

# Public Document Pack

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

23rd January, 2019

## **MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose copies of the report for the following items 2d, 3c, 3d and 4b, together with additional items 7c and 9f to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 25th January, 2019.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

#### **2. Restricted Items**

(d) Recruitment and Selection of Chief Officer Posts (Pages 1 - 6)

#### **3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

(c) Motion: Councillors' Code of Conduct (Pages 7 - 10)

(d) Motion: Definition of anti-Semitism (Pages 11 - 16)

#### **4. Governance**

(b) Conflicts of Interest (Pages 17 - 20)

#### **7. Finance, Resources and Procurement**

(c) Appreciative Inquiry into Health and Wellbeing in North Belfast (Pages 21 - 28)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (f) EV Study visit (Pages 29 - 32)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion: Councillors' Code of Conduct
<b>Date:</b>	25th January, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion and subsequent amendment in relation to the Councillors' Code of Conduct, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.
1.2	Members should note a report relating to a recent adjudication by The Commissioner for Local Government Standards is also on the agenda for consideration.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the motion and to take such action thereon as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the meeting of the Council held on 7th January, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Mullan:

*“This Council recognises the need for clarity around the Councillors’ Code of Conduct and, in particular, the need for clear guidance to be issued by the Ombudsman’s Office in respect of declarations of interest.”*

3.2 Councillor Boyle sought and was granted approval by the Council to amend his motion to reflect that the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards be invited to meet with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to discuss the issues raised within his motion.

3.3 Subsequently, the following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor Lyons and seconded by Councillor Attwood:

*That the motion under the heading “Councillors’ Code of Conduct”, as amended, be amended to provide for the addition of the following wording “and, in order to increase clarity and transparency and in consideration of many of the public realm projects which the Council undertakes, resolves that each Member will immediately publish on point 6 of their mandatory register of interests the full postal address of each property in which they have a beneficial interest, along with any land in which they have a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for twenty-eight days or longer, which is located within the Belfast City Council boundary, with the exception of their permanent home address, for which a postcode will suffice, and that they shall provide/renew this information before the end of each financial year.*

3.4 Councillor Boyle confirmed that he did not wish to incorporate the amendment into his motion.

3.5 The Chief Executive informed the Council that Councillor Lyons’ amendment would, if adopted, be subject to officers confirming that it did not extend beyond the Council’s legal remit, as defined within the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

3.6 The Lord Mayor informed Councillor Boyle that he could, subject to Council approval, request that the motion be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to allow for legal advice to be sought on the amendment which had been proposed by Councillor Lyons.

Accordingly, it was

	<p>Moved by Councillor Boyle, Seconded by Councillor Craig,</p> <p>That the Council agrees that the motion standing in his name, as amended, be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to allow for legal advice to be sought on the additional amendment which had been proposed by Councillor Lyons.</p> <p>On a recorded vote, forty-two Members voted for the proposal and three against and it was declared carried.</p> <p>3.7 The proposed amendment of the motion is not competent. The Code, which has a statutory root, does not prescribe the necessity of providing a postcode when registering an interest. Accordingly a declaration could be made in respect of ownership or beneficial interest without the postcode being provided. Members are reminded that Article 8 of ECHR creates a qualified right in respect of privacy. The requirement to provide information and the extent of the information to be provided must be established through the Code of Conduct which has a statutory footing.</p> <p>3.8 <u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p>3.9 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion on Anti-Semitism
<b>Date:</b>	25th January 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the definition of anti-Semitism as outlined in the “Motion of Definition of Anti-Semitism” in accordance with the decision to refer the matter back to committee at Council on 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	That consideration of the definition of anti-Semitism as outlined in the Notice of Motion be referred to the Shared City Partnership for deliberation.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2019, it was agreed that the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 14 <sup>th</sup> December, under the heading “Motion –

