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Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

18th November, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held remotely at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 20th November, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

(g) Inner City Kerbside Sort – Update on APSE Review (Pages 1 - 12)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (d) Motion Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries Response from Ministers for Communities and Finance (Pages 13 20)
- (e) Proposed Approach for the Strategic Consideration of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members (Pages 21 30)

9. Governance

(a) Appointment of Members to the BCC-BHC Joint Consultative Forum (Pages 31 - 32)



Agenda Item 2g

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

Document is Restricted



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

Document is Restricted



Agenda Item 3d



STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Motion – Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries -

Subject	t:	Responses from Ministers for Communities	s and Fin	ance	
Date:		20th November, 2020			
Reporting Officer:		John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services			
Contact Officer:		Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Office	er		
Restric	Restricted Reports				
Is this I	report restricted?		Yes	No	X
lf	Yes, when will the	report become unrestricted?			
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never					
Call-in					
Is the d	Is the decision eligible for Call-in?				
1.0	Purpose of Report	or Summary of main Issues			
1.1	To consider responses from the Ministers for Communities and Finance in relation to a motion on Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries.				
2.0	Recommendation				
1.2	The Committee is asked to consider the responses.				
3.0	Main Report				
3.1	Key Issues The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st October, passed the following motion on Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries which had been proposed by Councillor Mulholland and seconded by Councillor Smyth:				

"This Council acknowledges the contribution of those employed in the Arts, Events and Creative Industries. It understands the impact that lockdown has had on these sectors; on theatres, museums, live music venues, comedy clubs, freelancers and individual artists and all other creative outlets that have been in the dark since March, with most having no finite indication of when their activities can recommence safely.

The Council welcomes the allocation of £29million by the Northern Ireland Executive to the Arts, Culture and Heritage sectors, as part of a £1.57 billion investment from the UK Government, purposefully designed to protect these world class industries across the UK.

The Council agrees to write to the Communities Minister, Carál Ní Chuilín, in support of the direct allocation of funds to those within these industries who have been most impacted. The Council agrees also to write to the Finance Minister, Conor Murphy, to encourage any further measures that can be taken to support and protect the creative sectors going forward."

- 3.2 Responses have now been received from both Departments, copies of which are attached.
- 3.3 Mr. J. Ball, Head of Arts Branch, has responded on behalf of the Minister for Communities. He points out that the Minister places great value on the role of arts and culture and that she has been engaging with representatives from across the sector and is fully aware of the significant impact which the Covid-19 restrictions are having on them.
- He explains that the Minister welcomes the £29m of funding which had in September been allocated by the Northern Ireland Executive across the arts, language, culture and heritage sectors and the wider creative economy. On 28th October, she allocated the first £3m of that to the Individual Emergency Resilience Programme, which was administered on her Department's behalf by the Arts Council for NI. This, he points out, has built upon the Department's earlier investment in the Fund and has allowed for further grants totalling £3.85m to be made to 1,089 people in the sector who contribute significantly to the economy and the lives of many people here. He states that the Programme is open to all those working across the creative economy and in many other categories, and provides examples of those who have benefitted from it.
- 3.5 Mr. Ball concludes by providing details of a series of further allocations from the Executive's funding package and by confirming that the Minister will announce shortly how the remaining £8m would be distributed.
- 3.6 Minister Murphy, within his response, refers to his lead role in liaising with the Treasury, and addresses also another motion which was passed by Council on 1st October, calling upon the Minister for the Economy to undertake an investigation into how the Job Retention Scheme and the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme could be retained at pre-October 31st levels, including the earmarking of funds to minimise the impact of job losses.
- 3.7 He stresses that he fully recognises the significant pressures which many workers and businesses, including those from the arts and creative industries sector, are facing and which have increased following the introduction by the Executive on 16th October of new restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19.
- 3.8 He points out that, like the Council, he too is concerned about the shortcomings and gaps in those schemes and that he has raised his concerns directly and repeatedly with the Chancellor, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Michael Gove M.P. However, he stresses these are Treasury schemes and, given the extent of the wage support involved and the fact that they are administered via the tax system, only the Treasury can put them in

