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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Monday, 3rd October, 2022 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Council Meeting (Pages 1 - 12)
5. Official Announcements
6. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 13 - 54)
7. Minutes of People and Communities Committee (Pages 55 - 84)
8. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 85 - 92)
9. Minutes of Licensing Committee (Pages 93 - 104)
10. Minutes of Planning Committee (Pages 105 - 122)
11. Minutes of Standards and Business Committee (Pages 123 - 124)

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



Chief Executive

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Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Thursday, 25th August, 2022 at 4.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor; (Councillor Black) (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, (Councillor M. Kelly);
Aldermen Dorrian, Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Bradley, Bower, Bunting, Carson, Matt Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Gormley, Groogan, Hanvey, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Maghie, Maskey, McAteer, McCabe, McCann, McCullough, McKeown, Murphy, Murray, Nelson, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth, Thompson, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillors Beattie, Michael Collins and McLaughlin.

Freedom of the City and County Borough of Belfast

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor Verner,

In March 2020 the WHO declared COVID 19, a pandemic, rapidly spreading across the globe. Our health and social care workers alongside a wide range of community agencies mobilised their resources to support those affected and made outstanding efforts to contain the spread of the virus. They worked to look after those who were seriously ill and those who were self-isolating, often at risk to their own health and that of their loved ones. As a City we are indebted to them for their selfless and outstanding service during a public health emergency.

Accordingly, in recognition of this, the Council agrees to confer the Freedom of the City and County Borough of Belfast on healthcare workers and those who worked tirelessly on the frontline and they are hereby elected and admitted to the Freedom of the (City and County) Borough.

The motion was put to the Council and passed unanimously

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Council

MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Thursday, 1st September, 2022 at 6.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor; (Councillor Black) (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor, (Councillor M. Kelly);
The High Sheriff, (Councillor Hussey);
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Sandford; and
Councillors Beattie, Bradley, Bower, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Douglas, Duffy, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Groogan, Hanvey, Heading, Howard, Hutchinson, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Maghie, Maskey, McAteer, McCabe, McCann, McCullough, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Murray, Nelson, Newton, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Smyth, Spratt, Thompson, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Councillor Gormley.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Beattie declared an interest in relation to the item "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Councillor Bunting declared an interest in relation to the items "Asset Management" within the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee minutes, in that she was secretary for the Belvoir Area Residents' Group which had applied for use of Council grounds, "Air Quality Progress Report", within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that she was employed by the DAERA Minister and the Motion on Commonwealth Games Success, in that a family member had been a member of a participating team.

Councillor Corr declared an interest in relation to the item "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that he was employed by an organisation which had received funding and was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Councillor Donnelly declared an interest in relation to the item "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st September, 2022**

that he was employed by an organisation which had received funding and was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Councillor Garrett declared an interest in relation to the item "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Councillor T. Kelly declared an interest in relation to the item "Air Quality Progress Report" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that she was employed by the DAERA Minister.

Councillor McCabe declared an interest in relation to the item "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that she was employed by an organisation which had received funding.

Councillor McCann declared an interest in relation to the item "Partner Agreements Update/Shore Road Playing Fields Update" within the People and Community Committee minutes, in that he was a member of Ford FC which had a Partner Agreement with the Council.

Councillor McLaughlin declared an interest in relation to the items "Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality" within the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee minutes, and "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that he was a member of the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Councillor Newton declared an interest in relation to the item "Stratagem Conference", in that he was an employee of Stratagem.

Councillor Verner declared an interest in relation to the item "Community Provision Funding Update" within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that she was employed by an organisation which had received funding.

Amendment

Alderman Haire pointed out that his attendance at the special meeting of the Council of 1st July had not been recorded, the Council agreed that the minutes be varied accordingly.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Black),
Seconded by Councillor Beattie and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the special meeting of the Council of 1st July, to include the aforementioned amendment, the monthly meeting of the Council of 4th July be taken as read and signed as correct.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st September, 2022**

Official Announcements

Thanks

Councillor Magee thanked the Council staff and community youth workers for the work that had been carried out over the previous months with regard to bonfires in north and west Belfast.

Alderman Sandford paid tribute the National Association of Councils Northern Ireland region on its excellent work promoting the wellbeing of its member Councillors.

Congratulations

Councillor Donnelly congratulated Holy Trinity Boxing Club on its 50th anniversary and paid tribute to its contribution to the local Community, in particular Michael Hawkins Senior. The Lord Mayor acceded to Councillor Donnelly's request to write a letter of congratulations to the boxing club.

Councillor Maghie congratulated the CSNI Women's Cricket Team on reaching the all-Ireland T20 Cup Final and the CIYMS Men's Cricket Team on the achievement of obtaining an historic double win of the all-Ireland T20 Cup and the Irish Senior Cup. The Lord Mayor acceded to Councillor Maghie's request to write a letter of congratulations to both cricket teams.

Councillor Murray congratulated Belfast Mela and Belfast Pride on the provision of colourful and diverse festivals, and the Lord Mayor agreed to write to both organisations to offer her congratulations.

Change of Membership on Committees/Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from both the DUP and Sinn Fein, of the following changes in membership:

DUP

- Councillor Verner to replace Alderman Sandford on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; and
- Councillor Thompson to replace former Alderman Kingston on the Building Successful Communities (Lower Shankill and Browns Square).

Sinn Fein

- Councillor McCabe to replace Councillor Duffy on the West Belfast Partnership Board.

The Council noted the changes.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st September, 2022**

Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

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

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th August, 2022, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Non-Recurrent Reallocations/
Update on Engagement with Trades
Unions on Cost-of-Living Demands**

At the request of both Councillor McLaughlin and Councillor Ferguson, the Chief Executive agreed that a report would be presented to the September meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the provision of a cost-of-living payment to temporary, agency and casual staff members.

Complex Lives – Supporting Vulnerable Individuals

At the request of Councillor Heading, the Chief Executive agreed to write to the health and education authorities, to ascertain what plans had been put in place to monitor heating provision to the elderly and homes with vulnerable children over the coming winter.

Asset Management

At the request of Councillor Spratt, the Chief Executive agreed to report back to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee on the potential to waive the fee associated with the grant of a lease to Belvoir Area Residents Group.

Electric Vehicle Charging Points Strategy

At the request of Councillor Long, the Chief Executive agreed to present a report to the Climate and Resilience Committee on the provision of electric vehicle charging points on Council owned facilities across Belfast.

Amendment

Update on Contracts

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the undernoted proposed Single Tender Actions be administered as Competitive Tenders:

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- Fiat Original Equipment Manufacturer approved parts and components, warranty support and specialist repairs; and
- Mercedes Benz Original Equipment Manufacturer approved parts and components, warranty support and specialist repairs.

The amendment was put to the Council and passed.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 19th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, were thereupon approved and adopted, subject to the foregoing amendment.

Minutes of People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor McMullan,
Seconded by Councillor Groogan

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 9th August be approved and adopted.

Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Murphy,
Seconded by Councillor Spratt

That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th August be approved and adopted.

Ulster University – Belfast Campus Update

Amendment

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

That an All-Party Delegation would be immediately convened with representatives from the University of Ulster and the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure to expedite works on junctions adjacent to the new Belfast Campus.

The amendment was put to the Council and passed.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st September, 2022**

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 10th August were thereupon approved and adopted, subject to the foregoing amendment.

Minutes of Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Matt Collins,
Seconded by Councillor Smyth

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 10th and 17th August, be approved and adopted.

Minutes of Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor Carson

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 27th June and 5th and 16th August, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Minutes of Climate and City Resilience Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin

Resolved - That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Climate and City Resilience Committee of 11th August, 2022 be approved and adopted.

Minutes of Standards and Business Committee

Moved by Councillor Hanvey,
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst

Resolved - That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Standards and Business Committee of 23rd August, 2022, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st September, 2022**

Motions

Devolution of Local Transport Powers

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

"This Council notes our ambitions as laid out in the Belfast Agenda, Bolder Vision and Resilience Strategy for a sustainable, well connected, vibrant and carbon neutral Belfast.

We acknowledge that our ability to achieve these ambitions has been severely hampered by our reliance on Government Departments and Statutory Agencies who do not always share our vision or who lack the agility to deliver at the speed required.

This Council has already called for the devolution of regeneration powers to help meet the ambitions of this Council. We believe that the further devolution of local transport and infrastructure powers are also necessary if we are to bring the Belfast Agenda to fruition.

