ideal foundation on which

to build an ambitious and strategic response. It is therefore recommended that officers continue to develop options for a legacy programme to be delivered in 2023 in line with a number of key elements of the original bid. In particular:

3.7 Long-term cultural strategy and capacity building

A strong focus of the original bid was to address long-term sustainability issues in the cultural sector and support the cultural development of the city. Any legacy plans need to take a long-term view of investment in cultural infrastructure as well as align to the recommendations set out in the recent Events and Festivals strategy. This was strongly supported by the cultural sector.

3.8 The current Cultural Framework and Tourism Strategy for the city remain in place until 2020, however, in order to have new strategies and associated funding programmes in place for 2020 research and development will take place over the coming years. This will include in depth engagement with key stakeholders and strategic partners. There is therefore an opportunity to ensure that all of these workstreams are integrated and that any legacy programme supports the wider Belfast Agenda as well as capacity building and investment in the cultural and tourism sectors.

3.9 Civic engagement

A key strength of the stage one bid was the level of civic engagement. Over 15,000 people were engaged with directly as part of the development of the concept and programme. Plans for stage two of the bid would have built on this engagement. The development of a legacy programme would therefore continue with the engagement methodology of the original bid to:

- ensure high levels of participation
- connect people to opportunities
- create positive changes in attitudes and perceptions
- enhance civic engagement and participation
- improve social inclusion
- promote the richness and diversity of our cultural identities

3.10 As part of this approach creative neighbourhood projects will be rolled out across the city. The design of these pilot projects will be informed by the Belfast baseline research recently conducted by Thrive NI on behalf of Belfast City Council. This research has helped establish levels of engagement

across the city and importantly identified areas where there continues to be low levels of provision or participation.

3.11 European dimension – to be extended to have both a European and an international focus

The bid identified over 100 city-to-city European links as well as developing a series of new European partnerships. This was particularly relevant given the nature of the competition as well as the need to maintain cultural, social and economic links with the European Union after Brexit. The legacy programme will help maintain existing relationships as well as foster new partnerships. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to widen this out to have an international dimension including a focus on existing sister cities connections. The design of the programme will take into consideration cultural links as well as key economic and tourism markets.

3.12 Members will be aware that in March 2018 it was agreed that Belfast would develop plans to become a UNESCO City of Music. It is likely that the formal process for this will take place in 2021 with the need to demonstrate international linkages throughout the lead in years.

3.13 As part of the original European Capital of Culture bid, there were also plans to work with a number of cities that have held or are due to hold the European Capital of Culture title. This included a project with Galway 2020 that was to be further developed in stage 2 of the bid process. It is proposed that development work continues on this project. Music has been identified in initial proposals as the creative focus with an opportunity to develop a large-scale project bringing in Nashville as well as a number of other partners.

3.14 Discussions are also ongoing with DCMS and the other bidding cities involved in the 2023 UK competition with a view to assessing opportunities for collaboration.

3.15 Large scale year long programme of activity in 2023

As well as the civic engagement outlined above, stage one of the bid also involved consultation with the cultural and creative sectors. This included:

- Information sessions
- Thematic workshops
- Big Ideas sessions

- 3.16** These sessions engaged with over 300 people working across the arts, heritage, sport, science and the creative industries.
- 3.17** A creative reference group was established to include local representatives from both cities. These members were selected following a nomination and application process. This group also included three international programmers who have previous experience of either developing a bid or delivering a successful European Capital of Culture.
- 3.18** At stage one a number of indicative projects were presented as part of the bid. In order to select these projects three strands of programme development were put in place. This included:
- (i) Open Call:** this was an opportunity for anyone to submit projects ideas
 - (ii) Commission:** the identification of a number of flagship project ideas. A formal commissioning process would have taken place at subsequent stages.
 - (iii) Curate:** the group identified specific gaps in the programme and made connections with smaller projects from the open call.
- 3.19** The open call for stage one received 125 project proposals with an initial selection made based on the criteria for the competition. It was anticipated that the cultural programme would comprise of 5 flagship projects and a programme of 30 smaller scale proposals programmed across the calendar year.
- 3.20** It is proposed that as part of the development of a cultural legacy programme a corresponding yearlong framework would be adopted. This will be tested through a similar process to that which had been set out for stage 2 of the competition. This will include:
- Delivering a series of creative pilots to test the viability of projects based on submissions already received.
 - Carrying out further development on flagship projects. There is now an opportunity to align this to the Events and Festivals recommendations. Individual flagship projects across the legacy programme could form the basis for the future development of signature and major events. The cumulative impact of a yearlong programme could also be commensurate with that of a ‘mega’ classification as set out in the Events and Festivals Strategy.

- Identifying the building blocks required in the 5-year period leading up to 2023 to ensure adequate momentum and capacity including creating opportunities to enhance existing cultural activity as well as respond to new and emerging opportunities.
- Undertaking further engagement with the cultural and creative sector throughout each phase of development. This would commence with a workshop in May 2018.

3.21 Next steps

It is proposed that the above areas of work will be carried out over this financial year as part of a development phase with a detailed cultural legacy programme then presented to Committee for consideration.

3.22 As part of this process further consideration will be given to how legacy plans could be delivered in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council including the appropriate governance arrangements to support the delivery of the programme.

3.23 A full business case, funding strategy and resource plan will also be developed. This will include further proposals for investment from the private sector as well as government departments.

3.24 All means open to the council to access European funding and/or a cultural title will continue to be pursued.

3.25 Financial & Resource Implications

The budget for this development phase will be allocated from resources set aside for the stage 2 bid for European Capital of Culture.

3.26 Equality or Good Relations Implications

As part of the legacy programme an engagement plan will be developed and will be equality screened with any gaps addressed. The final programme and associated strategies will also be equality screened.”

A Member expressed concerns that there were no specific costs detailed in the report.

The Chief Executive clarified to the Members that she was asking for approval to use some of the budget which had been set aside for the development of Stage 2 of the European Capital of Culture competition, in order to work with the cultural sector to

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develop options for a cultural legacy programme. She explained that a funding strategy on the options would be submitted to a future meeting for the Committee's approval.

A further Member suggested that engagement with the Irish Government should also take place.

After discussion, the Committee:

1. noted the contents of the report and agreed that some of the budget which had been set aside for the development of Stage 2 of the European Capital of Culture competition now be utilised for the development of options for a cultural legacy programme, which could be delivered with or without the designation of European Capital of Culture;
2. agreed to receive a further report in due course, setting out the detail of a proposed legacy programme with a range of options along with a funding strategy for approval;
3. agreed that officers develop a partnership project with Galway 2020, as part of the legacy programme to be brought back to Committee for approval; and
4. agreed that a delegation of Belfast City Council and Derry and Strabane District Council representatives would meet with the Irish Government in relation to the European Capital of Culture bid process.

Heathrow Expansion

The Director of Economic Development outlined to the Committee that, in October 2016, the UK Government had approved a third runway at Heathrow Airport. He explained to the Members that the expansion of Heathrow would be one of the largest infrastructure projects in the UK.

He advised the Members that, in recognition of the scale of investment and the potential for all parts of the UK to benefit from supply chain and skills development opportunities, Heathrow had sought expressions of interest for up to four Logistics Hub locations.

The Committee was advised that these Logistics Hubs would be used as off-site centres for construction and manufacturing in order to help the airport to deliver its expansion plan with minimal on-site disruption.

The Director explained that, from an initial 121 applications, 65 potential sites had been shortlisted, with six of the sites located in Northern Ireland:

- North Foreshore – Belfast;
- Global Point Business Park – Antrim and Newtownabbey;
- Belfast International Airport – Antrim and Newtownabbey;
- Former Michelin Site – Mid and East Antrim;
- Silverwood Business Park – Lurgan; and

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- Former Shackleton Barracks – Ballykelly.

In order to improve the chances of the bid, the Director explained that the partners had identified that a collaborative proposition involving all six NI sites as part of a ‘fully packaged solution’ was likely to be favoured over individual, stand-alone site solutions.

He explained also that, in order to develop the business case for the combined bid, it was proposed that each council involved would contribute up to £10,000 for each site to access specialist advice and consultancy support. The Committee was advised that this would enable the submission to be made by the closing date, in November 2019.

In parallel with the work on the Logistics Hub joint bid, the Director outlined that the Council would host a ‘Meet the Buyer’ event in the City Hall on 20th June, 2018, which would enable local businesses to meet with key buyers in Heathrow, focusing on existing supplies and services requirements.

The Committee agreed to set aside a maximum of £10,000 to contribute to the Business Case development work as part of a combined NI bid for the Heathrow Logistics Hub.

EU World Cities Project

(Ms. C. McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager, attended in connection with this item)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Committee on the progress of the EU World Cities project. This is an international urban sustainable development exchange project between the cities of Durban (eThekweni Municipality) and Belfast, with the ultimate aim of developing closer international relations and fostering trade.**
- 1.2 The paper summarises the success of the exchange of learning to date and proposes areas of possible future collaboration which could be considered within a draft Memorandum of Understanding to be discussed at the final project meeting in May 2018 (the MOU was a project commitment agreed in March 2017).**
- 1.3 The partnership and collaboration to date has been highlighted by DG REGIO as exemplary and was presented at the UN Habitat World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in February 2018. This was a unique opportunity to raise the international profile of Belfast City Council on the global stage. As a result of the success of this project both cities have been invited to apply for further funding to continue the**

successful collaboration for next 12-18 months from the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue.

1.4 Invest NI have worked closely with the Council on this project. One of the outcomes of the Belfast Durban collaboration is the identification of new NI export business opportunities and knowledge transfer emerging in the renewable energy, waste management and smart technology sectors in the cities of Johannesburg / Durban and Cape Town.

2.0 **Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the success of the collaboration between Durban and Belfast to date and, in particular that it was invited to present to the World Urban Forum UN Habitat in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 16 February 2018.
- Agree the areas of mutual collaboration on urban sustainability challenges which will inform the draft Memorandum of Understanding (a commitment in the initial project).
- Note that Officers were invited to apply for further funding to the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue to further foster business and government links on smart sustainable technology for mutual benefit (closing date 28th March 2018)
- Consider the makeup of the outward delegation of 3 people to Durban and Cape Town on 13-17th May for the final conference.