place. He adds that the Executive itself has implemented other steps to support those affected by Covid-19 through the rating system and a number of grant schemes which have been established. 3.8 The Minister proceeds to point out that the new Job Support Scheme and an extension to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme had been announced on 24th September, as part of the Treasury's Winter Economy Plan. There have been further announcements on the Job Support Scheme since then and he refers to the fact that it has been enhanced for businesses which have been forced to close or which have been significantly restricted, known as the JSS Closed. Until November, businesses which have previously used the furlough scheme can continue to do so. However, there are significant concerns that, in the transition between the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme coming to an end and the Job Support Scheme opening at the start of November, many would not receive the wage support they desperately need. Therefore, he has written to the Chancellor to urge him to bring forward the start of the JSS Closed scheme till 16th October but, disappointingly, he has not heeded that call. As a result, wage support for those new employees who were ineligible under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme would not be available until the JSS Closed scheme begins on 1st November. 3.9 In addition, the Chancellor has, on 22nd October, announced some further changes to the JSS Open scheme, where there will now be a reduction in the employer contribution to employee wages and in the time required for an employee to be in work since the scheme was first announced. This, the Minister states, is welcome and will ensure that employees would continue to receive at least 73% of their normal wages, where they earn £3,125 per month or less and where employers will now have to contribute 5% of employees' wages for hours not worked. Further to that, the Chancellor had announced a doubling of payments under the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme extension from 20% to 40% of average monthly profits, up to a total of £3,750, although the Minister recognises that it remains lower than the levels provided previously. 3.10 The Minister, in the concluding paragraph, stresses that the Executive will continue to examine ways in which to support businesses moving forward, including those from the arts and creative industries sector, which he points out have recently received an additional allocation of £29m for cultural recovery. He accepts that there are many businesses who have not benefitted from previous or current support schemes and he has encouraged Executive colleagues to bring forward proposals for those sectors within their area of responsibility, with a view to supporting businesses and protecting livelihoods. **Financial and Resource Implications** 3.11 None associated with this report. **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment** 3.12 None associated with this report. 4.0 **Documents attached** Copies of responses from the Ministers for Communities and Finance.





John Ball Head of Arts Branch

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Our ref: Corr 2766-2020 Date: 04 November 2020

Henry Downey

Email: downeyh@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear Mr Downey

Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries

Thank you for your letter of 19th October to Minister Ní Chuilin MLA on behalf of Belfast City Council about funding for the Arts and Creative Industries. I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

Minister Ní Chuilín places great value on the role of arts and culture. She, and officials, have been engaging with representatives from across the sector and she is acutely aware of the very significant impact the current restrictions are having on those who make their living in these sectors.

The Minister welcomed the £29m allocated by the Executive on 24th September to provide support across the arts, language, culture and heritage sectors and the wider creative economy. On 19th October she made the first allocation from that package with £3m being directed to the Individual Emergency Resilience Programme, administered on the Department's behalf by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. This builds on earlier investment by the Department into this fund and allowed further grants totalling £3.85m to be made to 1089 people whose creativity, effort and hard work make such a contribution to the economy and the quality of life of all people here.

The programme was open to those working right across the creative economy and, among many other categories, awards were made to singers, musicians and DJs as well as sound/audio technicians and engineers, stage technicians and event and venue crew.

The Minister has to date also made a series of further allocations from the Executive funding package:

- £7.75m for arts organisations
- £5.5m for a Heritage Recovery Fund
- £2.5m will be shared among the Irish Language, Ulster Scots and Sign Language Sectors
- £2m for Community based arts, culture and heritage projects

The Minister will announce shortly how the remaining £8m will be distributed.

Yours sincerely

John Ball

Head of Arts Branch

& Ball



From the Minister of Finance

Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
City Hall, Belfast
BT1 1GS

Private Office 2nd Floor Clare House 303 Airport Road West BELFAST

Tel: 028 9081 6216

Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: CORR-2368-2020

Date: 29 October 2020

Dear Henry

FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES & TREASURY SCHEMES

BT3 9ED

Thank you for your 19th October letter to me in relation to Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries and your earlier 16th October correspondence to the Economy Minister regarding the levels of support offered under Treasury schemes. I am responding on that issue given the lead role I have in liaising with the Treasury on its schemes.