As such, we will initiate dialogue with the Department for Infrastructure, Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association to commence the process of devolving these key powers."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Groogan.

On a recorded vote, twenty-one Members voted for the Motion and thirty-five against and it was declared lost.

<u>For 21</u>	<u>Against 35</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly); and Councillors Bower, Matt Collins, Michael Collins, Ferguson, Flynn, Groogan, Hanvey, Heading, Hutchinson, Long, Lyons, Maghie, McDonough-Brown, McKeown, McMullan, Murray, Nelson, O'Hara, Smyth and Whyte.	The Lord Mayor (Councillor Black); The High Sherriff (Councillor Hussey); Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire, McCoubrey, Rodgers and Sanford; and Councillors Beattie, Bradley, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Corr, Donnelly, Douglas, Duffy, Garrett, Howard, T. Kelly, Magee, Maskey, McAteer, McCabe, McCann, McCullough, McLaughlin, Murphy, Newton, Pankhurst, Spratt, Thompson, Verner and Walsh.

**Meeting of Council,
Thursday, 1st September, 2022**

Commonwealth Games Success

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

“This Council recognises the special achievements of Team Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games and the recent success with the Northern Ireland Women’s Soccer Team reaching the European Championships.

We resolve that the Belfast Lord Mayor invites both teams to the City Hall to give them proper civic recognition for their success.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor McCabe.

The motion was put to the meeting and passed.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

Council

SPECIAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Sunday, 11th September, 2022 at 3.30 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor; (Councillor Black) (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly);
The High Sheriff (Councillor Hussey);
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire, McCoubrey and Sandford; and
Councillors Beattie, Bradley, Bower, Bunting, Canavan, Carson, Cobain, Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, Douglas, Duffy, Flynn, Garrett, Gormley, Howard, T. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Lyons, Magee, Maghie, Maskey, McCabe, McCann, McCullough, McKeown, McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Murray, Newton, Nelson, O'Hara, Pankhurst, Spratt, Thompson, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

Summons

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Groogan, Hanvey, McAteer and Smyth.

Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Council stood in silence for one minute as a mark of respect on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Members of each of the Parties present then paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II and, on behalf of their Party Groups and constituents, extended sympathies to the royal family on this sad occasion.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 23rd September, 2022

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor McDonough-Brown (Chairperson);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly);
Alderman Haire; and Councillors Beattie, Bunting,
Ferguson, Garrett, Groogan, Heading, Long, Lyons,
McLaughlin, McMullan, Murphy, Pankhurst, Spratt,
Verner and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of
Finance and Resources;
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Mr. D. Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Dorrian and Councillor Bradley.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pankhurst declared an interest in relation to agenda item 9 – Request to Present, on the basis that he was employed on a temporary contract by Queen's University.

Councillor Spratt also declared an interest in respect of this item, on the basis that his wife was employed by the Ulster University.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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The Members were advised by the Chief Executive that, as the item related only to a request for representatives of both universities to attend a future meeting, they were not required to leave this meeting whilst it was being considered.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following four items 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 meeting during discussion of the following four 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 (Northern Ireland) 2014.

**Medium Term Financial Plan
and Efficiency Programme**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which provided an assessment of the key issues which would influence the rate setting process for 2023/24 and the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 - 2025/26.

After discussion, the Committee:

- i noted the challenges to be taken into consideration as part of the annual and medium-term rate setting; and
- ii agreed to receive monthly rate update reports to enable the striking of the district rate by February, 2023.

The Committee agreed also, with thirteen Members voting for and five against, that a letter be forwarded to Mr. Jeffrey Donaldson M.P., the leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, requesting that his Political Party engage immediately with the other Political Parties in order to form an Executive to address the cost-of-living crisis.

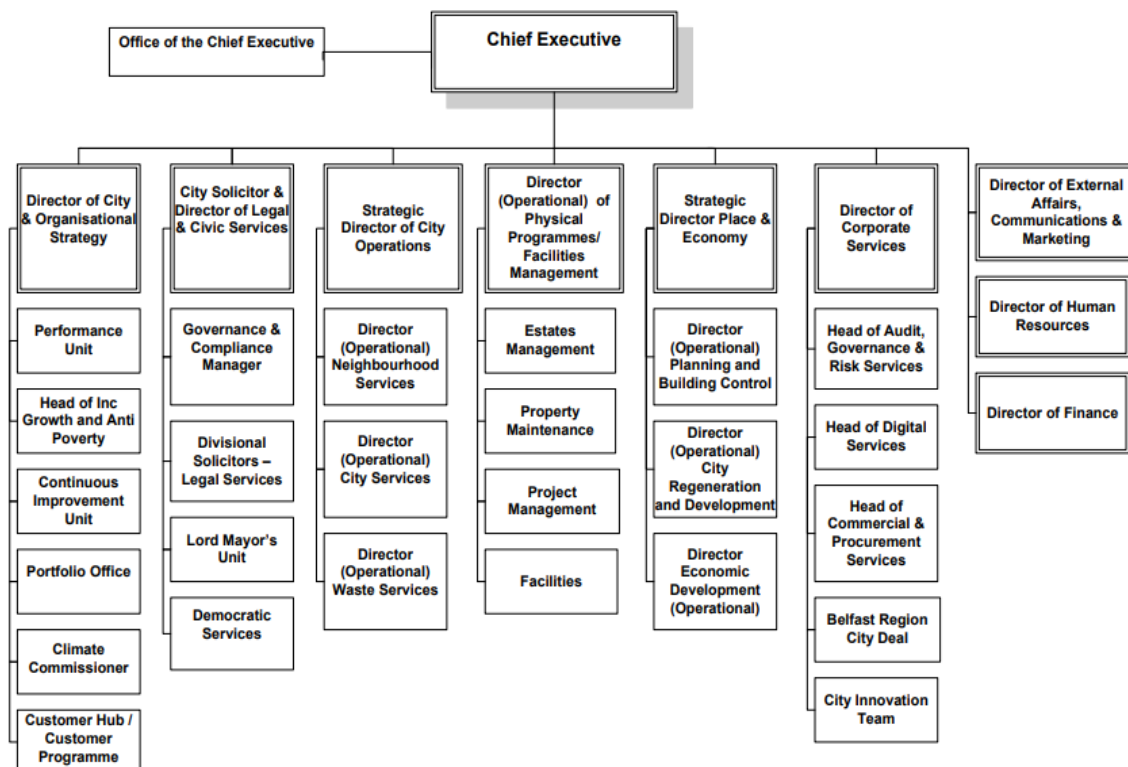
Update on Structures

(With the exception of the Chief Executive, the Senior Democratic Services Officer and the Democratic Services Officer, all officers left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.)

The Chief Executive reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th August, it had agreed that a report be presented to its next meeting on a proposed structure for a revised Corporate Management Tier.

Accordingly, he drew the Committee's attention to the following proposed organisational model:

Proposed Organisational Model



The Chief Executive went on to seek the Committee's approval to implement the following changes at officer leadership level, which would be required under the proposed model:

- i. to replace the post of Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources with a post of Director of Corporate Services, with:
 - the finance function to be removed from the portfolio of services and the City Innovation Team to be added; and
 - the Customer Hub and Customer Programme SRO responsibilities and the Corporate Performance Management function to be moved to the Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
- ii. to redesignate the Head of Finance to Director of Finance, with that officer to report directly to the Chief Executive and become a member of the Corporate Management Team in his/her own right;

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- iii. to move the Facilities function to the Director of Physical Programmes; and
- iv. to redesignate the Head of Human Resources to Director of Human Resources and the Head of Marketing and Corporate Communications to Director of External Affairs, Communications and Marketing, with each officer to have a direct reporting line to the Chief Executive and become a member of the Corporate Management Team in their own right.

The Committee approved the aforementioned changes and noted that, upon completion of the recruitment of the Strategic Director roles, an expression of interest would be undertaken to fulfil the role of Deputy Chief Executive.

Cost-of-Living Payments

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th August, it had agreed that all Council staff below Chief Officer grade would receive two cost-of-living payments and that information on the cost implications of making such payments to agency and casual staff be presented to its next meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources informed the Committee that, as of 7th September, 319 agency staff were employed by the Council. The cost of making two cost-of-living payments to them would be £540,000 and he requested the Committee to consider if it wished to approve those payments.