3.0 **Main Report**

3.1 **Background**

World Cities (www.world-cities.eu) is a project of the European Union managed and 100% funded by the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO). The project supports the exchange of information, experience and best practice on smart urban sustainability challenges and was initiated by the Council's Smart City Team.

3.2 There is a particular focus on developing the green economy, sharing expertise on energy security, sustainable mobility, circular economy and associated smart city solutions that

stimulate innovation, and new business starts up etc. These areas are at the heart of the Belfast Agenda and are key to economic progress as we open up new opportunities for smart sustainable growth in the city. Given the common legacy of post conflict societies there is also a specific focus on sharing workable solutions to related legacy issues of unemployment, deprivation and segregation through innovative urban planning and progressive community development strategies.

3.3 Triple Helix Model

Uniquely the World Cities project encourages cities to foster collaboration amongst and between local and international triple helix partners i.e. research institutions, innovation clusters, academia and public sector. To this end the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed the involvement of the Strategic Investment Board (circular economy), the Centre of Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) at QUB as strategic partners.

3.4 Representatives from these bodies comprised the delegation to Durban in April 2017 along with Cllr George Dorrian and the Sustainable Development Manager. There was strong support for this project from DfE, OFMDFM, the NI Executive Office in Brussels and Invest NI given that Invest NI planned to open its first office in South Africa this year. The initial conference with all 8 cities in Johannesburg in March 2017 was attended by the EU Ambassador to South Africa, Dr Marco Cornaro, the British High Commissioner to South Africa, Mr Peter Boxer the Strategic Director of DG REGIO Dr Ronnie Hall.

3.5 The overriding impression from the Durban and EU delegations was that Belfast is a transformed City with a new energy, enthusiasm and ambition to compete on the world stage. It has a growing reputation as a centre for excellence in renewable energy, energy storage, cybersecurity, smart technology and sustainable transport, all topics at the heart of global urban sustainability challenges. There was also a general impression that the city had moved faster than South African cities to overcome the legacy of the past conflict and to deal with associated issues of segregation, deprivation and unemployment. It was acknowledged that collaborative city branding was successful and with the assistance of Visit Belfast, the city was now positioning itself successfully on the global tourism trail.

3.6 Collaboration presented at UN World Urban Forum

It was on the basis of exemplary work and ongoing collaboration that the Belfast Durban partnership was invited to be presented at The UN Habitat World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. This international conference brings together the best global examples of urban sustainability challenges and opportunities which contribute to the UN's New Urban Agenda objective and progress on agreed international Sustainable Development Goals. The presentation was delivered by Puvén Akkiah from Durban.

3.7 City challenges, potential themes for collaboration and associated funding.

Urban sustainability challenges are wide ranging in their nature, and following deliberation between the cities it was agreed to narrow the focus to 4 possible theme areas for collaboration. (These themes are described below). Over the year of collaboration a significant amount of information has already been shared, especially during the two visits, and collaboration is ongoing with Durban and the Belfast's triple helix partners. The Council have received offers from the triple helix partners to take the lead where appropriate. For example Catalyst INC and CSIT are keen to lead on smart, digital partnership with Durban Smart Xchange similarly CASE and UU have taken the lead on renewable energy deployment with Durban City Council.

3.8 EU Urban Innovation Action Fund

A 0.3bn European Fund for Urban Innovation Actions, available annually to cities until 2020 is heavily promoted to cities in the EU World Cities programme. The fund provides for up to 80% co-financing on relevant projects. This year themes includes Local Job and Skills, and Climate Adaptation next year themes include Digital transition, Urban poverty, Sustainable Land Use and Urban security. Applications open in December and close the following April, up to 5million euros are available. No EU partner cities are required for application. The council's Development Department have been examining this fund with a view to application in 2019.

3.9 Theme 1 Post Conflict Urban and City Planning (learning form Belfast)

South African cities are inherently unsustainable from a planning perspective. The legacy of apartheid means that many poorer people are still forced to live outside the city centres, yet forced to travel daily, at considerable expense to the city centre for work, with significant transport, congestion and pollution impacts. In addition there is a legacy of underinvestment in the city centre. The general observation is that Belfast has moved faster to address post conflict issues with priority given to physical and social connectivity in planning. Durban is keen to learn more from the successful experience of Belfast in urban planning, city centre regeneration and investment and city branding. Durban and Cape Town are also members of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities programme, so there is an opportunity to share experience and outcomes of this international resilience programme.

3.10 Theme 2 Smart City Innovation, entrepreneurship and business incubation (learning from Durban)

Johannesburg and Durban have a global reputation for entrepreneurship and smart digital innovation. The Belfast delegation noted how the City Councils in both cities are closely linked to all the major academic, technical and research clusters through detailed Memorandum of Understanding. This means that City challenges can be shared with the educational and technical institutions, who in turn have access to international best practice. This close 'town and gown' arrangement fosters innovation and lends itself to faster incubation and in turn faster new business spin out.

3.11 Site visits to Catalyst INC and CSIT afforded the opportunity for the Durban delegation to connect to the Belfast business incubation hub and state of the art cyber security innovation. Both Catalyst INC and CSIT view South Africa as a priority market and have expressed interest in collaborating with the Durban Smart Xchange and The Resolution Circle for mutual collaboration and international business development.

3.12 Theme 3 Energy security, renewable energy and energy storage

At present South Africa is 100% dependant on coal fired power stations for primary energy production. This will change

dramatically as South Africa has committed to the international COP21 agreement and associated carbon reduction targets. Durban is keen to develop a collaborative partnership with Centre of Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE) to avail of best practice in the deployment of solar, wind, wave, tidal biogas and biomass energy. Since November, the City of Durban plans to work with CASE and UU to deploy a NI designed off grid solar powered ecosystem ideal for the townships outside Durban.

- 3.13 The export of NI knowledge, skills and product development is clearly a win-win business opportunity for CASE, University of Ulster and Durban City which Invest NI is keen to support.

3.14 Theme 4 Waste Management Recycling, Circular Economy

The recycling industry is in its infancy in South Africa: circa 90% of waste is still landfilled. This is set to change dramatically when the first Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) will be built in South Africa outside the City of Durban. The MRF is a partnership between Durban City Council and USE-IT. Durban is keen to learn from the experience of the SIB and Belfast City Council in waste management policies, recycling collection service, and efforts to encourage behavioural change.

- 3.15 The development of MRF facilities will employ the same screening, shifting, washing and conveyor belt technology used in the mining sector currently the main export to South Africa from NI. Again Invest NI is keen to support this new potential business opportunity in the Durban area.

- 3.16 Committee is asked to discuss and agree these themes as ongoing areas of work with Durban, acknowledging that we have been given an undertaken by all triple helix partners with an international remit, i.e. CASE, Catalyst INC and SIB to work collaboratively to continue the dialogue.

3.17 Further Funding Opportunity

Given the success of the collaboration to date both cities were invited to apply to the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue Fund to extend the collaboration for another 12-18months. Given that building strong international relations is now more important than ever to secure investment, trade, tourism and knowledge exchange and we have laid good foundations with this project (which is recognised internationally) this fund should be examined to help extend that opportunity to further the public and private sector business links. Officers have

submitted an application for this funding and a future report will be brought to Committee to update Members on its progress.

3.18 Make up of May delegation

As part of the original project commitment DG REGIO will provide finance for a delegation of 3 from Belfast to return to South Africa on 14-17th May. One and a half days will be spent in Durban for the final partnership meetings followed by a final World Cities conference in Cape Town on 15th May with all 8 city delegates from the World Cities projects.

3.19 It is proposed the Belfast delegation of 3 (which is funded by EU World Cities) includes:

- A representative from BCC Urban planning / City Centre Regeneration
- A representative of the Catalyst INC or the digital community
- The Sustainable Development Manager / International Relations led.

3.20 The urban planning representative would manage the development of collaboration on urban planning as outlined in Theme 1.

3.21 The representative from the Digital Community will bring forward closer collaboration between the digital communities in both cities as outlined in Theme 2, and both will be involved if the future funding application is successful.

3.22 It would be possible to include others in the delegation but costs would not be covered by DG REGIO.

3.23 Names must be submitted before 15th April 2018. Following this funding application and the outward study visit, a comprehensive report will be brought back to committee for further consideration.

3.24 Committee is asked to consider the make-up of the proposed delegation.

3.25 Finance and Resources Implications

EU World cities will cover full financial and content support for 3 people to participate in the final stage of this programme i.e the outward visit to Durban and Cape Town on 14-17th May 2018. The work has been managed to date by the Sustainable

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Development Manager and is included in her work programme with support from the Development Department International Relations Team.

3.26 Equality and Good Relations

The project has been screened for equality and good relations impacts. There are no equality and good relations impacts at this stage. It should be recognised that this international project provides the opportunity to highlight the role of the Council as a body which is committed to building a peaceful and prosperous city and sharing its expertise internationally.”

The Committee:

1. noted the success of the collaboration between Durban and Belfast to date and, in particular, that it was invited to present to the World Urban Forum UN Habitat in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia on 16 February 2018;
2. agreed the areas of mutual collaboration on urban sustainability challenges which would inform the draft Memorandum of Understanding (a commitment in the initial project);
3. noted that officers were invited to apply for further funding to the EU South Africa Policy Dialogue to further foster business and government links on smart sustainable technology for mutual benefit (closing date 28th March 2018); and
4. agreed an outward delegation of 3 people to Durban and Cape Town, on 13-17th May, for the final conference (fully funded by the Project) comprising:
 - one representative from Catalyst Inc.;
 - 1 Council officer; and
 - the Chairperson of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (or her nominee).