	Definition of Anti-Semitism”, insofar as it relates to the definition of anti-Semitism, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.
3.2	In the original motion which had been proposed at the Council meeting on 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2018 by Councillor Craig and seconded by Councillor Boyle, it was requested that the following definition of anti-Semitism be adopted:
3.3	<i>“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”</i>
3.4	In the meantime, correspondence has been received from the Belfast Jewish Community asking that their submission be considered as part of the report. A copy of the correspondence is attached at Appendix 1.
3.5	Members may wish to refer the matter to the Shared City Partnership for deliberation after which it will then be brought back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.
3.3	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this item.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75 which includes different religious, political or racial backgrounds. If a policy is deemed to have a potentially negative impact, then the Council must explore mitigating actions to alleviate the negative impact.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Copy of submission from the Belfast Jewish Community

# ***BELFAST JEWISH COMMUNITY***

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Mr J Walsh LL.B. LL.M.  
Town Solicitor  
Belfast City Council  
Chief Executive's Department  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

Dear John

I enclose a submission from the Belfast Jewish Community in relation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism which I would be grateful if you could take into consideration when preparing your report to Council.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# ***BELFAST JEWISH COMMUNITY***



## **Submission to Belfast City Council by the Belfast Jewish community regarding the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.**

The Belfast Jewish Community calls upon Belfast City Council to show solidarity with the community in the face of rising antisemitism by indicating the Council's support for the IHRA definition of Antisemitism.

The Belfast Jewish Community in recent years has experienced attacks on property, including desecration of one of its cemeteries, daubings and attacks on the synagogue, and serious threats and abuse on social media.

National recorded instances of antisemitism have been at a record high level for the past two years – with over 100 serious instances recorded every month by the Community Security Trust, an NGO that records and monitors antisemitic incidents.

In common with other Jewish communities nationally and internationally, the Belfast Jewish Community regards the IHRA definition of antisemitism as a crucial tool in identifying and tackling antisemitism.

*The Belfast Jewish Community looks to Belfast City Council to recognise the importance of the definition to the Belfast Jewish Community and in consequence to express its own support.*  
The Belfast Jewish Community notes the definition has been adopted in full by over 150 local authorities across the UK as well as the UK Government, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly.

### **Why a definition of Antisemitism is necessary**

Antisemitism has been called 'the Longest Hatred'. It can come in many shapes and forms: street racism, state-backed terrorism, lunatic conspiracy theories, sly remarks, Holocaust denial and inversion, or in supposedly intellectual and academic works which is why definitions of antisemitism are important in guiding agencies in tackling it.

The IHRA definition is nearly identical to the definition issued in 2005 by the European Union's Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia. Then the EU's leading anti-racism body, it drafted the definition because of rapidly worsening antisemitism across Europe. Their definition was for diverse European police forces, prosecutors and governments to better understand antisemitism, so their actions against it could be better assessed by European anti-racism officials and Jewish communities. Since then the situation has worsened with thousands of Jews have fled France, Belgium and other countries. They have faced suspicion, blame, exclusion, hatred, attack and murder on the supposed basis of anti-Israel hatred. In Britain, the situation is slightly better.

### **The examples in the definition and criticisms of Israel**

The definition states that 'criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic', but points out that antisemitic language is sometimes directed at Israel. It then gives a list of behaviours that 'could, taking into account the overall context', indicate antisemitism. It is not legally binding but it can be helpful in identifying antisemitic speech or images, and is recognised by the Jewish community as the standard non-legal definition of antisemitism. Many of the examples in the definition are used to help guide agencies in determining the context of antisemitic hate crime.

# ***BELFAST JEWISH COMMUNITY***



## **How freedom of speech is protected.**

The definition is non-binding. It is used as a guide for law enforcement. Free speech on any subject to do with the Middle East remains protected. Using anti-Semitic language whilst talking about the Middle East is no excuse for antisemitism.

The IHRA definition has straightforward caveats that guard against it being misused to curtail freedom of speech. They are plainly expressed:

“Criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”

“Contemporary examples of antisemitism...could, taking into account the overall context, include...”