He went on to report that an analysis of casual workers had indicated that 29 workers undertook casual shifts for the Council on a regular basis and had worked a number of shifts since January, 2022. With that in mind, he presented the following costing options for the Committee to consider:

- i. make two payments to the 29 casual workers who had worked since January 2022, at a cost of £50,000, regardless of the number of hours worked; or
- ii. make two payments to the 16 casual workers who had worked an average of more than one day per week, at a cost of £28,000 and, on a pro-rata basis of 50%, to the remaining 13 casual workers who had on average worked less than one day per week, at a cost of £11,500.

The Committee agreed to make two cost-of-living payments to agency staff and to proceed with option i. for casual workers.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the points which had been raised by a number of Members around the difficulties faced by agency staff in securing permanent posts in the Council would be addressed in the report which he had, on 19th August, undertaken to submit to a future meeting.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd September, 2022**

City Hall Recovery Plan – Update on Progress

The Committee noted the contents of a report providing an update on the progress being made across each of the operational areas in implementing the City Hall re-opening and recovery plan.

Matters referred back from Council/Motions

**Motion: All-Party Working Group
on Disability – Draft Terms of Reference**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th June, 2020, it had agreed that a motion on Disabled People and Older People, which had been proposed by Councillor McMullan, would be considered within the context of the Council's overall Recovery Programme, to ensure that the response and recovery would be inclusive of disabled people, older people and carers.

The Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services pointed out that the motion had, amongst other things, called for the creation of a Reference Group for Disabled People to enable Members, the Council's Disability Advisory Panel, Council officers and, from time to time, other relevant stakeholders and experts to discuss and progress actions on the Council's commitment to becoming an accessible City for all by 2035.

She explained that it was proposed that an All-Party Working Group on Disability be established, which would meet on a quarterly basis and provide a forum for discussion, as well as receiving updates on the Council's Disability Action Plan. The Working Group would make recommendations on proposed actions and policy development, which would then be presented to this Committee for approval, as required. Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee approve the establishment of the Working Group and endorse the Terms of Reference which had accompanied the Committee report.

Councillor McMullan reinforced the need for a Working Group on Disability and confirmed that he wished to make a number of amendments to the Term of Reference.

After discussion, the Committee approved the establishment of the Working Group on Disability and agreed that the Terms of Reference should be the first item to be considered at its inaugural meeting.

**Motion: GLL and Trades
Unions – Response from GLL**

The Committee was reminded that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 23rd August, had agreed to adopt the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Michael Collins:

“This Council recognises the importance of collective bargaining in the workplace and the central role of trade unions to this process, as representative voices for workers. Moreover, in a period where very many workers are opting to take industrial action, the Council recognises the right

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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of workers to do so, and the role it can play in winning much needed pay increases during a cost-of-living crisis and while inflation continues to rise.

The Council notes that there are ongoing issues in Council leisure centres across our city, which workers and their trade unions have been attempting to resolve. The Council also notes, with disappointment, that GLL does not officially recognise trade unions in Council leisure facilities, denying workers the ability to collectively bargain effectively.

This Council agrees that GLL should officially recognise trade unions in Belfast City Council leisure centres and will write to the leadership of the organisation to urge it to do so.

The Chief Executive of the Council will also convene a meeting with the relevant trade unions to hear directly about the issues facing workers in our leisure centres and commit to address them with GLL."

The Chief Executive informed the Committee that a response had been received from Mr. G. Kirk, Senior Regional Director of GLL.

Mr. Kirk had begun by explaining that, as a worker owned, charitable social enterprise with an elected worker board, the interests of its people were represented at the highest level within the company. The nature of GLL'S business meant that it was organised primarily on a partnership basis and the company had a good record of working closely with Trades Unions in these local environments. He had highlighted the fact that the Trades Union forum in Belfast worked particularly well, with both GLL's management and the Trades Unions being able to raise issues and discuss collectively, in order to reach a favourable conclusion for both parties. This arrangement had worked very well for the past seven years and had created very strong partnership working and outputs for staff under this model. GLL did not, therefore, see any reason for this to change.

Mr. Kirk had gone on to state that there was strong evidence in the outputs across the City, within staffing teams, that reinforced how successful the social enterprise partnership between the Council and GLL had been. There had been over 200 GLL promotions in recent years, which demonstrated an inward focus on staff and excellent delivery of learning and development opportunities. All of GLL's staff had received an average 4% pay increase in April 2022, in recognition of the current cost-of-living challenges which many faced. In partnership with the Council, there had been seventeen leisure employment academies, resulting in over 100 local people gaining training and then employment within leisure centres. Alongside this, GLL had employed six graduates for its successful Trainee Manager programme, thereby ensuring succession planning for its future leisure leaders. It had also, twelve months ago, opened a customer service centre in Belfast, which had created 60 new jobs for local people. A further 25 new staff would be employed when the Templemore Baths opened in October, 2022.

He had added that GLL noted that, while at times there could be challenges, there was a healthy partnership created through the Trades Union forum, allowing items to be resolved through collaborative working. He had concluded by stating that GLL looked

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
Friday, 23rd September, 2022**

forward to future staffing success in the year ahead and would address any issues that arose from the planned meetings.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Ferguson,
Seconded by Councillor Heading

That the Committee agrees that a further letter be forwarded to GLL:

- i. expressing its dissatisfaction at the company's decision not to recognise Trades Unions, given the issues which workers are facing currently;
- ii. emphasising the fact that the ability to have their Trades Union recognised is an important right for workers; and
- iii. asking the company to reconsider its decision not to recognise Trades Unions, given the image which this sends to staff and the wider public on GLL's views on workers' rights in the workplace.

On a vote, thirteen Members voted for the proposal and five against and it was declared carried.

Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

Update on City Region Growth Deal

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

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 This report is to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), including a detailed update on progress to secure in excess of £7m of funding through the Complementary Fund to establish a Northern Ireland wide Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) which will help to address the financial barriers facing small businesses and social enterprises wishing to digitally transform.**

2.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

- i note that it is intended that the DTFF will operate on NI wide basis and be led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through its existing arrangements operating the Full Fibre NI Consortium;**
- ii note the revenue costs associated with operation of the Fund, across a three-year delivery period as outlined in the appendix to the report. (There is no additional financial ask for the Council, as revenue costs identified have already been accounted for within existing Belfast Region City Deal budgets;**
- iii approve the Council's participation in the DTFF, requiring the Council to join the FFNI consortium along with the other ten partnering councils currently members of this partnership and for revenue costs associated with the delivery of the project to commence from November 2022 to enable pre-development work to commence;**
- iv note the update in relation to Belfast Stories and approve the extension for the Programme Director in line with the project timetable which will be financed from existing BRCD resources;**
- v note the update in relation to the Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner;**
- vi approve the contribution to Innovation City Belfast, which will be financed from existing BRCD resources; and**
- vii note that the next meeting of the BRCD Council Panel will be hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on 28th September.**

3.0 Main Report

Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF)

- 3.1 As the Committee will be aware, supporting digital innovation is a key priority in the development of the spectrum of projects emerging through city and growth deals across Northern Ireland. The DTFF concept was initially developed in response**

to the low levels of innovation and digital transformation taking place across the region - particularly among the small business community. The DTFF aims to address the financial barrier that small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform by establishing a capital grant fund that will support investment in the types of capital equipment considered critical to their strategic digital transformation ambitions (e.g. hardware, software, bespoke system development).