Strategic and Operational Issues

Committee Plan 2018-2019

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that it had held a workshop in February 2018 to focus on its priority areas of work for the year ahead, particularly in relation to Employability and Skills and City Centre Development. She outlined that the draft Committee Plan had been drawn up to help maximise the Committee’s role in delivering on the ambitions within the Belfast Agenda, namely, that by 2035:

- our economy would support 46,000 additional jobs;
- our city was home to 66,000 more people;
- there would be a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods; and

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- every young person leaving school would have a destination which would fulfil their potential.

She explained that the engagement with Members had helped to build officers' understanding of the key issues to lead to more informed decision-making on how to best allocate the Council's resources.

The Committee was advised that, during the workshop, there had been general support from Members for the direction of travel for the city centre and employability and skills programmes of work. The Chief Executive explained that a number of Members had emphasised the importance of supporting inclusive growth through economic and city development.

She highlighted to the Committee that many of the programmes and projects were crosscutting and that there were opportunities to maximise the impact by aligning relevant programmes and actions to areas such as the Smart Belfast Framework and city resilience.

The Committee considered the following key programmes and activities, aligned to each of the Belfast Agenda priorities, which were included in the draft 2018/19 Committee Plan:

“Growing the Economy

- **Support job creation priorities**
- **Shape the development of a Council-wide Inclusive Growth Framework and programme of activities**
- **Promotion and marketing of the city internationally, including at MIPIM and the launch of a standalone website promoting investment and development in Belfast**
- **Launch ‘Belfast: City for Business’ concept, along with the new concierge service and further develop opportunities for partnership working**
- **Continue to develop the city as a tourist destination, including production of an Outline Business Case for a second world-class visitor attraction**
- **International Relations - Further develop Belfast’s Sister City Relationships and continue to build on the relationships with the City of London and with Dublin on the economic corridor**

City Development

- **Deliver a City Centre Liveability Strategy by pursuing opportunities for City Centre Living, working with public and private sector partners to deliver high-quality mixed-tenure residential accommodation**
- **Deliver the City Centre Engagement Plan and improve the capacity of residents and groups to engage in the regeneration and development process**

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- **Secure full planning permission for the development of the Belfast Telegraph site for a scheme targeted at the professional, creative and tech sectors**
- **Implement meanwhile use projects in the city centre, and influence the activity of other partners**
- **Work with partners to influence key developments in the city e.g. UU campus, Transport Hub, Belfast Streets Ahead, Hope Street, York Street Interchange. Royal Exchange, Sirocco, Queens Quay & Greater Clarendon etc.**
- **Work with city stakeholders, including DfI and the private sector, to implement the Car Parking Strategy and emerging Action Plan**
- **Secure approval and progress the East Bank and Inner North West masterplans**
- **Incentivise the development of Grade A office accommodation through the City Centre Investment Fund**
- **Work with Partners to deliver the proposed Belfast Region City Deal application including project selection & provision of supporting information including the Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Plan**
- **Deliver the Belfast Infrastructure Plan to provide a holistic approach to assessing the critical interventions required to deliver the objectives of the Belfast Agenda & the Local Development Plan.**

Working and Learning

- **Ramp up and expand the Employment Academies across the city and across sectors**
- **Increase engagement and early intervention with schools and with young people, both within and outside of the formal school setting**
- **Pilot new approaches to increase engagement and opportunities for reskilling, retraining and apprenticeships for all ages**
- **Deliver and further develop the phased approach to the Belfast Employability Pathway (Belfast Workplace)**
- **Maximise the job and employment opportunities from planning and major redevelopment in the city**

Living Here

- **Progress the City Events and Festivals Strategy and deliver the annual events programme**
- **Develop and progress the ECoC Legacy Programme 2018-2023**
- **Deliver a City Centre Liveability Strategy by pursuing opportunities for City Centre Living, working with**

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public and private sector partners to deliver high-quality mixed-tenure residential accommodation.”

The Committee agreed the draft Committee Plan 2018/2019.

Chairperson

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 18th April, 2018

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Spence (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Councillor Howard);
Alderman L. Patterson; and
Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Canavan, Collins,
Craig, Dudgeon, Groves, Heading, Hussey, Hutchinson,
McConville, McReynolds and Milne.

In attendance: Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Miss N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. J. Cunningham, Regulatory Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Copeland) and Councillor O'Hara.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council, at its meeting on 9th April, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

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

Licences/Permits issued under Delegated Authority

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

Consideration of Entertainments Licences where the Applicant has been Convicted of an Offence – Muriel's Bar

The Committee considered a report in relation to an application for an Entertainments Licence where the applicant had been convicted of an offence under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions (NI) Order 1985 within the previous five years.

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The Building Control Manager reminded the Members that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence applications which were not the subject of objections was that the licence would be granted as provided for in the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, since the applicant had been found guilty of committing an offence within five years of the application for a licence being submitted to the Council, the Committee was required to consider the following application:

Premises and Location	Applicant	Application Type	Offence Details	Date of Conviction & Penalty
Muriel's Bar 12-14 Church Lane, Belfast, BT1 4 QN	Ms Janine Kane JK Pubs Ltd.	Grant	December 2014 <u>The Spaniard</u> Entertainment taking place in an area of the premises not covered by the Entertainments Licence	11 August 2015 £150 and £69 Court costs

Notwithstanding the possibility of refusing an Entertainments Licence on any other grounds, the Council may refuse an application on the grounds that the applicant had been convicted of an offence under the Order.

The Building Control Manager reported that the application was for the grant of an Entertainments Licence at Muriel's Bar and was being placed before the Committee because the applicant had been convicted of offences under the Order at the Belfast Magistrates' Court on 11th August, 2015, regarding one of their other premises; namely, The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street. During an inspection at the Spaniard it was found that entertainment was being provided in the ground floor area, without a valid entertainments licence being in place.

He explained that this was the fourth time an application had been considered since the applicant was convicted on 11th August, 2015 and previous renewal applications for the Spaniard had been considered by the Committee on 20th January, 2016, 19th April, 2017 and 14th February, 2018 and, after consideration, the Committee had agreed to renew the licence on each occasion.

Since the licence for the Spaniard was renewed, the premises had been subject to one during performance inspection, whilst Muriel's had been subject to a grant inspection and it had been found that management procedures were being implemented effectively.

Public notice of the application had been placed and no written representations had been lodged as a result of the advertisements. In addition, both the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service had been consulted and both had confirmed that they had no objections.

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The Committee agreed to grant the Seven-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence in respect of Muriel's Bar, 12-14 Church Lane.

**Entertainments Licence applications for the
Wellington Park Hotel and Botanic Inn**

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

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- 1. Consider an application for the grant of a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Wellington Park Hotel based on the Council's standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment.**
- 2. Consider an application for the variation of the 7-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Botanic Inn based on the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.**
- 3. Update Members on representations, previously discussed at your meeting of 19 April 2017, received from the Lower Malone Residents Association objecting to both applications. The Lower Malone Residents Association has confirmed that they are happy to withdraw their objection on the basis that both licences are issued for a six month period.**

1.2 Members are reminded that all applications for the grant of Outdoor Entertainments Licences and applications for the extension of hours of entertainment beyond 1.00am must be brought before the Committee for consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations made in respect of the applications you are required to make a decision to either:

- 1. Approve the application for the grant of the 7-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Wellington Park Hotel and / or the variation of the 7-day Annual Indoor Entertainments for the Botanic Inn, or**
- 2. Approve the application for the grant of the 7-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence with special conditions, and / or the application for the variation of the 7-day Annual Indoor Entertainments with special conditions, or**

3. Refuse the application for the 7-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and / or the variation of the 7-day Annual Indoor Entertainments.

2.2 If the applications are refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the Recorders Court.

2.3 In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal outdoor entertainment may not be provided at the Wellington Park Hotel until any such appeal is determined and the Botanic Inn will continue with its present hours until that appeal is determined.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

	<u>Premises and Locations</u>	<u>Ref. Nos.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
3.1	Wellington Park Hotel 19-21 Malone Road Belfast BT9 6RU	WK/201600883	Mr Felix Mooney Dunadry Development Company Ltd Wellington Park Hotel 19-21 Malone Road Belfast, BT9 6RU.
3.2	Botanic Inn 23-27 Malone Road Belfast BT9 6RU	WK/201602416	Mr Felix Mooney Cathal GM Ltd Botanic Inn 23-27 Malone Road Belfast, BT9 6RU.
3.3	Both premises currently hold indoor Entertainments Licences and have previously been considered by the Licensing Committee as a result of objections by the Lower Malone Residents Association to the applications although no objections have been received in recent years.		
3.4	A copy of both application forms are attached to this report as Appendix 1.		

Details of the Premises and Proposals

Wellington Park Hotel

- 3.5 The applicant proposes to provide outdoor entertainment within the external beer garden, which is located to the front of the Wellington Park Hotel. The external area will be utilised by both the Botanic Inn and the Wellington Park Hotel.
- 3.6 The proposed occupancy of the external beer garden will be 350 persons.
- 3.7 The capacity of 350 persons for the outdoor area will be included in the existing overall maximum occupancy of the indoor areas; it is not in addition to this occupancy.
- 3.8 Members are advised that the maximum indoor occupancy for both premises will be managed in conjunction with the external area to ensure numbers do not exceed capacity.
- 3.9 The days and hours during which entertainment is proposed to be provided within the external area is as follows:
- Monday to Saturday 11.30 am to 11.00 pm, and
 - Sunday 12.30 pm to 10.00 pm.
- 3.10 The applicant has advised that, if a licence is granted for the area, it is his intention to provide low key entertainment in the form of solo performers, live bands or a DJ through the in-house speaker system.
- 3.11 Layout plans of the proposed external area are attached to this report for your information as Appendix 2.

Botanic Inn

- 3.12 Whilst the applicant applied to provide entertainment to 3.00am from Monday to Saturday this has been revised after discussion with the Lower Malone residents and he now only wishes to extend the hours during which entertainment is to be provided on a Wednesday from 11.30am to 3.00am the following morning.
- 3.13 The areas currently licensed to provide entertainment are the:
- Ground Floor Bar, with a maximum capacity of 550 persons.
 - First Floor, with a maximum capacity of 500 persons.

