

Public Document Pack

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

17th November, 2021

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 19th November, 2021.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (h) City Hall Recovery Plan - Update on Progress (Pages 1 - 8)
- (i) Update on Future of the Brexit Committee (Pages 9 - 14)
- (j) Weavers Cross Regeneration Project and Hope Street Car Park (Pages 15 - 32)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (b) Motion: NHS Pay - Response from Minister of Health (Pages 33 - 38)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (a) Update on Contracts (Pages 39 - 44)

9. Operational Issues

- (e) Motion – Centenary of the Ulster Memorial Tower (Pages 45 - 48)
- (f) Human Rights Day 2021 (Pages 49 - 50)

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

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Subject:	Motion: NHS Pay – Response from Minister of Health
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response to a motion on NHS Pay which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, passed the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Matt Collins and seconded by Councillor Michael Collins:

3.2	<p>""This Council notes with concern the 3% pay offer set to be made to health workers. This offer falls way short of satisfying the health unions' demands for a substantial pay uplift.</p> <p>Our health workers deserve a real pay increase for their efforts throughout the pandemic. A 3% pay increase is only 1% above the UK inflation rate and is not nearly enough recognition for health staff and their efforts in these difficult times.</p> <p>The Council notes that this offer comes at a time when health workers are under considerable strain, with Northern Ireland currently struggling with one of the highest Covid-19 death rates across the world.</p> <p>The Council also notes with concern the recent reports of understaffing in our health service, with 1,800 nursing positions currently vacant in the North, while a further 1,000 vacancies exist in the social work and domiciliary care sector.</p> <p>In order to retain a vibrant and world class health service, we must reward staff for the vital work which they carry out. Pay disparity with other jurisdictions has left many seeking employment elsewhere and low pay has contributed to staff resigning from the profession altogether.</p> <p>The pandemic has shown how vital our health service is. Yet many NHS staff still suffer poverty wages and continue to be paid less when compared with other regions in the UK.</p> <p>The Council resolves to write to the Health Minister, Robin Swann, calling upon him to refuse to bring forward the 3% pay offer, urging him, alongside the First and Deputy First Ministers, to lobby the British Government to award a substantial offer and asking him to bring forward proposals on safe staffing.</p> <p>The Council also resolves to convene a cross-party meeting with Political Parties in Belfast City Council and Trade Unionists in the Health service, to discuss the urgent need for a more substantial pay uplift for NHS staff, and the practical steps which can be taken to achieve this."</p> <p>A response has been received from Mr. Robin Swann, MLA, Minister of Health, a copy of which is attached.</p>
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3.3	The Minister begins by stating that the Department of Health is in receipt of the 34th NHS Pay Review Body Report and the 49th Report of the Review Body for Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, both of which recommend a 3% uplift in the salaries of relevant staff from April, 2021. He has already written to Trade Unions to confirm that he has fully accepted the pay recommendations set out in the reports.
3.4	He points out that the funding held by his Department does not go far enough to meet the recommendations of the Pay Review Bodies. Furthermore, the Treasury has confirmed that it will not be providing any additional funding for the pay uplifts to NHS England. As a result, there will be no additional funding coming to Northern Ireland through the Barnett Formula for these awards.
3.5	The Minister concludes by stating that he has written to the Minister of Finance, who has indicated that he will support his request for Executive in-year monitoring to help fund the recommended uplifts for this year via the October monitoring round.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.7	None associated with this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Minister of Health

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FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Mr Henry Downey
Belfast City Council

democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: HD/JT

Our Ref: CORR-3177-2021

Date: 27th September 2021

Dear

Henry,

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding Health and Social Care Workers pay.

My Department is in receipt of the recently published 34th NHS Pay Review Body Report and the 49th Report of the Review Body for Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration, which both recommend a 3% uplift in the salaries of relevant staff from April 2021.

I have already written to Trade Unions, to outline that I have fully accepted the pay recommendations set out in the reports.

The funding held by my Department, however, does not go far enough to meet the recommendations of the Pay Review Bodies. Further, the Treasury has confirmed that it will not be providing any additional funding for the pay uplifts to NHS England. As a result, there will be no additional funding coming to Northern Ireland through the Barnett Formula for these awards.

I have already written to my colleague, the Minister of Finance, who has indicated that he will support my request for Executive in-year monitoring to help fund the recommended uplifts for this year via the October monitoring round.