- 3.2 To date, £6m of funding for this project has been ring-fenced through the NI City and Growth Deal Complementary Fund. The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has committed a further £1.1m. Due to its ineligibility for the Complementary Fund, engagement is ongoing with the Derry City and Strabane Growth Deal to secure an additional £450k to create a total capital grant fund of £7.5m.
- 3.3 Over the past six months, councils have participated in a robust process to develop the outline business case required to release this government funding. The business case has been informed by detailed and continuous engagement with a range of stakeholders including more than 40 businesses and organisations such as Digital Catapult Catalyst, Innovate UK, Intertrade Ireland and Invest NI. A review of best practice models - such as the Leeds City Region Digital Enterprise and the Scottish Digital Boost initiatives – has been used to supplement this work.
- 3.4 The preferred option for the delivery and management of the DTFF project is as summarised below:
- **Business Eligibility:** micro and small businesses and social enterprises (up to 50 employees) across all sectors, with the exception of primary agriculture and fisheries¹. Eligible businesses must be able to demonstrate at least one year's trading history;
 - **Grant funding levels:** will range from £5,000 - £20,000 with a grant subvention rate of 70% of total project costs;
 - **Eligible expenditure:** will be limited to the purchase of capital equipment and/or resources for software or

¹ Due to state aid challenges and wider interventions provided to these sub-sectors

bespoke system development. It will be aligned to advanced digital technologies²;

- **Application Process:** Up to nine funding calls will be opened across the three-year delivery period of this Fund. Pre application workshops will be held in local council areas in advance of calls to help stimulate demand. Businesses will be required to submit a digital transformation plan³ to demonstrate the strategic fit and economic return of their proposed investment projects through a competitive application process. There is an imperative to progress the business case process at pace to ensure alignment with the Councils' Digital Surge programme⁴ which is likely to lead to business plans that will require financial investment to which the DTFF is directly aligned to support. This current programme is due to end in March 2023 and it will be important to ensure that the DTFF is operational prior to the conclusion of this programme; and
- **Management of the Fund:** the project will be managed on a cross council basis through existing governance structures created through the existing Full Fibre NI Consortium, led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. Whilst the centralised management structure will deliver economies of scale for managing the overall fund, its operation will be managed through cross council governance structures. Local Council Economic Development Teams will play a key supporting role to animate and promote the Fund, assess funding applications etc.

- 3.5** The Full Fibre Consortium is an existing partnership initially established to support digital infrastructure delivery across Northern Ireland with ability to deliver additional digitally focused interventions which require cross council partnership working. At present Belfast City Council are the only local authority not engaged through this consortium, this was principally due to the fact that the council had proceeded with their own digital infrastructure arrangements at the time when the consortium was formed. Recognising the opportunity now presented through DTFF, it is

² Including; smart technologies (Internet of Things), process automation, big data and analytics, immersive technologies, artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies;

³ Please note support to develop Digital Transformation Plans is currently available through Councils' Digital Surge Programme (led by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) equivalent plans are also provided through FE College intervention such as Innovate US.

⁴ Digital Surge is a capability-building programme designed to support small businesses wishing to develop digital transformation plans,

recommended that the Council join this consortium to facilitate the delivery of this project, it should be noted that Legal Services have already reviewed partnership documents have confirmed that the DTFF project can be brought within the remit of this existing partnership and that mechanisms are in place for the Council to be added as a member.

- 3.6 In the delivery of this contract, the centralised project team based within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will undertake overall management of the project. The council's Economic Development Unit will support this activity and seek to maximise impact for local businesses by undertaking localised promotion, supporting the delivery of pre-application workshop sessions, participating on grant funding assessment panels and assisting businesses in receipt of funding to progress their onward innovation journey.

Outcomes

- 3.7 Based upon an average grant rate, it is estimated that approximately 600 businesses will be supported over the three-year delivery timeframe of the project, delivering significant investment in local businesses across Northern Ireland, with an expected return of investment of £1: £2.24, with expected benefits expected to be principally focused upon increased employment levels and/or turnover levels for participating businesses.
- 3.8 As with wider city and growth deal funding, both the Complementary Fund and DAERA funding are limited to capital expenditure creating the need for additional revenue funding to manage delivery of the Fund. The estimated total revenue cost for the eleven council partners for the preferred delivery option is approximately £870k over the three-year period. Members should be aware that, in identifying the preferred delivery mechanism, a range of options were explored including council led and procured delivery providers. The proposed council-led delivery model was identified to be the most cost effective, quickest to implement and benefited from a model of delivery where economies of scale could be achieved whilst retaining the ability to maintain localised engagement. The proportional cost allocation for each council have been informed by business population levels across Council areas. This is detailed within the attached appendix. The revenue cost contribution for the Council across the three-year period will be £165,312. The Council's contribution for this project has already been accounted for within existing

Belfast Region City Deal budgets so there is no additional financial ask.

- 3.9 Given the time pressures outlined above, councils are asked to commit revenue funding at risk, whilst the final stages of the business case approval process continue simultaneously in Autumn of this year. This will ensure sufficient resources are in place to support the business case process, as well as preparing for the delivery of the project including updating governance structures, development of detailed project plans and preparing funding processes to enable the project to mobilise quickly. Revenue funding will be required to support the project team required to deliver the project enabling vital pre-development work to be undertaken and ensuring the project can be mobilised in the January to March 2023 period, subject to a successful approval process.
- 3.10 The approval process for the business case requires Invest NI approval initially prior to progressing through departmental approval mechanisms. In the development of the business case ongoing engagement has taken place with government departments and Invest NI to inform the development of the business case. Equally the staged approval process will mean that in advance of the November timeframe when revenue costs are expected to be incurred by Councils 'at risk' there is expected to be reasonable progress made through the business case approval journey.

Belfast Stories

- 3.11 Members will be aware that Belfast Stories, the Council's flagship BRCD project, is due to open in 2028. Several important milestones in relation to the project have been achieved including the acquisition of the site in October 2021 and the press launch of Belfast Stories in December 2021 following the signing of the Deal. Public consultation across the city is underway and includes a Members' workshop in October 2022, with a date to be confirmed.
- 3.12 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed in November 2021 to progress a number of key pieces of work, in order to ensure that we meet the 2028 anticipated opening date, including the appointment of the integrated design team, the exhibition design team and the stories collection. Documentation is being finalised to procure these teams who should be confirmed in Q1 2023. The City Growth and Regeneration Committee received programme updates in February and December 2021 and in May 2022.

- 3.13 To deliver a project of this magnitude for the City and the region, it was necessary to recruit a Project Director to lead the development and delivery of the project. Members agreed this appointment in 2019 on a three year full-time fixed term contract, with the possibility of extension and / or permanency.
- 3.14 Now that the timescales for delivery of the project have been further established, the Committee is asked to approve the extension of the Project Director for 5 years in line with the proposed opening in 2028. This will be financed from existing BRCD resources.

Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner

- 3.15 The Committee is asked to note that the Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner has resigned from post, as of September 2022. Partners will be consulted in the coming months in terms of the role and way forward in order to align with the Innovation and Digital Pillar requirements for the next phase of the Deal and Members will be updated as this progresses.

Innovation City Belfast

- 3.16 Members previously agreed to contribute £50,000 to the overall programme budget for the development of the Belfast Innovation District proposition, as part of the work of Innovation City Belfast, in order to fund the necessary resources, staffing, and technical support required as part of a total ICB co-investment of £325,000.
- 3.17 Now that the partnership is established and is moving into the next phase, the Committee is asked to approve the contribution of £50,000 for the next phase. This will be financed from existing BRCD resources.

BRCD Council Panel

- 3.18 The next meeting of the BRCD Council Panel will be hosted as a hybrid meeting by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council on 28th September, 2022. In addition to considering a detailed programme update, the Panel will receive a presentation on the i4C innovation hub that will be located at the St. Patrick's Barracks Regeneration site in Ballymena and on the work which is being undertaken to ensure that social value criteria are being integrated into future BRCD procurements and that social value benefits are then realised.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.19 All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.20 Equality and Rural Needs Assessment screening has been undertaken for the DTFF project. The project has been designed to support inclusion by targeting smaller businesses who face barriers to engagement in digital transformation, the fund will also actively target businesses in rural areas in line with DAERA funding requirements.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Age Friendly Belfast Draft Action Plan
2022 – 2026 Public Consultation**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan 2022-2026 and agree the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan to go to public consultation.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan 2022-2026 [here](#) for public consultation in Autumn 2022.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Background

- 3.1 In 2012, the Council’s Reference Group on Older People provided the initial leadership to explore Belfast becoming an Age Friendly City, and, in May 2012, the Lord Mayor signed a declaration committing Belfast to this process. HASP coordinated delivery of two Age Friendly Belfast Plans in 2014-2017 and 2018-2021.

- 3.2 The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) coordinates the work of many organisations and agencies working with and for older people. HASP manages the development and implementation of the city's Age Friendly Plans on behalf of the Council and the wider Community Planning Partnership.
- 3.3 The draft plan will be issued for consultation in the Autumn, as part of October Positive Ageing Month, with a launch in December 2022/January 2023 and submission to WHO. An accessible version of the final plan will also be made available.