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3.14 The days and hours during which the premises are currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

- **Monday to Saturday: 11.30 am to 01.00 am the following morning**
- **Sunday: 12.30 am to 12.00 midnight.**

3.15 The current licence has a special condition noting that entertainment may be provided until 2.00am the following morning on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday in the first floor areas only. In addition, entertainment will be permitted to 2.00am should Christmas eve, New Year's eve, St. Patrick's night, Easter Monday, May Day or Halloween fall on a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday or Friday night.

3.16 There are also special conditions that:

- **The Licensee must adhere to the Pubs of Ulster's voluntary code of practice in relation to drinks promotions, and**
- **Licensee to attend, as required, liaison meetings between Belfast City Council Officers, the Lower Malone Residents' Association and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.**

3.17 The premise operates as a public bar and nightclub with entertainment being provided on both floors in the form of bands and DJs.

Representations

3.18 At your meeting of 19 April 2017 it was reported that representations had been received from the Lower Malone Residents Association objecting to both of these applications. The Committee agreed, in view of the explanation which had been provided and relevance of the objections, to exercise its discretion and consider the objections outside the 28-day statutory period at a future meeting of the Committee.

3.19 However, in the interim period there has been ongoing mediation between the parties and an agreement has now been reached whereby the Lower Malone Residents Association has confirmed that they are happy to withdraw their objection on the basis that both licences are issued for a six month period.

3.20 The applicant has confirmed that he would be agreeable to accepting a 6 month licence for both applications.

- 3.21 A copy of the email from Lower Malone Residents Association withdrawing their objection is attached as Appendix 3.

PSNI

- 3.22 The PSNI has been consulted and confirmed that they have no objections to the application.

NIFRS

- 3.23 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has been consulted in relation to the applications and confirmed that they have no objections to them.

Health, safety and welfare inspections

- 3.24 Members are advised that Officers have carried out one recent During Performance Inspection at the Wellington Park Hotel and the conditions of the Entertainments Licence were being adhered to with the exception of some minor issues.

- 3.25 Officers have carried out two recent During Performance Inspection at the Botanic Inn and on each occasion all technical matters were satisfactory and the appropriate measures and management procedures were being implemented effectively.

Building Works to link both premises

- 3.26 As both premises are now owned by the same applicant a link has been created between them at ground floor level. The works included an area of the hotel being altered for use as a pool room. This is in an area that was covered by the existing entertainments licence and the alteration will not increase the occupancy of the area. A Building Regulations application has been received and the works are nearing completion. A copy of the floor plan is attached as Appendix 4.

Noise issues

- 3.27 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the applications and they have confirmed that no complaints have been received relating to noise break out from the premises or due to patron dispersal in the past 12 months.
- 3.28 As the proposal is to provide outdoor entertainment to the front of the Wellington Park Hotel, an acoustic report outlining the measures to be taken to ensure minimal disturbance to neighbouring residential premises, both due to noise breakout or from patron activity, was requested and

forwarded to the Council's Environmental Protection Unit (EPU).

- 3.29 EPU have recommended that, a sound test is conducted to verify that the noise limit proposed of 75 dBL_{Aeq,5mins} will not exceed the background noise level at the façade of the noise sensitive receptors.
- 3.30 Members are advised that Officers will ensure that the technical noise matters are addressed before the Entertainments Licence is granted.
- 3.31 EPU also advised that entertainment in the outdoor area should be managed in line with the Proposed Noise and Nuisance Management Strategy for Botanic Inn, Wellington Park Hotel and the common beer garden which were supplied by the Management. This management document is attached to this report for your information as Appendix 5.
- 3.32 Members may wish to consider making it a condition of the Outdoor licence that the area is managed in accordance with this Management Strategy.
- 3.33 Layout plans of the proposed external area are attached to this report for your information as Appendix 2.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.34 Officers carry out during performance inspections on premises providing entertainment but this is catered for within existing budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 3.35 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report."

The Building Control Manager reported that, subject to the report having been issued, a number of objections had been received from local residents and the Police Service of Northern Ireland in relation to the application for the variation of the entertainments licence for the Botanic Inn. He requested that the Committee might wish to consider deferring that application and consider only at this stage the application for the Wellington Park Hotel.

The Committee:

1. Agreed to defer, to a future meeting, consideration of the application for the variation for the 7-day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for the Botanic Inn to enable officers to comply with the protocol for dealing with the objections and for a further report to be submitted; and

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2. Approved the application for the grant of a 7-day Annual Outdoor entertainments Licence for the Wellington Park Hotel for a 6 month period based on the Council's standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment and subject to all measures as set out in the acoustic report being put in place to the satisfaction of the Council and on the condition that the Outdoor Licence for the area is managed in accordance with the Management Strategy as set out in appendix 5 to the report.

**Consideration of Designating Resolutions for
Street Trading Sites – Hot Food**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 **Members will recall that, at your meeting on 13 December 2017, the Committee considered proposals for Designating Resolutions for a number of Street Trading sites across the City.**
- 1.2 **Committee deferred some of these proposals to allow for additional information to be obtained. Some of those proposals related to the sale of hot food and further information has now been received for consideration.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **Based on the information presented the Committee is requested to consider each proposal in turn and to decide whether to:**
 1. **Approve a Designating Resolution to designate the site, where it may allocate a street trading pitch. The Designating Resolution will include the operational date and may stipulate either:**
 - **Only specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that may be sold or supplied; or**
 - **Specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that are prohibited.**
 2. **Decide not to proceed with the proposal.**
- 2.2 **In addition to making any Designating Resolution, Members may, having considered all comments, record any reasonable conditions that should be applied to a subsequent licence. For example, these may include hours of trade, days of trade, duration of licence, etc.**

2.3 Members are reminded that once a site becomes designated you will subsequently have to consider any applications that may be received for a Street Trading Licence on that site.

2.4 At that time, you will assess the suitability and quality of the proposals and may decide to grant or refuse a licence within the requirements of the Act. Any Street Trading Licence granted may also be subject to reasonable conditions which can be used to control the commodities being sold, and potential nuisance, etc.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The designation process involved seeking comments from interested parties, including relevant statutory bodies, through public advertisement and consultation.

3.2 The Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 requires the Council to ensure that each application is fairly and objectively assessed, that all relevant factors are considered and, in doing so, the Council must consult with the:

- a) PSNI, and
- b) Department for Infrastructure - Roads.

3.3 The Council may also consult other persons as it considers appropriate. Such consultees may include:

- a) Relevant Belfast City Council Departments.
- b) Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM)
- c) Nearby Street Trading Licence holders who may be affected.
- d) Local residents, business and commercial premises in the vicinity of the site in respect of which the application has been received.

3.4 Members are advised that BCCM conducts its business within a determined geographical area of Belfast City Centre and has therefore responded to the proposals at locations within this boundary only.

Deferred applications

3.5 Committee deferred consideration of the designation of the sites in Bridge Street, Donegall Street and Gordon Street for the sale at night of hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities, to enable information to be provided in relation to:

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- a) the location of those hot food stalls which were licensed currently to operate within the City centre;
- b) other applications for the designation of sites for the sale at night of hot and cold food which had been considered by the Committee in the past five years and the outcome of those applications; and
- c) the licensing of hot food stalls in other cities.

3.6 The Committee agreed also that a representative of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, which had objected to the sites being designated, be invited to attend the meeting.

Additional information

3.7

a) There are currently 3 hot food stalls licensed to operate within the City centre at:

- Donegall Street opposite the Kremlin
- Tomb Street
- Donegall Square East at Santander.

b) In the past five years the Committee have considered two separate designation applications for a site at Ormeau Baths for the sale of hot food at night; in January 2014 and March 2015.

3.9 Each time the application was refused as the circumstances had not changed since it was previously refused at Licensing Committee in December 2008. On that occasion the PSNI had expressed concerns that hot food vans at night in this area would encourage people to hang around after closing time causing disturbance and congestion. This would also run counter to the aims of the Community Safety Partnership which is to deter people from remaining in the centre of town and to return home as soon as possible after closing time.

3.10

c) Obtaining information about the licensing of hot food stalls in other cities has proved difficult. A summary of information provided by councils is detailed below:

3.11 **Dublin City Council**

Consider requests for new designations on an annual basis. No specific policy on designation of night time hot food stalls.

3.12 Manchester City Council

No specific night time policy for designations.

3.13 Westminster City Council

Their policy states:

Trading hours for other types of street trading covered by this policy will be set on the basis of promoting the following purposes:

- (a) Preventing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour
- (b) Avoiding public nuisance
- (c) Protecting public safety
- (d) Preventing obstruction of the highway
- (e) Location and neighbouring hours of business activity

Licences will not be granted or varied beyond the hours of 08.00 to 23.00 unless there are exceptional circumstances and to do so would promote the purposes set out above.

3.14 Glasgow City Council

The city centre area has sufficient provision for street trading, therefore no further street traders licences will be granted within the city centre area.

Hot food sites in the city centre cannot operate past 4am, hot food sites outside the city centre cannot operate past 3am. A special dispensation to work past these hours can be granted but must be approved by Committee.

3.15 Edinburgh City Council

Traders selling food will be granted hours of operation no later than 11pm.

3.16 Cardiff City Council

CCC has determined that they will not consider any new applications within the central city area as there are no other suitable locations for street traders available

They have no specific policy on hot food

Consideration of the Designation of new streets or part thereof

- 3.17 Each site is listed separately from A to C and indicated with their specific site location.
- 3.18 Where appropriate, the commodities are also considered in addition to a synopsis of the comments received during the consultation period. Copies of all the responses are also attached to this report for your information as Appendix 1.
- 3.19 Maps and photographs of each location will be presented to you at your meeting.

Site A – Gordon Street, at junction with Dunbar Street beside metal artwork for night time trading.

- 3.20 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a hot food trailer. The site will operate during the night into the morning.

PSNI

- 3.21 Police wish to object to the application. They believe that a Street Trading Pitch here would provide a focus for concentrated groups when licensed premises close leading to disorder and violence.