## **Support for the IHRA definition from Governments, local councils, political parties and other bodies.**

The definition has been adopted by the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru. It has also been adopted by over 160 local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales, including the Combined Authorities of Greater London, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and Tees Valley. This is in addition to the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales.

Alongside the government, the CPS have adopted the definition to assist in prosecutions of antisemitic hate crime.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Conflicts of Interest
<b>Date:</b>	25 January 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sarah Williams, Programme Manager Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to establish procedures for noting interests declared following a recent adjudication by the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<u>Background</u>
2.1	The Commissioner for Local Government Standards made a number of recommendations in respect of a recent adjudication in relation to a complaint relating to declarations of interest. Analysis of the adjudication has also led the City Solicitor to make recommendations which he believes necessary to assist members to comply with the code.

	<p>You are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree the recommendations in respect of administrative arrangements for declarations and absence from meetings, to include late arrival at meetings after a matter in which you may have had an interest has been discussed</li> <li>2. Note that Members must declare interests in relation to the suspension/closing of funding if they have an interest in any active application being considered through that funding stream.</li> <li>3. Note that the City Solicitor will establish workshop type training for party groups on declarations of interest to enhance members understanding of their obligations</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Following a recent adjudication by the Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards, the City Solicitor wishes to establish a procedure for declarations of interest.
3.2	The adjudication establishes the necessity of not only declaring an interest but also recording the fact that the member has left the room whilst the matter is under consideration. The committee clerk will routinely record the declaration and will also note that those members have left the room for the duration of the discussion on that item. It is necessary not only to declare the interest but the nature of the interest. If a member seeks to rely on a dispensation which would allow them to take part in the discussion then this must also be declared. If a member arrives late to a meeting and an item has been dealt with in respect of which they would have had to declare an interest if present they must make the committee clerk aware of this fact and it will be noted. This will be published with the minute. Members should be alert to checking minutes to ensure that the declarations and absence from the meeting have been properly recorded.
3.3	On the Commissioner's current interpretation of the Code your participation in a decision to close or suspend funding may be perceived as advantaging any active application which you may have promoted or in which you have an interest. Members will be reminded that declarations are required if they have any interest in active applications under consideration. The City Solicitor has written to the Commissioner to seek clarity in respect of this issue and that of dispensations relating to participation in decision making and decisions.



3.4	The rules relating to declarations of interest appear relatively straightforward but are much more complex in their practical application. In addition no meaningful guidance is offered allowing members to know with any degree of certainty those interests which might be deemed to be significant. As members may have various scenarios they wish to explore with regard to their own situations it is suggested that workshop type training be given to groups with particular issues on which advice is sought made known in advance.
3.5	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None.
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Appreciative Inquiry into Health and Wellbeing in North Belfast
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy & Partnership Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>On 4 September 2018, Ashton in partnership with Lighthouse, Ulster University (UU), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSC), Public Health Agency (PHA) and Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) launched an Appreciative Inquiry (AI) into health and wellbeing in North Belfast. The event was formally launched by UU Deputy Vice Chancellor Alastair Adair, Belfast City Council (BCC) and the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Deirdre Hargey.</p> <p>This report presents an update on the work of the inquiry and informs members of a request from Ashton for financial support.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the request to make a match funding contribution of £10,000 to support the work of the Appreciative Inquiry. This request should be considered in the context of the SP&amp;R</li> </ul>