Age Friendly Draft Plan 2022-2026

- 3.4 The plan will retain the vision *A city where older people live life to the full*.
- 3.5 Consultation has identified the following four strategic themes and associated actions:

1. Infrastructure/Getting out and about

- Develop a joined-up approach to engagement and co-design with older people on local and city centre developments, led by Greater Belfast Seniors Forum, the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) and the Department for Infrastructure
- Develop age friendly design principles, which can be used to inform new infrastructure developments, led by Age Friendly Network NI and Belfast City Council
- Review and improve access to seating and toilets, led by Belfast City Council, Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure
- Raise awareness and provide training for bus drivers on the needs of older people using their services, led by Age Partnership Belfast

2. Social Connections

- Support recovery of groups/programmes with older people led by Age Partnership Belfast, Belfast City Council and voluntary and community sector partners
- Coordinate an Age Friendly Belfast annual programme of events/activities, led by BCC Age Friendly Co-ordinator, supported by a range of city partners

- Develop local connection hubs and a city centre hub where older people can meet each other and access information, led by Greater Belfast Seniors Forum
- Develop dementia carers cafes in all four dementia friendly neighbourhoods, led by Dementia Friendly Neighbourhood groups and supported by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Develop a recruitment drive to encourage older people to re-engage in volunteering, and to recruit new volunteers. Promote initiatives to manage and support older people's participation in volunteering, led by Volunteer Now

3. Health and Wellbeing

- Work with Greater Belfast Seniors forum to link with GP representatives and multi-disciplinary teams to ensure that the voice of older people is heard in discussions on access to services led by Age Partnership Belfast
- Support 600-800 older people (most in need) to improve their mobility levels and to feel more connected and less lonely, led by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, supported by BHDU. (This is the older people's priority for the refreshed Belfast Agenda)
- Promote key messages and connect older people's programmes that seek to increase their strength and mobility, including fall prevention, led by Age NI and Public Health Agency
- Involve Older people in the development of the 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' approach, led by Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

4. Financial Security/Cost of Living

- Work with older people to provide information and support on financial security in a way that is easy to understand and navigate.
- Review and support the wider policy level work on food and fuel poverty
- Offer access to employment support and employment for those aged 50+, led by Belfast City Council Employability and Skills Team/Belfast Labour Market Partnership

- Promote and support the Age at Work approach to recruit, retain and retrain workers aged 50+, led by Business in the Community.

3.6 The plan is written in the context of recovery from Covid-19 and includes some lessons learned from the Covid-19 response, which include:

- The Covid-19 response demonstrated at scale and pace, a whole-system approach to supporting vulnerable populations. The response tested new approaches to joint working across sectors at both the strategic / policy setting level and the operational / neighbourhood level. Whilst the scale and urgent timing of response is different, lessons from this joint working are needed to help the most vulnerable citizens in Belfast on an ongoing basis and particularly in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.
- Neighbourliness thrived during Covid-19 with many local services identifying and supporting older residents to a much greater extent than prior to the pandemic. Older people value the services and amenities in their local areas, they mostly feel safe there and they are often able to access all the goods and services they require. This desire to use local provision should inform how service providers engage and provide services for older people.
- During Covid-19 new approaches to befriending and connecting people developed and learning from these approaches have been shared through Age Friendly Belfast partners.
- Living with Covid-19 restrictions showed the resilience and adaptability of older people's groups. This included increased use of technology and moving to using outdoor spaces for meetings and events. The various methods of engaging should be considered when developing future services and programmes.
- Loneliness has always been a key concern for, and about, older people in the city, and this was exacerbated by Covid-19. This has placed a focus on mental health and wellbeing which should continue to be a priority.

Links to the Belfast Agenda

- 3.7 The new plan will operate over four years to align with Belfast Agenda, which includes 'Older People' as one of its cross-cutting themes.
- 3.8 The draft Belfast Agenda Review has potential to support the Age Friendly Belfast plan through some of the following priorities:
- Connectivity, Sustainability and Active Travel - improve cycle and walking lanes and improve use of sustainable transport
 - Housing led Regeneration - increase affordable housing supply
 - Health Inequalities - promote, improve, and support mental health and emotional wellbeing, and increase levels of physical activity and reduce obesity
 - Future City Centre - facilitate a clean, green, safe, vibrant, and inclusive city centre
 - Inclusive Growth - better understand issues/drivers of those in poverty and develop action plans to address issues

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.9 There is a small budget from Belfast City Council and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to deliver actions in the Age Friendly Plan. Funding has also been secured through the Public Health Agency to appoint an Age Friendly Co-ordinator until March 2025 in line with the other council areas and this officer will co-ordinate delivery of the plan.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.10 None – EQIAs and RAIAs have been completed.”

The Committee approved the Age Friendly Belfast Draft Plan 2022-2026 for public consultation.

Dual Language Street Signs Policy

The Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services submitted for the Committee's approval the final version of the revised Dual Language Street Signs Policy. The revised wording reflected the updated approach to carrying out Equality and Good

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Relations assessments, as agreed by the Committee on 17th June, and related primarily to the fact that each application would, in the first instance, undergo an 'initial assessment' for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations or rural needs, rather than an 'equality screening'. The Policy had been live since the Committee's decision had been ratified by the Council and over 500 applications had been received to date.

After discussion, the Committee approved the final version of the Dual Language Street Signs Policy for publication on the Council's website and agreed, in response to a request from a Member, to initiate the process for the erection of dual language signage at Páirc Nua Chollann.

**Sustain Exchange Climate Business
Conference Funding Agreement**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of a report seeking approval for the Council to enter into a funding agreement, to the value of £10,000, with the organisers of a climate business conference being planned for Belfast, to enable further information to be provided on other potential funders.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

Asset Management

The Committee approved the extension of the current term of the ground lease at Plot 24, Balmoral Estate to a term of 125 years, from 2022, with the Council to receive a single premium payment of £8,000 and approved also the variation of the user clause to include commercial use as a permitted use.

Update on Physical Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The Council's Physical Programme currently includes 170 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. This report requests movements on the Capital Programme for Alleygating Phase 5 and City Hall Stained Glass Windows.**
- 2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the following proposed movements on the Capital Programme:**
 - **Alleygating Phase 5 Project - agree the proposed list, as attached, and that the project be moved to Stage 3 – Committed.**

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- **City Hall Stained Glass Windows project** - agree that the project be moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* to allow the Outline Business Case to be developed.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** The Committee will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as BIF, LIF and SOF, as well as numerous capital programmes that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include NHLF, SEUPB Peace IV, the Executive Office via Social Investment Fund and Urban Villages, DfC, DfI, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages and others. When appropriate, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.

Proposed Movements – Capital Programme

- 3.2** Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a Three Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. This provides assurance on the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project.

The Committee is asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
Alleygating Phase 5	Next phase of the alleygates programme	Move to Stage 3 - Committed
City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community	The creation of two new stained glass windows at City Hall, in recognition of the Health Service in Belfast and the acknowledgement of the positive role of the LGBT community in Belfast.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted to allow the Outline Business Case to be developed

Alleygating Phase 5

3.3 In August 2022, the Committee agreed to move Alleygating Phase 5 to a *Stage 2 - Uncommitted* project on the Capital Programme. The Council has delivered four phases of the alleygating programme to date across the city which has seen the installation of 1081 gates, with both Council funding and funding from external funders. As part of the 2021/22 rate setting process, Members will recall that £500,000 has been made available for Alleygating Phase 5 across Belfast. Following the August decision, each Area Working Group has now had an opportunity to consider and recommend gate locations.