DFI Roads

- 3.22 No objection.

Department for Communities Belfast Regeneration Directorate

- 3.23 The Department has advised they own the land at Gordon Street with the junction at Dunbar Street. They wish to offer no objection to the proposed designation of a trading pitch nor the commodities to be sold.

Published 28 day Notice

- 3.24 No responses were received to the notice.

Site B – Bridge Street, in lay-by outside 12-16 Bridge Street for night time trading.

The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a hot food trailer. The site will operate during the night into the morning.

PSNI

- 3.26 Police wish to object to the application. They believe that a Street Trading Pitch here would provide a focus for

concentrated groups when licensed premises close leading to disorder and violence.

DFI Roads

- 3.27 The Department has advised that this location is to be changed to a 24hr public hire taxi rank in the very near future. Therefore, no street trading will be allowed at this site.

BCCM

- 3.28 Has no issue with the new designation for night time trading.

Published 28 day Notice

- 3.39 No responses were received to the notice.

Site C – Donegall Street, in parking bay near the junction with Waring Street for night time trading.

- 3.40 The proposal is for hot and cold food and non-alcoholic beverages or similar commodities from a hot food trailer. The site will operate during the night into the morning.

PSNI

- 3.41 Police wish to object to the application. They believe that a Street Trading Pitch here would provide a focus for concentrated groups when licensed premises close leading to disorder and violence.

DFI Roads

- 3.42 The Department has advised that this part of the footway is too narrow to accommodate street trading because of street trees, etc.

Published 28 day Notice

- 3.43 No responses were received to the notice.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.44 The cost of all notices is included in current revenue budgets. The required notice to confirm the designation will cost approximately £5,000 as our policy states that it must be placed in three newspapers for two consecutive weeks.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.45 There are no equality or good relations issues.”

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The Building Control Manager reported that Inspector Hughes, Police Service of Northern Ireland, which had objected to the three applications was in attendance to address the Committee and he was invited to the table and welcomed by the Chairperson.

Inspector Hughes explained that it was the experience of the PSNI that, not just with hot food bars, but most of the establishments, which operated after 2.00 or 3.00a.m in the morning, was that they were a magnet for anti-social behaviour, fights and problems after the nightclubs closed. He stated that often they find that any problems, which happen in the club, will normally spill out and any issues that occurred tend to continue and be settled at the burger bars. He referred to a 24-hour city centre hot food establishment at which there had been numerous problems with serious assaults and antisocial behaviour. He indicated that the previous designations for street trading licences had been in 2002 and Belfast had changed a lot since then and, if applications for those licences were being submitted now, the Police Service would be objecting to them.

Inspector Hughes then answered a number of question from the Members and he retired from the table.

The Committee then considered each of the applications in turn.

**Site A – Gordon Street, at Junction with Dunbar Street
beside metal art work for night time trading**

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

Resolved – That the Committee agrees not to designate the site at Gordon Street as night time street trading pitch on the basis of the objections from the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

**Site B – Bridge Street, in parking bay outside
12 – Bridge Street**

Moved by Councillor Hussy,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

Resolved – That the Committee agrees not to designate the site for night time street trading on the basis of the objections from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure.

**Site C – Donegall Street, in parking bay near the
junction with Waring Street**

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

Resolved – That the Committee agrees not to designate the site for night time street trading on the basis of the objections from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Department for Infrastructure.

**Consideration of the Variation of Designated Commodities
for Street Trading Sites –Sale of Bus Tour Tickets**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting on 13 December 2017, the Committee considered proposals for Designating Resolutions including the variation of designated commodities for a number of Street Trading sites across the City.

1.2 Committee deferred a number of the proposals, some of which related to the sale of bus tour tickets, to allow for further information to be provided which has now been obtained.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Based on the information presented the Committee is requested to consider each proposal in turn and to decide whether to:

1. Approve the variation of the Designating Resolution for either or both sites A and B. The Designating Resolution will include the operational date and may stipulate either:

- Only specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that may be sold or supplied; or**
- Specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that are prohibited.**

2. Decide not to proceed with any or all of the proposals.

2.2 In addition to making any Designating Resolution Members may, having considered all comments, record any reasonable conditions that should be applied to a subsequent licence. For example, these may include hours of trade, days of trade, duration of licence, etc.

2.3 Members are reminded that once the sites become designated you will subsequently have to consider any applications that may be received for a Street Trading Licence on any of the sites.

2.4 At that time, you will assess the suitability and quality of the proposals and may decide to grant or refuse a licence within

the requirements of the Act. Any Street Trading Licence granted may also be subject to reasonable conditions which can be used to control the commodities being sold, and potential nuisance, etc.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 The Designation process involved seeking comments from interested parties, including relevant statutory bodies, through public advertisement and consultation.

3.2 The Street Trading Act (NI) 2001 requires the Council to ensure that each application is fairly and objectively assessed, that all relevant factors are considered and, in doing so, the Council must consult with the:

- PSNI, and
- Department for Infrastructure - Roads.

3.3 The Council may also consult other persons as it considers appropriate. Such consultees may include:

- Relevant Belfast City Council Departments.
- Belfast City Centre Management Company (BCCM)

3.4 Subsequently, the Service has received responses to the applications from a variety of interested parties and individuals.

3.5 Members are advised that BCCM conducts its business within a determined geographical area of Belfast City Centre and is therefore responding to the proposals at locations within this boundary only.

Previously Deferred Decisions of the applications to vary the designating resolutions for sites at Castle Junction Kiosk and Castle Place

3.6 Members are advised that, at your meetings of 16 April 2014 and 18 March 2015, the Licensing Committee had deferred consideration of the applications to vary the designating resolutions for sites at Castle Junction Kiosk and Castle Place (opposite Donegall Arcade) respectively, to provide for the sale of bus tour tickets, pending the outcome of a review which was being undertaken by the Council's Development Department into sightseeing coach provision in the City.

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- 3.7** The outcome of that research had, on 14 October 2015, been presented to the Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee.
- 3.8** In light of that Committee's decision, the Licensing Committee agreed to initiate a new process in relation to those applications to vary the designating resolutions at sites in Castle Place (opposite Donegall Arcade) and the Castle Junction Kiosk. The Committee requested that the Department for Infrastructure, Driver & Vehicle Agency, be specifically consulted on these proposals.

Recently deferred applications

- 3.9** At your meeting on 13 December 2017 Committee deferred consideration of the variation of the designated commodities at the sites in Castle Junction and Castle Place to enable further information to be provided on the previous problems that have been associated with the sale of bus tour tickets and the review which had been undertaken by the Development Department and presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in October 2015.
- 3.10** Members are reminded that neither Belfast City Council nor the Licensing Committee has any legislative authority or responsibility for the licensing of Bus Tours.

Previous problems

- 3.11** Members may be aware that the Council has previously discussed a range of issues associated with hop on hop off bus tours for tourists due to concern that the behaviour of some of the bus tours staff could have a negative impact on the city as a welcoming tourism destination.
- 3.12** A number of agencies including the Council, Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau (BVCB), Northern Ireland Tourist Board (NITB), Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM), PSNI and DfI Driver & Vehicle Agency had become very concerned about problems that have arisen in the City regarding how these tours were being offered and how the tickets were being sold, often through aggressive street selling.
- 3.13** This issue had been of particular concern to BVCB when cruise ships had visited the City. Some days, during the height of the season and in particular on cruise ship days, there had been up to 50 staff 'selling' certain tours to visitors and actively discouraging them from taking another company's tours. The numbers of those selling tickets has decreased in recent years.

- 3.14 **BVCB and some of their accommodation providers had received and reported several complaints and numerous comments all mentioning the fact that visitors are being unduly hassled to buy tickets, together with witnessing bad language, fighting and threats between different companies. All of this impacts negatively on the visitor welcome and visitor experience and deters return visits to the City.**
- 3.15 **As a result BCCM, in conjunction with BVCB, introduced a voluntary Code of Conduct which most bus tour operators had signed up to. BVCB advised that they would not sell the tickets belonging to any company who failed to adhere to the Code of Conduct.**

Review by Development Department

- 3.16 **A copy of the report (and minutes) which was presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in October 2015.**
- 3.17 **The report noted that the Council, through the Licensing Committee, had already issued licences to four street traders to sell tickets. However, two of these sites (in Fountain Street and Fountain Lane) were not currently selling tickets. Those licences were granted at a special meeting of the Licensing Committee in September 2011.**
- 3.18 **At the special meeting in September 2011, Members had heard from objectors, namely Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau, Belfast City Centre Management and Police Service of Northern Ireland, regarding the sale of bus tour tickets. Following discussions, the Committee had agreed to grant the licences to sell bus tour tickets.**
- 3.19 **Reference is made to the applications for the sale of bus tour tickets at Castle Junction and Castle Place, which are the subject of this report, in the City Growth and Regeneration Committee report in October 2015. At paragraph 3.10 it is stated *'Decisions on these applications will be subject to agreement by the Licensing Committee. From the perspective of managing the operations, it would appear logical that the operators use these locations as a base for their ticket sales, given that they are located near the start point for both tours.'***
- 3.20 **Para 3.11 states *'With regard to feedback from tourists, much of the feedback is generally positive with good reviews on social media including the TripAdvisor website. Both companies have recently applied to Tourism NI for the Quality Grading Scheme'***
- 3.21 **Para 3.12 notes *'The main complaints tend to relate to the behaviour of staff on the street, particularly at the time of large***

cruise ship arrivals and on days of high visitor footfall. On these occasions, complaints numbers tend to increase significantly. Most complaints on social media tend to refer to the sales techniques of street staff.'