	Committee decision noted on 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2018; ‘that no further in year budget reallocations should be considered until the year-end position is presented to Committee in June 2019’.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<p><b><u>KEY ISSUES</u></b></p> <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>3.1 AI is a four-stage process of searching, developing and creating a desired future for an organisation or community, the inquiry underpins a larger Healthy North Belfast (HNB) project. AI was selected as a model for taking the HNB project forward because it seeks to engage stakeholders in self-determined change in a positive holistic focused way with the goal of co-designing and co-producing a transformational plan for North Belfast.</p> <p>3.2 This AI process is led by a HNB Task Group established on the 8 October 2018 (see Appendix 1). Members are drawn from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based organisations</li> <li>• Politicians</li> <li>• Public sector departments and agencies</li> <li>• Decision makers/senior staff members.</li> </ul> <p>3.3 The purpose of the HNB Task Group is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-produce an imaginative and innovative whole system approach to change aimed at improving health and wellbeing outcomes for people of North Belfast</li> <li>• Engage and involve the North Belfast community in a process of positive inquiry that builds on community strengths, assets &amp; resources to change how health and wellbeing is experienced.</li> <li>• Involve the community and stakeholders around two key questions: What Works Well and What Can Be Done to Make it Better?</li> <li>• Use the Appreciative Inquiry to drive a culture change process at community and agency levels.</li> <li>• Collectively make recommendations and help implement decisions emerging as a result of the Appreciative Inquiry process.</li> </ul> <p>3.4 A steering group is in place to guide the process (see Appendix 2), this group is convened before the wider Task Group meetings to coordinate, monitor and report on the progress of Task &amp; Finish Groups.</p>

- 3.5 The first task of the Steering group was to conduct a map of current assets, systems and connections. This work has recently been completed and will be reported to the Task Group at the end of January.
- 3.6 BCC are represented on both the Task Group and the Steering Group. It is the intention of Chief Officers to revisit membership to reflect the appointment of the new area manager for North Belfast.
- 3.7 The terms of reference states that the inquiry will be delivered over four stages by October 2019 (see below).

Stages and expected timings	
Stage 1	Discovery 1 (October–December 2018)
Stage 1	Discovery 2 (January–March 2019)
Stage 2	Dream (April–June 2019)
Stage 3	Design & Co-produce (July–Sept. 2019)
Stage 4	Destiny & Do (October 2019)

**Funding**

- 3.8 Ashton have estimated the total cost of the Inquiry to be £98,500. To date they have secured £10,000 from the Victims and Survivors Service and a further commitment of £10,000 from the Health and Social Care Board (subject to match funding from other partners).

Ashton have approached BCC, in its role as a member of the Task Group, to provide £10,000 of match funding. This match funding is in addition to the in-kind support provided by Senior Officers to support the work of the inquiry.

**FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.9 There is currently no funding ring-fenced to meet this request. Members are reminded of the decision noted by SP&R Committee in November 2018 that no further in year budget reallocations should be considered until the year end position is presented to Committee in June 2019.

**EQUALITY OR GOOD RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS/RURAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 3.10 No implications

**4.0 Appendices – Documents attached**

Appendix 1 – Task Group Membership  
Appendix 2 – Steering Group Membership

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## **Appendix 1 - Health North Belfast (HNB) Task Group Members**