3.4 **The Committee is asked to agree that:**

- The list of streets set out below (proposed and reserve) be taken forward under Phase 5 of the alleygating programme, as recommended by the Area Working Groups;
- Alleygating Phase 5 is moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* under the Capital Programme. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agreed that a maximum of £500,000 be allocated, and
- The necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT Community

3.5 A Strategic Outline Case has been completed and an Outline Business Case will now be worked up on the City Hall Stained Glass Windows – Health Service and LGBT community project and presented back through internal governance and Committee approval process.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.6 *Financial* – Alleygating Phase 5 - £500,000 under the Capital Programme. *Resources* – Officer time to deliver as required.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

ALLEYGATING PROGRAMME - LIST OF STREETS

WEST BELFAST

- Dunlewey Street, Clonard Street, Waterford Street, Harrowgate Street, Hawthorn Street, McQuillan Street and Finn Square
- Mizen Gardens, Lenadoon Ave, Kerrykeel Gardens and Glenveagh Park
- Springfield Road, Cupar Street Upper, Iris Drive, Kilmore Close and Dunmore Street
- Locan Street and Amcomri Street
- Islandbawn Street
- Beechview Park
- Mayo Street and Caledon Street
- Colinmill Road
- Distillery Street, Burnaby Walk, Ladymar Court, Ladymar Grove and Ladymar Park
- Downfine Gardens

Reserve List

- Workman Avenue, Woodvale Avenue, Cuan Parade and Fort Parade

NORTH BELFAST

- Allworthy Avenue and Hillman Street
- Oldpark Avenue, Avoca Street, Summer Street, Roseleigh Street, Oldpark Square, Foyle Court and Rosepenna Street
- Deacon Street, Seaview Street, Parkmount Street, Northwood Parade, Northwood Drive and Northwood Crescent

- Atlantic Avenue and Glandore Avenue

Reserve List

- Cliftonville Parade, Cliftonville Street, Cliftonville Drive
- Stephen Street and Kent Street
- Seaview Street and Parkmount Street
- Hesketh Gardens

SOUTH BELFAST

- Botanic Avenue
- Shaftesbury Avenue
- Fernwood Street, Walmer Street, Deramore Avenue, Rushfield Avenue, Deramore Street
- Wellesley Avenue
- Roden Street, Empire Drive

Reserve List

- Wolseley Street
- Gipsy Street, Primrose Street, Agra Street and Jameson Street
- Hugh Street

EAST BELFAST

- Rosebery Road, Ravenhill Avenue, Toronto Street, Delaware Street
- Jocelyn Street, Clara Street
- Rosetta Park, Knockbreda Road
- Reid Street

Reserve List

- Richard Street, Watt Street
- Jonesboro Park and Beersbridge Road

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that a report on the next steps in the alleygating process, including a potential timeframe for delivery, be submitted to its next meeting.

Update on Area Working Groups

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meetings of the South Belfast Area Working Group of 22nd August, the West Belfast Area Working Group of 25th August, the North Belfast Area Working Group of 30th August and the East Belfast Area Working Group of 8th September, including the following recommendations:

South Belfast Area Working Group

- to approve a request from the Urban Villages Initiative for a specific and total allocation of £584,167 for the Arts and Digital Hub project, to enable the release of a Letter of Offer.

West Belfast Area Working Group

- to reallocate £750,000 which had been set aside for the Shankill Mission project (which was no longer viable) as follows:
 - i. Berlin Swifts and Greater Shankill Community Council (Legion) Projects – to meet the funding deficits on both projects, with up to £113,000 to be allocated to Berlin Swifts and the final budget allocation for the Greater Shankill Community Council project to be agreed once the tender has been returned;
 - ii. £50,000 to be allocated to a small-scale environmental improvement project for the Shankill Road; and
 - iii. in terms of the remaining allocation, to examine a number of other proposals in Woodvale Park, namely, MUGA upgrades and the development of a sensory garden, with further detail to be brought back to the Working Group in due course.

North Belfast Area Working Group

- that the remaining allocation of £71,413, which had become available from the underspends within the Cancer Lifeline and Grace Family Centre projects, be allocated to the Cavehill Tennis Club for capital works relating to floodlighting and pitches.

East Belfast Area Working Group

- that representatives of Castlereagh Presbyterian Church be invited to the next meeting of the Working Group and that a further site visit be undertaken, and
- to undertake a site visit to the Templemore leisure facility, as it moved into the completion stage.

Finance, Procurement and Performance

Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2021-22

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2022.
- 1.2 The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.
- 1.3 The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, which can be accessed from the Council website [here](#), have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 02/22 dated 7th January, 2022 and 23rd March, 2022.
- 1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
 - i approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
 - ii agree that this report should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests given that the statement of accounts must be published by 30th September, 2022.

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Normal Approval Process

- 3.1** The Committee will be aware that the normal approval process allows for the Statement of Accounts to be presented to the Audit and Risk Panel to allow them to review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the council prior to this report going to the SP and R Committee.

However, the Audit and Risk Panel was postponed on 13th September, in line with agreed protocol for the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The meeting has now been reconvened for Wednesday 21st September, at which the Statement of Accounts will be discussed, any issues raised by the panel will be verbally reported to this Committee.

Audit Opinion

- 3.2** It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-22, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2022 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and
- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and

- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 is consistent with the financial statements.

Reserves

3.3 General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £62,218,726 (of which £48,145,477 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

Opening Balance	£54.9m
In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 7.3m</u>
Closing Balance	£62.2m
Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£48.1m</u>
Balance Available	<u>£14.1m</u>

3.4 Capital Fund £12,220,031

The Capital Fund is made up of:

- Belfast Investment Fund (£1,368,532) - created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources
- Local Investment Fund (£800,741) to fund smaller local regeneration projects
- City Centre Investment Fund (£7,688,069) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans
- Social Outcomes Fund (£2,362,689) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment.

3.5 Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund £10,000,000

This fund is to support neighbourhood regeneration and tourism projects in local neighbourhoods.

3.6 Leisure Mobilisation Fund £621,287

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

3.7 Capital Receipts Reserve £1,068,583

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

3.8 Other Fund Balances and Reserves £1,731,811

This relates to the Election Reserve (£735,037) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£703,151) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£293,623) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

3.9 Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had increased this year from £5.2m at 31st March 2021 to £7.1m at 31st March 2022. Whilst the COVID 19 pandemic had an impact on overall debt levels, the main reason is an increase in public authority debt at year end. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

Table 2: Analysis of Trade Debtors

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
Less than three months	£5,450,710	£3,963,319
Three to one year	£1,070,718	£481,307
More than one year	£553,310	£772,373
Total	£7,074,738	£5,216,999

3.10 Creditors

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 71,202 invoices totalling £187,290,662.

The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 17 days for the year ended 31 March 2022. The Council paid 57,882 invoices within 10 days, 66,649 invoices within 30 days, and 4,553 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

3.11 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Statement of Accounts includes an Annual Governance Statement for the year 2021/22, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically, the Annual Governance Statement sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- update on the significant governance issues from prior year
- significant governance issues to be disclosed for current year

3.12 The Annual Governance Statement is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.13 None

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

3.13 None.”

After discussion, during which the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that the Audit and Risk Panel, at its meeting on 21st September, had agreed to recommend to the Committee that it approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March, 2022, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Update on Contracts

The Committee:

- approved the public advertisement of tenders, as per Standing Order 37a, as detailed in Table 1 below;
- approved the award of the Single Tender Action, in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions, as detailed in Table 2 below;
- approved the modification of the contract, as per Standing Order 37a, as detailed in Table 3 below; and
- noted the award of the retrospective Single Tender Action, in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions, as detailed in Table 4 below.

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Installation of solar reflective film to glazing system to all bar / restaurant areas within the Waterfront Hall 3 levels including glazed roof	Up to 10 weeks	£100,000	S. Grimes	Required to reject the solar heat and glare during summer months.
Technical Professionals providing in-depth technical research and guidance to help Digital Services advance the initiatives/projects that support execution of the IT strategy *Previous approval Aug 22 for £53k but revised total now £92k	Up to 2 years	£92,000	R. Cregan	*Use proven Reference Architecture to develop technology Architecture *Receive organisation-specific guidance through calls with analysts *Leverage industry best practices to avoid costly mistakes *Enables Digital Services to stay current with changing markets and technologies

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Procurement and implementation of Qlik Sense SaaS application, along with support and maintenance for Qlik Sense, QlikView, Nprinting and GeoAnalytics	Up to 3 years	£185,000	R. Cregan	The current support and maintenance contract for the Council's on premise Qlik applications is up for renewal on 30/11/2022
Collection and treatment/recycling of mixed materials from recycling centres to include timber, hard plastic, plasterboard and paints and varnishes *Previously approved May 2022 for £2m but revised total now £2.6m to include additional waste streams (i.e. plasterboard and paints and varnishes)	Up to 4 years	£2,600,000	C. Matthews	To ensure the Council's waste is disposed/ recycled in line with current environmental legislation, best practice and circular economy principles.
Contract for the placement of planning notices in the local press	Up to 5 years	£120,000	K. Bentley	Fulfilment of statutory obligation to advertise planning notices under Article 8 of the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015
Hire of grounds maintenance equipment with operator	Up to 3 years	£100,000	C. Matthews	Hire of a range of specialist grounds maintenance equipment with operators primarily to support pitches and bowling greens maintenance
Procurement of consultancy team to develop an Outline Business Case for the Innovation for Societal Impact Challenge Fund under the Belfast Region City Deal's Digital Pillar *Tender previously approved in June 2022 for £100k and up to 6 months	Up to 12 months	£125,000	J. Tully	An Innovation for Societal Impact fund is a key element of the overall suite of BRCD (City Deal) Innovation Challenge Funds as outlined in the digital pillar Programme Business Case. <i>An option now included to extend the contract for a further 6 months</i>