I am acutely aware of, and sympathetic to, the significant pressures many workers and businesses are facing, which unfortunately will have increased for many following the new restrictions the Executive had to introduce on 16th October to curb the spread of virus. I am very aware that those sectors you mention in your letters have been among the hardest hit. This is at the forefront of our minds in the Executive as we consider our ongoing response to the pandemic.

Your letter to the Economy Minister specifically asked for an investigation into how to retain a Job Retention Scheme and a Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) at pre-October 31st levels, including the earmarking of funds to minimise the impact of job losses. Like you, I too am concerned about the shortcomings and gaps in these schemes and have raised these directly and repeatedly with the Chancellor, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Michael Gove.

These are however Treasury schemes and given the large scale of the wage support involved, and the fact that these schemes are administered via the tax system, only Treasury can put such schemes in place. While the Executive has taken a range of other steps to support those impacted by COVID-19 through the rating system and the number of grant schemes that have been established for example, this is not something the Executive can do.

As you will be aware the new Job Support Scheme (JSS) and an extension to the SEISS were announced as part of Treasury's Winter Economy Plan on 24th September. Since then there have been further announcements on the JSS. Firstly, the JSS has been enhanced for businesses forced to close or which have been significantly restricted, known as the JSS Closed. Until November, businesses that have previously used the furlough scheme, can still do so. However there are significant concerns that in the transition between the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) coming to an end, and the JSS opening at the start of November, many will not get the wage support they most desperately need.

Therefore I wrote to the Chancellor to express these concerns to urge him to bring forward the start date of the JSS Closed to 16 October and it is very disappointing that the Chancellor did not heed that call, and that wage support for those new employees not eligible under the CJRS will not be available until the JSS Closed begins on 1 November.

In addition, the Chancellor also announced on 22nd October some further changes to the JSS Open where there will now be a reduction in the employer contribution to employee wages and in the time required for an employee to be in work since the scheme was first announced. This is welcome and will ensure employees continue to receive at least 73% of their normal wages, where they earn £3,125 a month or less and where employers will now have to contribute 5% of employees' wages for hours not worked.

Further to that the Chancellor announced a doubling of payments under the SEISS extension from 20% to 40% of average monthly profits, up to a total of £3,750, although I do recognise this is still lower than levels previously provided.

As an Executive we also continue to look at how we might best support businesses going forward and that includes the arts and creative industries and where as you indicate an additional £29m for cultural recovery has recently been allocated. I know however there are many businesses who haven't benefitted from previous support schemes or current schemes do not go far enough to meet financial pressures businesses are under. I have therefore encouraged Executive colleagues to urgently bring forward proposals for sectors they have responsibility for, to get much needed support to businesses and protect livelihoods.

I hope this response is helpful.

Conor Murphy.

Is mise le meas

CONOR MURPHY MLA MINISTER OF FINANCE

Agenda Item 3e





Subjec	t:	Proposed Approach for the Strategic Con and Issues Raised in Advance by Membe		
Date:		20th Novembe,r 2020		
Reporting Officer: Contact Officer:		John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager; Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy & Partnership Manager;		
Restric	ted Reports			
Is this	report restricted?		Yes No X	
If	Yes, when will the	report become unrestricted?		
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never				
0-11 :				
Call-in				
Is the d	lecision eligible for	Call-in?	Yes X No	
1.0	Purpose of Report	or Summary of main Issues		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for a proposed approach to monitoring and tracking of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members.			
2.0	Recommendations	3		
2.1	 It is recommended that the Committee: approves the proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members within the Council's corporate planning and policy frameworks; and consider whether it would like to amend Standing Order 13 so that that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to that committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda. 			