**Richard O'Rawe – Ashton Chairperson (Facilitator)**

**Irene Sherry – Ashton Head of Victims and Mental Health Services (Lead Executive)**

1. Jo Murphy – Lighthouse Manager
2. Siobhan O'Neill – Professor of Mental Health Sciences, School of Psychology Ulster University
3. Seamus McAleavey – Chief Executive, NICVA
4. Marie Heaney, Director of Adult Social and Primary Care, BHSCCT
5. Bryan Nelson – Co Director Public Health BHSCCT
6. Joan Devlin – Chief Executive Belfast Healthy Cities
7. Nigel Grimshaw – BCC Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
8. Grainia Long – Commissioner for Resilience BCC
9. Margaret Bateson – CEO Victims and Survivors Service (VSS)
10. Brendan Bonner – Public Health Agency (PHA) Head of Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement
11. Paul Roberts – Chief Executive, Ashton
12. Gerard Collins – Department of Health (DoH) Health Improvement Policy Branch
13. Marc Bailie – DoH Family and Children's Policy Directorate
14. Iain Deboys – Commissioning Lead, Health and Social Care Board (HSCB)
15. Mary McKee - Strategic Adviser Social Regeneration, SIB
16. Mark Tully – Professor of Public Health UU
17. Carál Ni Chulín – North Belfast Sinn Féin MLA
18. Paula Bradley - North Belfast DUP MLA
19. Nichola Mallon – North Belfast SDLP MLA
20. Gerry Kelly – North Belfast Sinn Féin MLA
21. William Humphrey - North Belfast DUP MLA
22. John Roberts - PSNI
23. Dr Dermot Maguire – Integrated Care Partnership Lead, North Belfast
24. Brian Grzymek – Deputy Director of Criminal Justice Policy and Legislation Division, Department of Justice
25. Robin Hawe – Head of Belfast Place Shaping Unit , NIHE
26. Geoff Beattie – Head of the Belfast area Office, Department's Community Engagement Division, DfC
27. Alison Chambers, Director of Promoting Collaboration, Tackling Disadvantage Directorate, Department of Education

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## **APPENDIX 2 - Health North Belfast (HNB) steering group Members**

Richard O’Rawe – Ashton Chairperson (Facilitator)

Irene Sherry – Ashton Head of Victims and Mental Health Services (Lead Executive)

Jo Murphy – Lighthouse Manager

Siobhan O’Neill – Professor of Mental Health Sciences, School of Psychology Ulster University

Marie Heaney, Director of Adult Social and Primary Care, BHSCT

Brendan Bonner - Assistant Director of Public Health, Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement

Joan Devlin – Chief Executive Belfast Healthy Cities

Christine Robinson – Strategy, Policy and Partnership Manager: City and Organisational Strategy, BCC

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<b>Subject:</b>	Electric Vehicle Study Visit 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2019
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Clare Mc Keown Sustainable Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform members of an invitation to the Sustainable Development Manager to participate in a 100% funded study visit to examine world-class electric vehicle infrastructure and associated smart technology in California. The study visit will also examine the wider role of City Authorities in promoting the uptake of electric vehicles (EV's). The invitation is from the UK Consulate General in California.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend that the Sustainable Development Manager accepts the invitation on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> February recognising that Officer knowledge of state of -the- art charging infrastructure and smart digital technology will be important in the future transition to the smart low carbon economy in Belfast. The study visit also presents an opportunity to connect with main UK funders and lead technologists in this field.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note that the FCO Consulate General in San Francisco previously invited the Lord Mayor to an International Conference on Climate Change, hosted by Michael Bloomberg which she was unable to attend. The Californian office remain very keen to connect to Belfast, to facilitate city partnerships and business opportunities on the low carbon agenda between Belfast and cities on the West Coast of the USA.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<p><b>The Californian Example</b></p> <p>3.1 The state of California was recognised internationally for its early adoption of EV infrastructure, vehicle to grid technology and support for pioneering smart battery capacity. The State set an ambitious target of 20% of vehicles to be ultra-low by 2025, and has put incentives in place to meet this target. The state works closely with the electricity and utility companies, vehicle manufacturers, battery storage companies, universities, innovation hubs and SME's to support this transition. As a direct result it has attracted those at the pioneering end of the industry to Silicon Valley and the entire Californian region has become a mecca for electric vehicle car manufacturers and pioneers in this industry.</p> <p><b>Background and developments on EV Infrastructure in Belfast City</b></p> <p>3.2 Like mobile phones, EV's and EV charging infrastructure has undergone transformative change since their early introduction a decade ago. The EV infrastructure introduced in Belfast in 2013, which was recognised as one of the best in Europe at the time is nearly obsolete. Commercial operators were slow to move into the market given the absence of a payment mechanism, so there has been no incentive to upgrade the existing charging system.</p> <p>3.3 However this will change soon, NI government departments are examining the change in legislation needed to introduce a payment mechanism for public charge points (currently it is not possible to charge users for the electricity in charge points) In parallel, electricity network providers now recognise the role EV consumers play in helping manage the demand and supply of electricity in the market and are putting incentives in place to attract them.</p> <p>3.4 The SD Manager was responsible for working in partnership with the original ecar team within the Department for Infrastructure to establish the first EV infrastructure in the City and on the Councils estate. Recently the SD Manager worked with a collaborative public</p>