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				<i>and further £25,000, if required</i>
Develop an Outline Business Case (OBC) for a £20m risk capital, Venture Fund, funded by the Belfast City Region Deal *Tender previously approved in June 2022 for £50k and up to 3 months	Up to 9 months	£60,000	J. Tully	An equity debt fund is a key element of the innovation Challenge Fund as outlined in the digital pillar Programme Business Case. <i>An option now included to extend the contract for a further 6 months and further £10,000, if required</i>
Design contest to support the delivery of Belfast Imagining 2024	Up to 22 months	£2.5m	J. Greer	Use the competitive Design Contest process to seek out and develop proposals from the market to support the delivery of civic and culturally led programmes, events and projects for Belfast Imagining 2024. The £2.5m will include the payment of prize monies to applicants to develop their proposals and the award of subsequent service contracts to deliver the successful projects.
Supply of tractors, support services and spare parts (Initial purchase of new tractors over next 2 years plus ongoing support services and parts over life of tractors - estimated 10 years)	Up to 12 years	£160,000	C. Matthews	Replacement of tractors that are past end of life/ operational use and are now uneconomical to continue to maintain. New contract will include replacement tractors via open competition and ongoing support services and spare parts.

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Table 2: Single Tender Action

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
<p>Procurement of a Local Area Energy Plan for Belfast and Queens Island *Fully funded</p> <p>*STA previously approved in August 2022 for £110k but revised total value is now £180k due an additional £70,000 funding has become available. The contract is not yet awarded.</p>	Up to 6 months	£180,000	J. Tully	The Local Area Energy Plan approach is bespoke to Energy Systems Catapult. Energy Systems Catapult is the only supplier in the market who has the experience, knowledge and capability to provide this service.	Energy Systems Catapult

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T1795 - Provision of portage services	Up to 5 years	Additional 3 months and £10,000	N. Largey	Modification required to extend the current portage contract whilst the new tender process is carried out	Delivery Services and Storage Ltd
T1846 - Collection and treatment of mixed waste	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months and £75,000	C. Matthews	The extension is required to bring T1846	MacNabb Bros. and R. Heatrick Ltd.

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materials (Timber and hard plastics)				timber and hard plastics into line with the expiry dates for the plasterboard and paints and varnishes contracts (30/11/2022)	
T1990 (b) - Cinematograph y for PEACE IV programme services	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months	S. Toland	Modification required to facilitate the completion of the project	Morrow Communications
T1858 - PEACE IV – Supporting Connected Communities	Up to 4 years	Additional 2 months	S. Toland	Modification required to facilitate the completion of the project	NI Alternatives

Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Action

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
T2286 - Provision of largescale outdoor event *STA previously approved in April 2022 for £60k but revised total value is now £100k (Fully funded)	Up to 2 months	£100,000	J. Greer	An initial STA was agreed in line with Service Level Agreement with Tourism NI which named Belfast International Arts Festival as the supplier of exclusive artistic product.	Belfast International Arts Festival

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Other Single Tender Actions

Moved by Councillor Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin,

That the Committee agrees to defer consideration of the request to approve the award of the following Single Tender Actions, in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions, to enable further information to be provided on the supply of parts/components, warranty support and specialist repairs.

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Fiat Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) approved parts and components, warranty support and specialist repairs	Up to 4 years	£40,000	C. Matthews	<p>To ensure that FIAT vehicles being used by the Council have only approved OEM parts and components replaced in all safety related vehicle areas on a like for like basis in keeping with the vehicle manufacturer terms and conditions.</p> <p>The supplier has the sole distributor rights for these OEM parts and services for Northern Ireland and therefore the only suitable supplier.</p>	FIAT Donnelly Group

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Mercedes Benz Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) approved parts and components, warranty support and specialist repairs	Up to 4 years	£60,000	C. Matthews	To ensure that Mercedes Benz vehicles being used by the Council have only approved OEM parts and components replaced in all safety related vehicle areas on a like for like basis in keeping with the vehicle manufacturer terms and conditions. The supplier has the sole distributor rights for these OEM parts and services for Northern Ireland and therefore the only suitable supplier.	Mercedes Benz Truck and Van
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On a vote, eight Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was declared lost.

The Committee then agreed, with ten Members voting for and eight against, to approve the award of the two Single Tender Actions.

Equality and Good Relations

Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 20th September, including the recommendations:

PEACE IV

Secretariat

- to note the request for an Expression of Interest from the Special European Union Programmes Body for funding up to £100k for Good Relations activity and to recommend to the Committee that the Council should not submit an Expression of Interest, given current pressures.

Building Positive Relations

BPR3

Transform for Change – NICVA

- to approve a request to progress payment of 30% of the NICVA contract end payment in line with the deliverables completed and supporting evidence that has been submitted; and
- to approve, in principle, an extension to November 2022 for the delivery of community led Action Plans.

BPR5

LINCS

- to extend the project to 30th November, 2022 to allow for a closure event to take place.

Traveller Support Project

- to approve a further extension until the end of October, 2022 to allow for the completion of all elements of the Traveller Support project.

Morrow Communications

- to approve an extension to 31st December, 2022 to allow for a closure event to take place.

Good Relations

- to note the request for the Partnership to engage with Rubicon Consulting in the development of the Audit;
- to approve the request to invite Dr. Lucy Michael to the next meeting of the Partnership to present the draft findings of the research on the lived experience of ethnic minority communities in Belfast; and
- to approve funding of £10,000 to Duncairn Community Partnership for the Interactive Trail project in Alexandra Park, subject to no recurring costs under the Good Relations Action Plan.

PEACE PLUS

- to approve the updated stakeholder engagement plan and key milestones for developing the plan.

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Operational Issues

**Minutes of Meeting of Party Group
Leaders' Consultative Forum**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum of 15th September.

**Requests for Use of the City Hall
and the Provision of Hospitality**

The Committee adopted the recommendations in respect of those applications received up to 9th September, as set out below:

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2022 EVENTS						
Volunteer Service, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust	24th October 2022	BHSCT Volunteers Recognition Event – for their time, energy and expertise support existing services in a wide variety of roles improving the patient and carer experience for our service users. Numbers attending – 80	C	Charge should be £115 in line with criteria but waiver due to Freedom of City for NHS	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality
RNIB (NI)	24th November 2022	Launch of Research findings “Barriers to Employment for people with sight loss NI” Numbers attending – 150	A	No charge - Complimentary as Charity	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality
Groundwork NI	30th November 2022	Young Women – Leaders of Tomorrow programme - celebration for students from Belfast Model	C	No charge - Complimentary as Charity	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality

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		School and Holy Trinity College on completion of their programme Numbers attending – 60				
2023 EVENTS						
QUB Architecture Society	27th March 2023	Architecture Gala Ball – Celebrating a year of new architects who are crucial for in the future for enhancing the city's image through the built architecture around us. Numbers attending - 300	B	Yes	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Bray Leino Events	18th April 2023	CyberFirst Dinner - with speeches and after dinner entertainment for guests attending a 3 day conference. Numbers attending - 150	A & B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Belfast Pride	21st July 2023	Belfast Pride Launch and Pride Awards – LGBT Community awards ceremony. Drinks reception followed by Awards presentation. Numbers attending – 350	D	No charge - Complimentary as Charity	No Hospitality	Approve No charge No hospitality

Minutes of Meeting of Language

Strategy Working Group

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Language Strategy Working Group of 26th August.