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background Members will be aware that under Standing Order 13(I), set out in full in Appendix 1, no Notice of Motion seeking to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process will be considered but shall instead stand referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration and report. The exception to this is in cases of urgency when the Lord Mayor in consultation with the Chief Executive may allow a decision to be brought forward incurring expenditure without referral to Committee.
3.2	The Council has a four-year Corporate Plan with agreed Committee Plans and budgets set during the Revenue Estimates process in the February before the new financial year. A process is needed to ensure that issues being raised by Members can be fully considered in order to incorporate them into the Council's corporate planning and policy process and subsequently lead to implementation and realisation of the members / committee ambition.
3.3	This report proposes a process, in line with the Standing Orders, to ensure that the motion / issues raised in advance are considered in full by the appropriate Committee and advice is provided to Members by officers on the timing, options and costs associated with implementation.
3.4	This approach is recommended in respect of meeting our legal and financial responsibilities in ensuring a balanced budget. A corporate planning process is fundamental to achieving a balanced budget and achieving those objectives which the Council has corporately and democratically endorsed as priorities for the district and the organisation.
3.5	Incorporating Notice of Motions into the corporate planning process At present, any notices of motion that are agreed in-year and have resource implications can only be implemented where an identified underspend exists or at a direct opportunity cost to staff-time allocated against an existing corporate workstream. This also impacts on staff who may be diverted from other planned work being undertaken.
3.6	Members will be aware that a six monthly progress update of the corporate plan will be brought to the SP&R Committee – and once a year this will result in the development of a one-year update of the corporate plan. Alongside this, both the CG&R and P&C Committees complete committee planning workshops. This, in turn, enables resources to be realigned and highlight the potential areas for growth in the revenue estimating process.

3.7 Recognising the strategic importance of a range of issues raised through notices of motion, it is proposed that notices of motions will be considered as part of this annual corporate and committee planning process. Officers from the Strategic Hub and across the policy network will work to ensure that key themes or issues are 'pulled through' into this discussion; considered fully in terms of resource requirements; and subsequently reflected in the council's planning and delivery processes.

Process of Managing Motions / Issues

- 3.6 It is proposed that a three-stage process (see Appendix 2) be introduced for the consideration of notices/issues:
 - Stage 1: Report taken to refer Notice of Motion to Committee or the issue is raised by member in advance at Committee as per the usual process (Notices of Motion will have a revised cover report outlining that the motion will follow this new process and indicating if it will commit Council to additional expenditure, as outlined in paragraph 3.1 above).
- 3.7 If the Committee rejects the motion or issue, then no further action will be taken. If the Committee request a further report, the notice of motion or issue will be assigned to a lead department.
 - Stage 2: Initial Scoping Report will subsequently be brought to relevant committee, ideally within three months, which will detail the range of options for initial consideration of the motion, for example it could reference (depending on the nature of the motion / issue):
 - Immediate implementation
 - Set out initial policy or best practice considerations
 - Add into an existing programme of work as already agreed in the Corporate
 Plan and Committee Plans
 - Request approval and funding to carry out a scoping exercise to determine the potential strategic, financial, legal or resource implications of the issue
 - Recommendations on the timing of Stage 3 Report to Committee

	Stage 3: Options Report depending on the outcome of Stage 2, this stage would involve the development of more detailed policy considerations - where the motion / issue would be considered in terms of its priority, options for implementation, legal and resource implications, strategic fit, monetary and non-monetary benefits, sources of funding, longer term financial planning etc. The recommendation of this stage would be presented to the relevant committee.
3.8	If the above approach is adopted, guidance will be issued to officers to ensure that the process is consistently applied and that reports are to a high standard. This will also provide members with the assurance that all motions/issues are fully considered.
3.9	Reporting to Members Following the review of current notices of motion/issues a quarterly progress report on notices/issues will be brought to each Committee.
3.10	Feedback from Party Group Briefings Members should be assured that this process will not prevent flexibility in the Council being able to deal with urgent matters. The Standing Orders have provision for dealing with matters of urgency.
3.11	Standing Orders Members may wish to consider if they would like to amend Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion so that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda. At present around half of the notices of motion are referred to committee.
3.12	Financial and Resource Implications There are potentially significant resource implications for departments assigned to carry out the scoping of potential strategic, financial or resources implications of individual notices/issues.
3.13	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment The equality, good relations and rural needs implications of each notice/issue would need to be assessed.