	<p>sector partnership on a competitive 100% funded EU INTERREG 5A £9m EV charging infrastructure bid. If this bid is successful it will bring a new generation of state -of the- art rapid charge points to the city, border regions of ROI and Highlands of Scotland. In parallel to this BCC and Department for Infrastructure are exploring opportunities for the funding of charging infrastructure on our estate and in the city with OLEV and INNOVATE UK. DoI and BCC are also working with Belfast MET to bring the first generation of hydrogen buses powered from curtailed renewable energy to Belfast.</p>
3.5	<p>Understanding the most appropriate EV infrastructure and the correct incentives to put in place is particularly important in Belfast given that the transport sector is the largest contribution to CO2 emissions here. 66% of commuters still use a diesel or petrol car for their daily commute, much higher than the average UK city. If we want to make a big impact on CO2 emission reductions and subsequently improve air quality, it's important to encourage those commuters to shift to cleaner transport and one key factor will be by providing reliable, easily accessible and state of the art EV charging points.</p> <p><b>Business opportunities in smart technology</b></p>
3.6	<p>The growth of new EV technology is creating jobs locally in the manufacture and design of the charging infrastructure and the smart digital technology that supports it. For example, the casing and components in the first generation of charge points in this city were manufactured entirely within 100 miles of Belfast, this is highly exportable technology. Local electronic companies such as Electro Automation, Evermore, Jordan CPS, and CCP Gransden are moving into this new EV market place, diversifying products and securing inward investment creating a new generation of clean tech jobs. EV infrastructure and battery storage is also an area where CSIT, QUB and UU Engineering departments and companies in our Innovation Factory are active.</p> <p><b>Invitation, draft itinerary and delegation.</b></p>
3.7	<p>The draft itinerary outlines meetings with City Sustainability Officials in San Francisco, San Diego and Los Angeles and the associated Utility providers who are working in partnership in those states at the forefront of the EV transition. The itinerary also includes meetings in Silicon Valley with smart clean tech businesses e.g. Chargepoint at the forefront of the energy transport nexus and the BMW Innovation Centre. The delegation will also visit Stanford University to meet with the Precourt Centre who specialise in incentives on</p>

	<p>behaviour change .In Los Angeles and San Diego there will be meetings with the Clean-tech Incubation Hubs and EIN who are at the forefront of development of hydrogen vehicle technology.</p> <p><b>Delegation</b></p>
3.8	<p>The UK delegation will be comprised of a mixture of representatives working in the transport energy nexus and those at the forefront of this industry in the public sector across the UK .The delegation will comprise:</p> <p>(1) Government officials from the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) London  (2) UK City Officials working on EV Infrastructure, interface with utilities etc.  (3) Innovate UK, who are funding innovation of EV's infrastructure of £40M for cities in this area  (4) Specialised businesses working on the market development of EV and supporting infrastructure  (5) Academics from Oxford and Cambridge Universities working in this field.</p>
3.9	<p>By agreeing to the visit, there is an opportunity for the SD Manager to network with and learn from a unique group of experts working on and funding the next generation of electric vehicles infrastructure in cities and bring that learning back to Belfast.</p>
3.10	<p>A full report on the study visit will be compiled and shared with the relevant teams across the Council including SDSG, Fleet Management Unit, Smart Cities Team and external bodies including Department of Infrastructure E-CAR team etc. This report will also outline any opportunities identified for Council and the city to be involved with going forward.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.11	<p>All costs associated with travel to the US and internally between all cities, and associated accommodation and food costs will be met by the British Consulate in San Francisco.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.12	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Draft itinerary – is available on request</p>