Yours sincerely

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health



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Subject:	Update on Contracts
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to seek the approval of tenders and to note contract modifications to contract term and retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs)
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2) note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3)

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states that Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender
3.2	Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	<p>The following retrospective STAs were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a contract for £32,728.29, for up to 5 weeks, awarded to Methodology M&E for new automated staff gates at Belfast Zoo. A quotation exercise had been conducted with 3 bids being returned, the lowest was £32,728.39. The quotes received are reflective of a short term spike in global steel prices which are difficult to forecast and it is felt on this occasion there would be no economic advantage to the Council to stop the process and initiation a formal tender exercise.
	<u>Modification to Contract Term</u>
3.5	<p>The following contract terms were modified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 6 month extension to contract T1911 - administration and provision of a suite of First-aid training courses for delivery to Council staff (includes organisations delivering Services for and on behalf of the Council), awarded to Proparamedics. The service was unable to be delivered for a period of 6 months due to Covid 19. A 3 month extension to contract T2013 - provision of technical expertise to support the development of the Employability and Skills Programme for the Belfast Region City Deal, awarded to Locus Management. The modification is required due to the time delays to the overall BRCD programme which can in part be attributed to Covid 19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 6 month extension to contract T2135 - provision of consultancy services to provide validation and assurance in respect of a number of ongoing real estate financial investment decisions under consideration, awarded to Cushman and Wakefield. Retrospective approval to cover period May 21 to Nov 21. The modification is required as additional time was required to work on the project. There was no additional cost during this time. • Requesting term be amended to include a further 7-month extension option to T2181 - Development of economic strategy for Belfast. Tender not yet awarded. Previously approved in May 2021 for a period of 5 months.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.6	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or Departmental budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Table 1 - Competitive Tenders Table 2 - Modification to Contract Term Table 3 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions

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Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Test and Train environment for the Customer Hub telephony environment	Up to 3 months	£32,777	R Cregan	At present, there is only a 'live' system and there is no capability to test new functions, and train new users without considerable risk to 'live'.
Cloud backup services for Microsoft Office 365 and Dynamics users	Up to 3 years	£98,666	R Cregan	The default backup and recovery functions provided by Microsoft are severely limited. This presents a significant risk to Council data should data be lost or corrupted. This project seeks to overcome this and bring the Office/Dynamics environment in line with the existing on-premises backup protection as agreed by SP&R.
Planned preventative maintenance to thermostatic mixing valve (TMV) including minor remedial repairs at various Council properties	Up to 5 years	£250,000	S Grimes	Statutory compliance requirement
PEACE IV Traveller Support - Capacity Building Project	Up to 8 months	£66,000	R Black	To meet deliverables with the PEACE IV Programme and BPR5 Traveller project. Rescope of project is required following nil submissions to previous tender competitions
Consultancy services to undertake analysis, evaluation and provide financial assurance to the Council in respect of land and site proposals	Up to 1 year	£50,000	A Reid	Suitably qualified professional consultancy required to progress the Strategic Sites Assessment and Belfast Destination Hub work-streams and aligned with the Covid-19 Recovery Plan. Replacement tender for T2135 using new Crown Commercial Service framework

Table 2: Modification to Contract Term

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Supplier
T1911 - Administration and provision of a suite of First-aid training courses for delivery to Council staff (including organisations delivering Services for and on behalf of the Council)	Up to 3 years	Additional 6 months	J Walsh	Proparamedics
T2013 - Provision of technical expertise to support the development of the Employability and Skills Programme for the Belfast Region City Deal	Up to 2 years	Additional 3 months	R Cregan	Locus Management
T2135 - Consultancy services to undertake analysis, evaluation and provide financial assurance to the Council in respect of real estate proposals	Up to 6 months	Additional 6 months (Retrospective approval May 21 to Nov 21)	A Reid	Cushman and Wakefield
T2181 - Development of economic strategy for Belfast - Position Belfast and BCC in context of emerging regional strategy positions	Up to 1 year	Requesting term be amended to include a further 7-month extension option.	A Reid	Tender not yet awarded. Previously approved in May 2021 for a period of 5 months.

Table 3: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Supplier
New automated staff gate at Belfast Zoo	Up to 5 weeks	£32,728	S Grimes	Methodology M&E



Subject:	Motion – Centenary of the Ulster Memorial Tower
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider retrospective attendance at the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	To approve retrospectively the attendance of the Chairperson (or her nominee) at the Centenary Commemoration opening of the Ulster Tower.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 1st July, referred the following motion which had been moved by Alderman Kingston and seconded by Councillor Pankhurst to the Committee for consideration.