4.0	Documents attached
Appendix 1 - Standing Order 13 (I)	
	Appendix 2 – Overview of proposed process

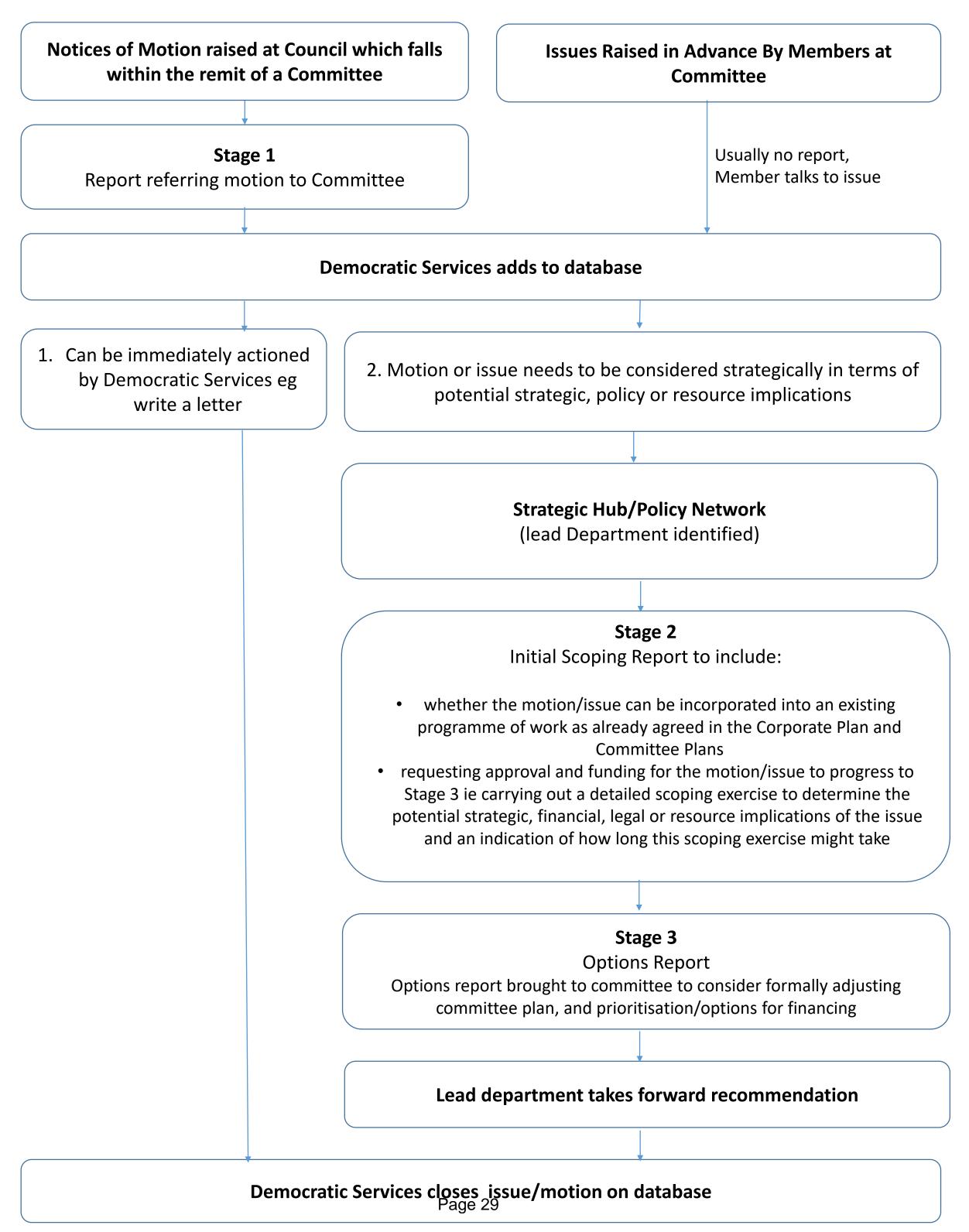


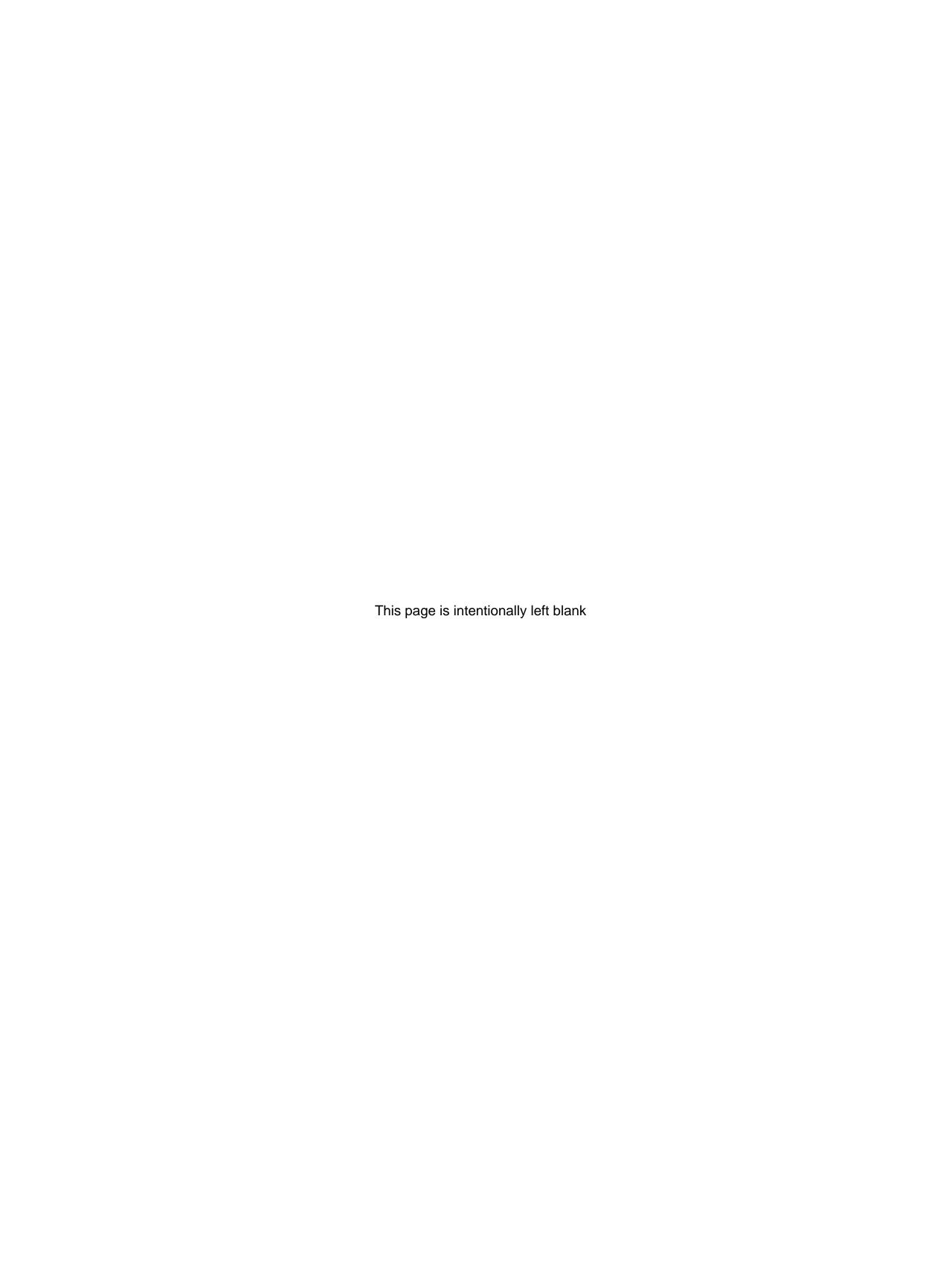
Standing Order 13(I)

No notice of motion seeking to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process will be considered but shall instead stand referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration and report. This standing order will not apply with the Lord Mayor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, rules that the matter is one of emergency or is otherwise of such urgency that it would be impracticable or prejudicial to the Council's interests to require compliance. In this case, a report outlining specific details of the purpose of such expenditure and the budget from which the expenditure would be drawn from shall be put before Members.