Additional correspondence received

- 3.22 Committee may wish to note that a licensed street trader, Mr Joseph Rea, who is licensed for Castle Place has written to the Council, his letter is attached as Appendix 3. Mr Rea points out that he has been a licensed trader for 42 years and he had requested that bus tour tickets could be sold at his site.
- 3.23 He has read the Licensing Committee Minutes from your meeting in December 2017. Mr Rea wants to point out that the Lombard Street site which is referred to is 30-40 metres from his site and approximately 10 metres to Carroll's Irish Gifts (shop), both of whom sell Belfast City Sightseeing tour tickets. Mr Rea states that he would sell tickets for Belfast Titanic Tours and this could go a long way, in his opinion, to redress the balance.

Consideration of the variation of designated commodities

- 3.24 Each site is listed separately and indicated with their specific site location.
- 3.25 Where appropriate, the commodities are also considered in addition to a synopsis of the comments received during the consultation period. Copies of all the responses are also attached to this report for your information as Appendix 1.
- 3.26 Maps and photographs of each location will be presented to you at your meeting.

Site A – Castle Junction Kiosk

- 3.27 The current designated site is for the sale of hot and cold non-alcoholic beverages, confectionery, ice-cream and cold food or similar commodities including the sale of theatre and event tickets. The proposal is to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets.

PSNI

- 3.28 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.29 No objection.

Department for Communities Belfast Regeneration Directorate

- 3.30 DfC own the Castle Junction Kiosk (run under licence by a private operator). They have no objection as long as there is no limitation to a single bus tour operator.

Department for Infrastructure Driver & Vehicle Agency

- 3.31 They have consulted with Passenger Transport Licensing and DVA Enforcement for their views and confirmed they have no issues with the proposal.

BCCM

- 3.32 They state they are opposed to the proposed variation to include the sale of bus tour tickets at this location or any other mobile location within Belfast City centre.
- 3.33 Historically, there has been tension between rival bus tour companies which included verbal and physical altercations between staff that have been played out in view of the public, including tourists and visitors to Belfast City centre; such incidents have also been widely reported in the media. BCCM state that when cruise ship visitors alight from shuttle buses in the City, the conduct of rival bus tour staff can appear to be aggressive and intimidating.
- 3.34 Anecdotally, the 2017 summer tourist season was relatively peaceful between the rival bus tour companies; however, we believe that the provision of additional bus tour ticket outlets in Belfast City Centre may increase the chances of confrontations and hostility could escalate between rival bus tour staff.
- 3.35 If the variation of commodities is approved, BCCM recommend that the sale of bus tour tickets is introduced on a trial basis for 6 months and then reviewed to consider what the impact of ticket sales from additional mobile locations has had on the conduct of bus tour staff.

Visit Belfast

- 3.36 They have advised that, if approved, the tenant will be able to decide which operator they sell tickets for and that this will be a commercial decision.
- 3.37 Visit Belfast also consider this is an attractive kiosk and could work well for the sale of bus tickets. However, while relationships have improved between the two bus operators, they still have some concerns that introducing another sales

outlet could cause issues amongst the street staff, with a risk that the area around the Kiosk could become unpleasant for visitors.

- 3.38 They have suggested that the Committee make a temporary provision to allow this variation of commodities for initially up to one year, with conduct around the kiosk monitored by all relevant agencies with a view to extension of the period, or termination, dependent on the results of the trial period.
- 3.39 Members are advised that any such temporary provision would be dealt with during the licensing process if you are minded to vary the designation.

Published 28 day Notice

- 3.40 No responses were received to the notice.

Site B – Castle Place opposite Donegall Arcade

- 3.41 The current designated site allows for the commodity to be determined but excludes the sale of hot food and tour tickets. The proposal is to allow for the sale of bus tour tickets.

PSNI

- 3.42 No objection.

DFI Roads

- 3.43 No objection.

Department for Infrastructure Driver & Vehicle Agency

- 3.44 They have consulted with Passenger Transport Licensing and DVA Enforcement for their views and confirmed they have no issues with the proposal.

BCCM

- 3.45 They state they are opposed to the proposed variation to include the sale of bus tour tickets at this location or any other mobile location within Belfast City centre.
- 3.46 Historically, there has been tension between rival bus tour companies which included verbal and physical altercations between staff that have been played out in view of the public, including tourists and visitors to Belfast City centre; such incidents have also been widely reported in the media. BCCM state that when cruise ship visitors alight from shuttle buses

in the City, the conduct of rival bus tour staff appear to be aggressive and intimidating.

- 3.47 Anecdotally, the 2017 summer tourist season was relatively peaceful between the rival bus tour companies; however, we believe that the provision of additional bus tour ticket outlets in Belfast City Centre may increase the chances of confrontations and hostility could escalate between rival bus tour staff.
- 3.48 If the variation of commodities is approved, BCCM recommend that the sale of bus tour tickets is introduced on a trial basis for 6 months and then reviewed to consider what the impact of ticket sales from additional mobile locations has had on the conduct of bus tour staff.

Visit Belfast

- 3.49 They state that this site is too close to the site at the bottom of Lombard Street, which already sells bus tour tickets, and, if granted, could cause issues between rival companies.
- 3.50 Visit Belfast's preference is for temporary approval to the Castle Junction Kiosk. If for any reason the Castle Junction Kiosk was not suitable, then this option would need to be piloted in the same way as the recommendation for the Castle Junction Kiosk.

Published 28 day Notice

- 3.51 No responses were received to the notice.
- 3.52 Members are advised that should you be minded to grant the variation to either or both Designating Resolutions that it would still be necessary for the trader at each location to apply to the Council to trade in the additional commodity of selling bus tour tickets and that those applications, if received, would be considered at a future meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Financial & Resource Implications

- 3.53 The cost of all notices is included in current revenue budgets. The required notice to confirm the designation will cost approximately £5,000 as our policy states that it must be placed in three newspapers for two consecutive weeks.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

There are no equality or good relations issues."

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After discussion, it was

Moved by councillor Dudgeon,
Seconded by Councillor Craig,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the matter to enable clarification to be obtained from both the Department for Communities and Visit Belfast on the sale of bus tickets at the two sites and for a written legal opinion to be provided on the specified articles, things or services or classes of specified articles, things or services that may be sold.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman L. Patterson,

That the Committee agrees not to grant the variation of the designating resolutions for sites A and B as set out in the report.

On a recorded vote, five Members voted for the amendment and twelve against and it was declared lost.

For 5	Against 12
Aldermen Spence and L. Patterson; Councillors Craig, Dudgeon and Hussey.	Councillors Boyle, Campbell, Clarke, Canavan, Collins, Groves, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, McConville, McReynolds and Milne.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Dudgeon and seconded by Councillor Craig was put to the meeting and passed.

Non-Delegated Matters

**Road Closure – Categorisation of Events,
Fees and Advertising of Notices**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The Committee is requested to consider the contents of the report and the deferred Road Closure report from your meeting of 14 February 2018.**
- 1.2 Members are asked to determine a schedule of fees for applications to close roads and the parameters for placing the legal notice which the Council must publish in respect of each application.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to consider the information presented and make recommendations, subject to any necessary amendments, as to:

- 1. Whether a fee scheme based on indicative notional costs should be established;**
- 2. the categories and definition of events for which fees will be charged;**
- 3. the appropriate paper(s) that may be used to advertise an application for an order;**
- 4. the appropriate fees that are set for events; and,**
- 5. if a concessionary fee should be introduced in respect of voluntary organisations or charities and the level of that fee.**

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

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting in February 2018, you considered the proposed fees for road closures and agreed to defer consideration to enable Officers to discuss with Athletics NI and other relevant parties the fees which they could potentially be required to pay to allow for road closures for 10k runs and other sporting events.

3.2 A copy of the minutes from your February meeting is attached as Appendix 1. As a reminder for Members some of the key points from that report are:

Classification of events

Small local events

3.3 The event is a small, local, neighbourhood event where people attending are not from outside the street (e.g. street party) or immediate neighbourhood. To be considered a 'small event' the event should meet the following criteria:

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1. It is held on minor residential roads (e.g. cul-de-sacs or side streets);
2. The proposed road to be closed must not have a bus route along it;
3. The proposed road to be closed must not have a car park located on it which is accessed via the road to be closed (other than a car park for residents of the road);
4. The event must not be publicised for the general public and therefore will not draw in people from the wider area;
5. The event should apply to residents of one or two streets only and not to larger areas of the district/borough/city. It is up to the Council to consider factors such as the proposed attendance figures, etc. when making its decision on whether to grant an Order.
6. The event should finish by 11.00 pm and:
 - Not have a stage built from which entertainment would be provided
 - Not have amplified entertainment which may cause nuisance to the wider area
 - Not have fireworks, pyrotechnics or bonfires on the street
 - Not have alcohol or food sold at the event.

Large event

- 3.4 If the event does not meet the above criteria, then the event will be considered a large event. This includes all filming events.

Publication of a Legal Notice

- 3.5 The Act requires that the Council must publish a notice in at least one newspaper, circulating in the district, stating that representations may be made in writing to any application for an Order to close a road for a special event.
- 3.6 Members will be aware that the Council has brand guidelines which apply to any advert or notice placed in the press to portray an instantly recognisable visual image for the organisation.
- 3.7 During the Party Briefings there was unanimous agreement on minimising the cost to applicants regarding our requirement to publish a notice in the newspaper.
- 3.8 In light of this Committee may wish to consider adopting the same procedures currently agreed for Entertainments Licence

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advertising and publish the notice in a local newspaper distributed or sold in the area where the special event is being held. Or, if the special event is being held within the City Centre, then the notice will be advertised in either the Belfast Telegraph, Daily Mirror (Northern Ireland Edition), Irish News or Newsletter (Ulster Edition) on a rotational basis as each new application is received.