3.2	<p><i>“This Council notes that this November marks the centenary of the opening of the Ulster Memorial Tower, on 19th November 1921, near Thiepval in France, as a lasting tribute to the men of Ulster who served and who gave their lives during the First World War.</i></p> <p><i>Its position, opposite Thiepval Wood, is a particular reminder of the officers and men of the 36th (Ulster) Division who fell during the Battle of the Somme, and is a specific tribute to the Division’s heroic charge on the opening day of that great offensive.</i></p> <p><i>This Council notes the various historic connections between the Ulster Memorial Tower and Belfast City Council and agrees to include recognition of this connection in our Centenary programme this year.”</i></p>
3.3	At that meeting, the Members of the Committee had agreed to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4th May, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to adopt the motion and agree that it be referred to the Party Group Leaders for consideration, with a report on how it would be facilitated, resourced and managed to be submitted to a future meeting.
3.4	The matter had been raised at the Party Group Leaders’ Consultative Forum meeting held on 11th November, together with the invitation to the Centenary Commemoration opening, as attached.
3.5	The Group had noted that the invite had been sent to an email account which was no longer accessed.
3.6	There was consensus that the Council should be represented at the event on 18th November and retrospective approval should be sought from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to approve the attendance of a Member thereat.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.7	The cost for attendance at the event is £549 plus single person supplement and subsistence.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.8	None
4.0	Document Attached
	Invite to the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower

18th November 2021

A fully escorted tour
with Specialist Guides

4 DAYS
from only
£549
PER PERSON

Includes:

- Return flights from Belfast to the UK with one piece of hand luggage
- 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast
- Specialist Battlefield Guide
- Excursions and visits as per itinerary



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Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower



Ulster Tower

November 2021 marks the centenary of the opening of the Ulster Tower Memorial on the Somme battlefields, a memorial commemorating the service and sacrifice of men from the island of Ireland at the Somme and the wider First World War. Travel with us to attend the commemoration service and visit some of the key battlefield sites.

Day 1: 18 November 2021

Fly from your local airport in Belfast to selected UK airports where you will join your tour coach and travel to Dover for the ferry crossing to France. We continue to our hotel in Northern France for three nights.

Day 2: 19 November 2021

Today is the Centenary Commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower. We attend the ceremony and events here, with time to visit Thiepval Wood. Later, we look at the fighting on the Somme, seeing the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, the battlefield at Guillemont and ending at the impressive Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. B



Messines Ridge

Day 3: 20 November 2021

We travel to Flanders and look at the role of Irish Regiments here in the fighting during the Great War. On the Messines Ridge we visit the Island of Ireland Peace Tower, look at the battlefield where the 16th (Irish) and 36th (Ulster) Divisions fought side-by-side in June 1917, seeing the Spanbroekmolen mine crater, the Lone Tree Cemetery and the nearby memorials at Wytschaete. After lunch we visit the battlefield at Hill 60, and then look at the Third Battle of Ypres seeing the areas where Irish Regiments fought and visiting the vast Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial, the largest British War Cemetery in the World. In the evening we have free time in Ypres, prior to attending The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, which is sounded at 8pm each evening. B



Tyne Cot Cemetery



Thiepval Memorial

Day 4: 21 November 2021

We travel back to the UK and to your UK airport for the flight back to Northern Ireland. B

4 days from £549

Your tour includes...

- 3 nights hotel with continental breakfast
- Specialist Battlefield Guide
- Return flights from Belfast to the UK (supplements may apply) with one piece of hand luggage
- Battlefield visits as described

Key visits

- ✓ Ulster Tower Centenary Commemoration
- ✓ Thiepval Wood
- ✓ Pozieres Memorial to the Missing
- ✓ Thiepval Memorial to the Missing
- ✓ Messines Ridge
- ✓ Spanbroekmolen Mine Crater
- ✓ Tyne Cot Cemetery
- ✓ Last Post Ceremony

Hotels will be min. 3-star & located within 60 miles of Ulster Tower Memorial. Flight includes return to Belfast. Prices based on 2 sharing a room. Single supplement £149. Terms & conditions apply.



Subject:	Human Rights Day 2021
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officers:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services

Restricted Reports	
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"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval to fly the Human Rights Day flag and the United Nations flag from the City Hall on 10th December to mark Human Rights Day 2021.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the flying of the Human Rights Day flag and the United Nations flag from the City Hall on Friday, 10th December.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	December 10 th marks the anniversary of the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 2018, a global campaign has called for civic buildings to mark the day by flying a dedicated flag which was created in partnership with the United Nations and organisations like Amnesty International to celebrate universal human rights.

3.2	The City Solicitor advised the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum on 11th November that a request had been received from a Member to fly two flags from City Hall, namely the UN Flag and the dedicated flag referred to above, to mark Human Rights Day 2021 on 10 th December.
3.3	The Committee is recommended to approve this request.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	There will be minor financial implications associated with purchasing the Human Rights Day flag.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.5	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	None