Process for strategic consideration of Notices of Motion or Issues Raised in Advance by Members within Council's corporate planning and policy frameworks – DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION





Agenda Item 9a



STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subjec	t:	Appointment of Members to the BCC/BHC Join	nt Consultative Forum	
Date:		20th November, 2020		
Reporting Officer:		John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services		
Contact Officer: Jim Hanna,		Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Service Officer		
Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?				
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
	After Commit			
	After Council			
	Sometime in the future Never			
	140 401			
Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?				
Is the c	decision eligible fo	or Call-in?	Yes X No	
1.0		or Call-in? Ort or Summary of Main Issues	Yes X No	
	Purpose of Repo			
1.0	Purpose of Repo	ort or Summary of Main Issues	rs to be considered to fill	
1.0	Purpose of Repo	ort or Summary of Main Issues rocess to be used to identify four Elected Member	rs to be considered to fill	
1.0	Purpose of Reportant To consider the purpose on the	ort or Summary of Main Issues rocess to be used to identify four Elected Member Belfast City Council and Belfast Harbour Commiss	rs to be considered to fill	
1.0	Purpose of Report To consider the purpose on the Forum. Recommendation	ort or Summary of Main Issues rocess to be used to identify four Elected Member Belfast City Council and Belfast Harbour Commiss	rs to be considered to fill sioner Joint Consultative	
1.0	Purpose of Reports To consider the property four places on the Forum. Recommendation The Committee is	ort or Summary of Main Issues rocess to be used to identify four Elected Member Belfast City Council and Belfast Harbour Commiss	rs to be considered to fill sioner Joint Consultative exercise for the purpose	
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1.0 1.1 2.0 2.1	Purpose of Report To consider the position four places on the Forum. Recommendation The Committee is of identifying the Consultative Forum Main Report Key Issues In June 2019, Me	rocess to be used to identify four Elected Member Belfast City Council and Belfast Harbour Commiss n recommended to employ a one-off proportionality e political nomination of four members for conm.	rs to be considered to fill sioner Joint Consultative exercise for the purpose asideration to the Joint ent between Belfast	

through a strategic partnership arrangement to realise their shared ambitions for the strong growth, regeneration and prosperity of the City.

- 3.2 A Project Board jointly chaired by the respective Chief Executives of BCC and BHC was established and met in January 2020 but, due to COVID19, is not due to meet again until December 2020. As part of the governance arrangements for this MOU, the parties agreed to establish a Joint Consultative Forum to inform projects and test the collective appetite to explore projects at the concept stage.
- 3.3 The Joint Consultative Forum will consist of four elected members from BCC and four Harbour Commissioners. The place of any member of the Joint Consultative Forum may be taken by a nominee of that member.
- 3.4 The S P and R Committee in June 2019 agreed that participation on the part of BCC in terms of membership of the Forum will be determined by d'Hondt, according to the group strength of the parties following the last local government election.
- 3.5 Applying a one-off d'Hondt or Sainte Lague selection process results in the following order of choices:

1	SF
2	DUP
3	ALL
4	SF

3.6 Members will note that the Forum is not a decision-making body and that decisions may only be taken through the formal governance arrangements of the parties. The Forum will be responsible for appointing its own chair and the parties agree to establish shared arrangements in relation to the secretariat for both the Project Board and Joint Consultative Forum.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.7 There are not any financial implications for the Council associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The approach to be employed to select Members for consideration for appointment to the Board of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners is in keeping with the principles of proportionality established in the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. Therefore, there are no equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.

4.0 Documents Attached

None