- 3.9** Where a special event extends beyond the City Centre to various areas of the City, such as the Belfast Marathon, then it is proposed that the advert is placed in one of the four main newspapers. These proposals would be regardless of the notice being for a large or small event.
- 3.10** To help heighten awareness about any proposed road closure the Notice will also be published on the Council's website which will benefit from being available over a longer period of time and to a wider audience.
- 3.11** To ensure Members are kept informed, it is also proposed to notify all Councillors directly of any application to close a road for a special event so that your views may be considered prior to making an Order.
- 3.12** Additionally, anyone who applies to close a road will be required to demonstrate that they have notified those in the vicinity regarding the road closure. This should ensure that the views of those most affected by the closure are also taken into account.
- 3.13** If the Committee agrees to adopt the same procedures currently used for Entertainments Licensing, the overall cost including current salary, employee on-costs and advertising expenditure result in the proposed fees:

Newspaper used	Fee* for Large event	Fee* for Small event	Location of event
Belfast Telegraph	£1000	£800	City centre
Irish News			
Newsletter			
Daily Mirror			
Andersonstown News	£650	£400	Outside city centre
North Belfast News			
South Belfast News			
East Belfast and Shankill Mirror			

*** Fees have been rounded for convenience.**

Concessionary fees

- 3.14** Through the Party Briefings concerns were raised about the impact the Act would have on organisers of community based/small scale events who have limited resources and often rely on small levels of Council funding to assist with the holding of their events.
- 3.15** In setting the fees in respect of Entertainments Licence applications the then Department of the Environment had determined that any application for an outdoor licence by a voluntary organisations or charity would benefit from a reduced fee equivalent to 12.5% of the total standard application fee.
- 3.16** A voluntary organisation is defined as an organisation carrying on activities other than for the purpose of gain by the organisation or individual members thereof. This will include community based organisations whose events are organised in pursuit of a general public benefit, when the funds raised from the event, if any, are used for that purpose.
- 3.17** Members may wish to consider setting a similarly reduced fee for voluntary organisations or charities applying for an Order to restrict the use of or close a road for a small scale event.
- 3.18** If Committee were to agree to this concession then, based on the proposed fees at 3.13, the suggested fee for a small event would be:

Newspaper	<i>Small event total</i>	Concession fee for small events	Location of event
Belfast Telegraph	<i>£800</i>	£100	City centre
Irish News			
Newsletter			
Daily Mirror			
Andersonstown News	<i>£400</i>	£50	Outside city centre
North Belfast News			
South Belfast News			
East Belfast and Shankill Mirror			

- 3.19** During Party Briefings there was wide support for having no charge applied to small scale events. This is a further option for Members to consider.

Deferred actions

- 3.20 Committee deferred consideration to enable Officers to discuss with Athletics NI and other relevant parties the fees which they could potentially be required to pay to allow for road closures for 10k runs and other sporting events.
- 3.21 Officers have met with Mr David Seaton, Chairman and Mr John Allen, General Secretary of Athletics NI and organisers of some of the other running races such as Spar 10k, Laganside 10k, Queens 5k and Belfast marathon.
- 3.22 There was a general preference that running events should still be dealt with as parades, which were facilitated by the PSNI, and meant they paid nothing to hold them on the road. PSNI has advised race organisers that the power now lies with the Councils to deal with these events.
- 3.23 Athletic NI, as the governing body, recognise that the changes, whilst challenging for running clubs, should raise the standard of how running events are organised. It was also accepted that the clear majority of runs on the road already had traffic management plans in place.
- 3.24 During our discussions it became clear that running races fall into two classifications:
1. Commercial events or running races that have a substantial impact on the road network or are within the City centre. Examples, based on current events, would include the Belfast Marathon, ½ Marathon & Craic 10k.
 2. Club runs or running races that have minor impact on the road network and are outside the City Centre in a small geographical area. Examples, based on current events, would include Laganside 10k (mostly off road) & Queens 5k. These types of running races are generally organised by voluntary organisations and any profit made from them is used to fund the activities of the club
- 3.25 It has been suggested that classification 1 running races as above, given their impact across the City, be considered a large event in our pricing schedule and classification 2 running races should be considered eligible for the concessionary fees open to voluntary organisations or charities.

3.26 Members may also wish to consider if classification 1 running races organised by registered charities for fund raising purposes should be included within the voluntary classification and benefit from the reduced fee equivalent to 12.5% of the total standard application fee.

3.27 If so the fees, based on the proposals at 3.13, would be:

**Classification 1 Running Races:
£1000 generally (But a reduced fee of £125 for events organised by registered charities for fund raising purposes).**

Classification 2 Running Races: £50.

3.28 Members may also wish to include triathlons and cycling races within the definition of a running race.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.29 There will be direct financial costs attached to the administration of the Act by the Council and, whilst such costs may be recovered from applicants, decisions in relation to the extent of public notification required and the fee charging option chosen will determine the actual financial implications for the Council.

3.30 As we process more Road Closure applications the resources and costs associated with administering the Act will be reviewed annually to ensure that any necessary adjustments to fees may be brought to Committee for further consideration.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

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

After discussion, the Committee:

1. Agreed the classification of small local events and large events as set out in paragraphs 3.3 and 3.4 of the report and approved the event criteria, with the caveat that the list was not exhaustive and each application would be considered on a case by case basis;
2. Approved the advertising in the newspapers listed in paragraph 3.13 for large events, with the fee for a City centre event being £1000 and for outside the city centre £650;
3. Approved the advertising listed in paragraph 3.18 for small events, with a zero fee being set for both City centre and outside City centre events;
4. Agreed to the classification of running races as set out in 3.24 of the report, with the fee for Classification 1 Running Races being £1000 (but a reduced fee of £125 for events run by registered charities for

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- fund raising purposes); and to a zero fee being set for Classification 2 Running Races;
5. Agreed that triathlon and cycling races be included within the definition of a running race and that the definition of a voluntary organisation be as set out in 3.16 of the report; and
 6. To a review of the resources and costs associated with administering the Act being undertaken after 6 months.

Restricted Item

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

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion of this item as, due to the nature of the item, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

**Application for the Grant of an
Entertainments Licence S13**

The committee agreed that a special meeting be held, on a date to be determined by the Chairperson, to consider an application for an Entertainments Licence for S13, Boucher Road.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Tuesday, 17th April, 2018

MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor McDonough-Brown (Deputy Chairperson);
Alderman McGimpsey;
Councillors Armitage, Carson, Dorrian,
Garrett, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston,
Magee, McAteer and Mullan.
- In attendance: Mr. K. Sutherland, Development Planning and Policy
Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Divisional Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Development Engagement Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Lyons.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th and 15th March were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 9th April, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 6.g. LA04/2018/0593/F - Temporary single storey open timber structure at CS Lewis Square, Councillors Armitage, Dorrian and Johnston declared an interest, in so far as they sat on the board of the Eastside Partnership, however they had not formed any opinion on the matter prior to the meeting.

In respect of item 6.l. LA04/2017/0875/F - New 2 , 3 and 4 storey building proposed use class B2 and B4 (light industrial and storage and distribution) on the ground floor and use class B1 (b) and (c) (call centre and research and development) on the upper floors with demolition of existing two storey building (current use class B1 (c) and the existing 3.1 metre high metal railings and fence at Duncairn Gardens, Councillor McDonough-Brown declared an interest, in that a family member was a tenant of the North City Business Centre, however, he had not formed any opinion on the matter prior to the meeting.

Committee Site Visits

Pursuant to its decision of 13th March, it was noted that the Committee had undertaken a site visit on 28th March in respect of the following planning applications:

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- LA04/2016/0564/F - Additional waste types, and the installation of a metal shredder and associated conveyor belt systems at Avenue Recycling, 1 Advantage Way, Ballygomartin Road; and
- LA04/2016/0563/F - Variation of conditions 3 and 7 of planning permission Z/2005/2312/F to allow for external unloading, transfer and storage of waste and increase to opening hours, additional 2 hours per day.

Vesting Order

The Committee noted the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Communities in relation to the Notice of Intention to make a Vesting Order of land between North Street and Samuel Street.

Planning Appeals Notified

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

Planning Decisions Notified

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been taken under the delegated authority of the Director of Planning and Place, together with all other planning decisions which had been issued by the Planning Department between 6th March and 9th April, 2018.

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that item LA04/2018/0522/F - Remove condition 7 - LA04/2015/1102/F (Occupancy Condition) on 42 Strathmore Park had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Planning Applications

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

LA04/2017/2525/F - 2 storey rear extension with side elevation changes at 10 Rosetta Drive

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application.

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the applicant was related to a member of Council.

The case officer informed the Committee that, after the agenda had been published, the following points of objection had been received from residents:

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- A signed petition;
- Objection to the approval of the planning application on the basis that it was a business venture for rental accommodation and the impact it would have on the surrounding area and residents;
- The dwelling would be used as a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO); and
- Loss of light to the rear of objector's property.

The case officer outlined the response of the Planning Department to the aforementioned issues raised, as set out in the Late Items Report Pack.

The Committee received a representation from Mr. M. Marshall in objection to the application, on behalf of residents. He suggested that the applicant, Mr. S. Boyle, was not currently living in the property and might never live at the property in the future. He suggested that the development of the property was intended for profit and was a business venture of Councillor Boyle.

He suggested that the property had been advertised 'To Let' for the last two months by Boyle Properties. He suggested that the design was unprecedented in the area and was typical of a property intended for a House of Multiple Occupancy and not for family use.

He highlighted that there had been a number of objections submitted to the Planning Department together with a signed petition from surrounding residents who had not been consulted by the applicant. He suggested further that the development would have a detrimental impact on the residents of the area and that the Committee should refuse the application to preserve the community and neighbourhood.

The Committee received representation from Councillor Craig who outlined his support for the case officer's recommendation for approval. In relation to the objectors' comments regarding the use of the property, he suggested that they were just assertions and the Committee should judge the application as set out in the report. He highlighted that if the house was to be used as a HMO in the future, the applicant would be required to apply for HMO status. He suggested that the property had been in the applicant's family for many years and had been purchased by the applicant who intended to live in it. He suggested there had been a number of similar applications that had been approved in the area.

During discussion, the case officer clarified that:

- the petition which had been received from the residents had 58 signatures;
- the site was not within a HMO node; and
- there were no record of HMO's on the street at present.

She advised that there were a number of two storey extensions in the area and the addition of a condition in relation to usage or ownership would not be appropriate in

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this case. She highlighted that any change of use to the property would be subject to application and enforcement, if required.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2018/0122/F - Demolition of existing teaching block; development of new science building containing 10 classrooms, "social amphitheatre", 6th form study space, WC's, plant room, roof terrace and greenhouse; landscaping; and reconfiguration of existing car park and drop-off areas to be accessed from existing site access and internal road, Campbell College , Belmont Road

The Committee considered the aforementioned application at a site located within the Campbell College and Ormiston Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance/ Local Landscape Policy Area as designated in the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan.

The case officer highlighted that, during consultation, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency's Natural Environment Division (NED) had requested some points of clarification that the Planning Department had responded to, however, a final response from the NED remained outstanding.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2016/2359/F - Demolition of existing buildings for 7 storey office building with retail unit on ground floor at 46-52 Upper Queen Street and 11a Wellington Street

The Case officer outlined the application for the demolition of existing buildings (LA04/2016/2341/DCA) and the erection of a 7-storey office building with a retail unit on the ground floor.

During discussion, Members raised concerns in relation to the merits of the proposal when considered against the contribution of the existing building to the character of the Conservation Area and the wider streetscape together with the potential impact on Wellington Street.

The case officer confirmed that internal site visits had confirmed that no architectural features remained and the upper floors were not currently occupied. He confirmed that the conservation officer considered that the building should be retained, although it was not listed.

The Committee, given the issues which had been raised regarding the contribution of the building to the character of the area, agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposal at first hand.

Reconsidered Item LA04/2017/1505/F – 15 residential apartments at 1-3 Eia Street

(Councillor Hutchinson took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the application since he had not been in attendance at the meeting on 13th February or 13th March when it had originally been considered.)

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th February, it had agreed to defer consideration of the application to enable a site visit to be undertaken, and at its meeting on 13th March, it had agreed to further defer consideration of the application to enable it to be reconsidered by officers and potential reasons for refusal to be outlined for consideration in an amended report at the next meeting.

The case officer advised that on review of the issues raised, two possible reasons for refusal had been outlined in the report as follows:

1. The proposal was contrary to Policy QD1 of PPS 7 and Policy LC1 of PPS 7 Addendum in that it represented overdevelopment of the site and the proposed resulting density was significantly higher than that found in the established residential area in that the proposal was inappropriate and harmful to the character of the site and did not respect the surrounding context; and
2. The proposal was contrary to Policy QD1 of Planning Policy Statement 7 in that adequate provision had not been made for appropriate private open space as an integral part of the development.

However, the recommendation remained that the application should be approved.

The Committee refused the application for the reasons as set out in the case officer's report.

Reconsidered Item LA04/2016/0563/F - Variation of conditions 3 and 7 of planning permission Z/2005/2312/F to allow for external unloading, transfer and storage of waste and increase to opening hours (additional 2 hours per day) at 1 Ballygomartin Industrial Estate, Ballygomartin Road; and

Reconsidered Item LA04/2016/0564/F - Additional waste types and construction of noise barriers walls at 1 Ballygomartin Industrial Estate, Ballygomartin Road

(Councillor Hutchinson took no part in the discussion or decision-making of the applications since he had not been in attendance at the meeting on 13th March when it had originally been considered.)

(Councillor Garrett had left the room whilst the items were under consideration.)

The Committee agreed to consider the aforementioned applications together.

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The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th March, it had agreed to defer consideration of the applications to enable a site visit to be undertaken to allow the Committee to acquaint itself with the location and the proposals at first hand.

LA04/2016/0563/F

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2016/0564/F

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

(Councillors Garrett and Hutchinson returned to the Committee table at this point.)

LA04/2018/0593/F - Temporary single storey open timber structure at CS Lewis Square

It was noted that the application, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, had been presented to the Committee since the Council was the landowner of the development site.

The case officer advised that, since the agenda had been published, a consultation response had been received from Environmental Health with no objection to the application.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

LA04/2018/0098/F - Change of use from retail to amusement arcade and alterations to shop front [relocation of Oasis centre from 19 North Street] 73-75 North Street

The Development Engagement Manager provided an overview of the application.

During discussion, the Development Engagement Manager advised that the proposed Oasis amusement arcade was relocating to the site from 19 North Street, however, since planning permission was attached to the land, a formal mechanism would be needed to ensure that the existing and proposed premises did not operate concurrently as amusement arcades and the applicant had been asked to put forward a mechanism for this.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

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LA04/2018/0095/F - Demolition of partition wall to amalgamate part of 9 Wellington Place into 7 Wellington Place to extend existing amusement/gaming centre use and conversion from retail use, subdivision of 9 Wellington Place to form a retail unit at 9 Wellington Place

The Development Engagement Manager outlined the application for the internal extension of a gaming centre into the adjoining building and associated internal reconfiguration.

The Development Engagement Manager advised that Listed Building Consent was also sought under associated application LA04/2018/0131/LBC.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the officer's report.

LA04/2015/1492/F - Residential development comprising of 5 townhouses and 13 apartments with associated car parking and landscaping on land adjacent to McKinney House, Musgrave Park

The Committee was apprised of the principal aspects of the application and the context for where the proposed development would take place.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out within the case officer's report.

LA04/2017/0875/F - New 2 , 3 and 4 storey building proposed use class B2 and B4 (light industrial and storage and distribution) on the ground floor and use class B1 (b) and (c) (call centre and research and development) on the upper floors with demolition of existing two storey building (current use class B1 (c) and the existing 3.1 metre high metal railings and fence at Duncairn Gardens

The case officer provided an overview of the application for the demolition of an existing office building and the construction of a replacement office building of a greater height and floor space.

The Committee granted approval to the application, subject to the imposing of the conditions set out in the case officer's report and delegated power to the Director of Planning and Place for the final wording of the conditions.

Miscellaneous Items

Restricted Item

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

Local Development Plan Draft Strategy

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Before the item was presented, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report so that Members could review the LDP Draft Strategy further and requested that a special meeting, on a date to be determined by the Chairperson, be scheduled in May to discuss the matter.

Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan

Before the item was presented, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report so that Members could review the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan further and requested that this item also be placed on the agenda of the aforementioned special meeting.

Belfast Housing Land Availability Summary Reports

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide an overview of the Council’s Housing Land Availability Summary Reports for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 monitoring periods.

These reports present the outcomes of annual housing land monitoring and help inform the preparation of the new Local Development Plan (LDP) for the District. They provide a snapshot of the amount of land available for new residential development as of 1st April each year.

2.0 Recommendations

Note the outcomes of the annual Housing Monitor reports for 2015/16 and 2016/17 contained at Appendix 1 and 2 (copy available [here](#)) respectively and the intention to publish these summaries on the Council’s website.

3.0 Main report

Background

Monitoring of housing delivery has been on-going across the Region since the late 1990s, under the responsibilities of the former Department for Environment’s (DOE) Planning Service. Summary Reports for the Region, including a breakdown within the old Belfast local government district, are available from the NI Planning Portal¹ to cover the period from 2004 to 2013. However, no data was published following 1 August 2013.

¹ www.planningni.gov.uk/index/policy/dev_plans/policy_housing_availability.htm

The Planning Act (NI) 2011 requires that the Council to make an annual report to the Department for Infrastructure outlining the extent to which the objectives set out in the LDP are being achieved. As the Council are currently preparing the first new LDP for Belfast under this new legislation, the production of Annual Monitoring Reports has not yet commenced. Instead, annual Housing Land Availability Monitor (referred to as the 'Housing Monitor') reports are being prepared by the Council until the new LDP is adopted.

Housing Land Availability Reports

The primary purpose of the Housing Monitor is to inform the formulation of the Council's new LDP. However, it will also help the Council identify where a shortfall in potential land supply might exist and can inform house-builders on the availability of land that may be suitable for housing.

The two Housing Land Availability Summary Reports contained at Appendix 1 and 2 present the headline figures from a register of potential housing land maintained by the Council, based on current planning policy designations and planning permissions. This includes the net gains in housing units each year, as well as providing a snapshot of the amount of land available for new homes and capacity for future housing units as at 1st April each year. This information is summarised within each report in relation to:

- Each settlement within the District, including settlement areas in the case of Belfast City;
- Whether land falls within the existing urban footprint² or is classified as greenfield land; and
- The type of land use zoning (i.e. land zoned for housing, land zoned for mixed use development, non-zoned land, etc.).

During the 2016/17 monitoring year 714 units were completed on 17.4 ha of land across the District. 425.8 ha of land remains, with potential capacity for 23,170 residential units. The total number of dwellings completed in the district has risen by 28.6% from 555 in 2015/16 to 714 in the current monitor year. The proportion of dwellings completed within the Urban Footprint is recorded at over 93% during both monitoring periods and, as at 1 April 2017, almost 40% of the remaining potential available for future dwellings is on land zoned for housing or mixed use development.

² The continuous built-up area of the settlement.

It is emphasised that the monitor represents a register of housing land based on current policy designations and planning permissions, rather than an accurate picture of viable housing land. It is the role of an Urban Capacity Study, which forms part of the evidence base for the new LDP, to assess the suitability, availability and achievability of monitored sites, alongside the identification of new sites that could be later zoned for residential use as part of the LDP process. Potential sources of additional capacity over and above housing monitor sites could include, for example, increasing density of development on existing sites, utilising vacant floor space above commercial premises, the re-zoning of employment land or consideration of urban extensions.

The 2015/16 Report at Appendix 1 also contains a summary of the historic DOE housing monitor from 2004 to 2013, remodelled to the new Belfast District boundary. Although this data matches the new boundary, differences in methodology and the annual monitoring periods mean this information cannot be directly compared to the Council monitoring data produced since the transfer of planning on 1 April 2015.

Members are asked to note the outcomes of the two annual Housing Monitor reports and the intention to publish these summaries on the Council's website. Future housing monitor reports will then be published on an annual basis as soon as practical following the completion of each monitoring period (31 March each year).

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or other resource implication arising from this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The Housing Monitor reports present factual information and make no recommendations relating to the future allocation of land for housing. There are therefore no equality or good relations implications arising from this report."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Chairperson