City Hall – Design of Carson Tile

The Director of Physical Programmes 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 seek the Committee's approval of the preferred design for the Carson Tile in the Rotunda area in the City Hall.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation from the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August on the proposed design for the Carson Tile to be installed in the Rotunda in City Hall as being Option 3, as pictured in paragraph 3.3 below.**

3.0 Main Report

Carson Tile

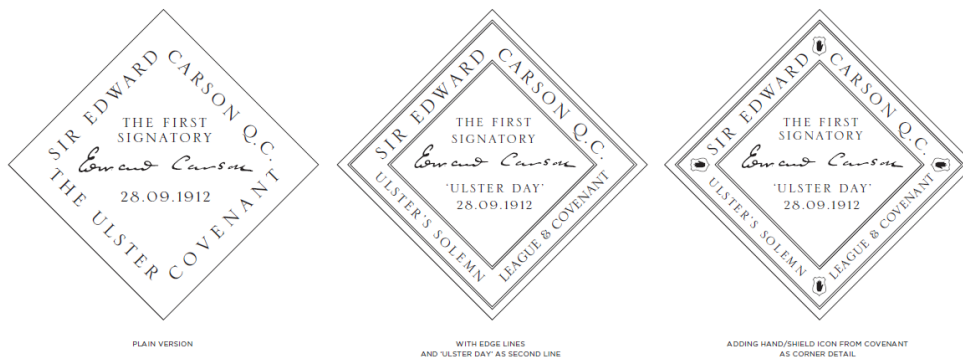
Background

- 3.1 In November 2012, the Council received an independent Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) relating to the City Hall and City Hall grounds. This EQIA was carried out in accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Council's Equality Scheme. This EQIA underpinned the decision to relocate memorabilia into the exhibition, allowing it to be seen and understood in a different way. Whilst the relocation of the artefacts and memorabilia from various parts of the City Hall into the exhibition space addressed the issue of the City Hall itself, in terms of the EQIA, the EQIA also applied to the City Hall grounds, in respect of which no steps have been taken to address the report's findings that there is a need to provide a contemporary image of the City, reflective of its vibrancy and diversity.**
- 3.2 At the time when the relocation of memorabilia to the exhibition was agreed, there was, as part of that arrangement, a commemorative tile to be installed marking the place at which Sir Edward Carson stood when he signed the Ulster Covenant. HED approval is required for this and following ongoing**

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discussions with HED it has been agreed that this will take the format of a tile within the Rotunda area. The SP and R Committee was updated on this at its meeting in May 2021 and approved approve the installation of a plaque with the final design to be agreed. This was referred to the City Hall Installations Working Group for further consideration. HED have subsequently confirmed that marble is the preferred material for installation.

- 3.3** The City Hall Installations Working Group has considered three options for the design of the Carson Tile which will be installed within the Rotunda in the City Hall. The designs considered are set out below:



- 3.4** Three Members expressed a preference for Option 3 (the design on the far right), while two Members expressed a preference for Option 1 and one for Option 2.

The Committee is, therefore, asked to endorse the recommendation of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August on the proposed design for the Carson Tile as being Option 3. This will enable this to proceed to final design in advance of manufacture and installation.

Financial and Resources Implications

- 3.5** Following confirmation of final concept, a detailed design can be produced which will include final costs for manufacture and installation.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.6 Installation of Carson Tile contribute to meeting the recommendations of the EQIA City Hall and City Hall Grounds in ensuring Council achieves a greater balance in terms of the persons who are depicted or represented within the grounds.”

The Committee agreed to proceed with Option 3, as set out within paragraph 3.3 of the report.

Minutes of Meeting of City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

(The Committee had, earlier in the meeting, within a separate report, adopted the recommendation of the Working Group to adopt Option 3 as the design of the Carson tile to be placed in the Rotunda area of the City Hall.)

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August.

Minutes of Meeting of Audit and Risk Panel

The Committee noted the key issues which had been discussed at the meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel on 21st September and approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting.

Request to Present

Queen’s University/Ulster University

The Committee approved a request for representatives of Queen’s University and the Ulster University to attend a future meeting to highlight the role of Purpose-Built Managed Student Accommodation in Belfast.

Chairperson

People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 6th September, 2022

SPECIAL HYBRID MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McMullan (Chairperson);
Councillors Bunting, Bower, Canavan,
Cobain, Michael Collins, Corr, Donnelly,
Garrett, Magee, Maghie and Murray.

Also Attended: Councillor Kyle.

In attendance: Mr. D. Bone, City Services Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors de Faoite, Flynn, Newton, O'Hara and Verner.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Housing Investment Plan 2022 Annual Update

The Committee was informed that the following representatives of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) were in attendance to provide the third annual update on the Housing Investment Plan for Belfast 2019-2023:

Grainia Long (Chief Executive)
Jennifer Hawthorne (Acting Director of Housing Services)
Elma Newberry (Assistant Director)
Leeann Vincent (Asset Management)
Andy Kennedy (Asset Management)
Carole Johnston (Area Manager)
Paddy Kelly (Area Manager)
Gerard Flynn (Area Manager)
Ailbhe Hickey (Regional Place Shaper)
Kevin Boyle (Housing Analytics Manager)
Lynda Hughes (Communications)
Martin Flynn (Communications)
Roisin O'Neill (Central Grants)
Alistair Mawhinney (Supporting People) and
Angela Brannigan (Housing Analytics).

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The NIHE Chief Executive commenced by providing an overview of Housing Executive spend across Belfast during 2021/2022, detailing that, of the £155.18m spent, £77.24m related to 'Investment New Build', £26.73m had been spent on planned maintenance and improvements, £20.54m on response maintenance, and £20.88m on the Supporting People Programme. She also detailed projected spend for 2022/23, including £36.87m allocated to planned maintenance including stock improvements, £22.26m for response maintenance and £20.84 to Supporting People. The Members were advised that the Housing Executive stock in Belfast was currently 25,239 homes.

Ms. Long emphasised the importance of the Community Planning Partnership and working together towards meeting the outcomes within the Belfast Agenda. She provided an overview of the following priorities and initiatives within the context of community planning, specifically the work of both the Living Here Board and City Development Board:

- A Housing Led Regeneration subgroup had been established in 2021;
- The aim being to increase housing supply across all tenures;
- Where necessary, assess the potential for land and public ownership to meet housing needs;
- Examine the barriers to delivery of new homes across the City; and
- To bring forward PlaceShaping pilots to ensure integration of housing and supporting infrastructure and encourage effective collaboration across both the public and private sector.

The Chief Executive explained that the Housing Investment Plan (HIP) provided an overview of the housing market in the Belfast City Council area and reflected Community Planning priorities locally. She confirmed that 55% of homes in Belfast were owner occupied, 19% private rented and 27% social rented. She advised that, currently, private landlords were leaving the rental market, this was having an impact on the number of people having to be placed in temporary accommodation.

The Members were presented with figures regarding waiting lists, which showed an increase in applications and those in housing stress, whilst the number of allocations had fallen in recent years, broadening the gap between supply and demand, which was deemed to require urgent intervention. She stated that with the current economic climate it was predicted that this gap would increase further.

Ms. Long reported on the figures for those presenting as homeless, in the period 2021/22, 4,553 people had presented as homeless, the level of acceptances had been 2,820 and the numbers placed in temporary accommodation 4,479. She emphasised that chronic homelessness was a real issue within Belfast and advised that it was a critical priority for the NIHE who were working closely with the other various statutory stakeholders, including the Council, and she specifically referred to the ongoing positive work in regard to Complex Lives Project.

The following points were highlighted as key housing issues within Belfast:

- Chronic homelessness – dealing with an increasingly vulnerable group of people experiencing homelessness;
- The ongoing impact of Covid-19 on waiting lists for services;

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- New social housing – mixed tenure, sustainable communities;
- Tower Block Strategy and Redevelopment;
- Change of Tenancy (COT) and scheme delivery timescales;
- Cost of living increase, impact on tenants;
- Ukraine Resettlement; and
- City Centre waiting list.

The Members were advised that, in Belfast, 113 new social homes had been completed during 2021/2022 and a further 1,784 homes were on-site (of which 108 were wheelchair accessible Units), a further 433 social homes had commenced. Ms. Long also commented on the redevelopments programmed, as follows:

- Upper Long Streets: 274 properties to be demolished, the improvement of 9 homes and a maximum of 123 new social homes to be developed (£37m);
- Kings Road Flats: approval for the demolition of 102 flats, a maximum of 50 new social homes to be developed (£10.3m);
- Building Successful Communities (BSC)
 - Corrib Avenue: 32 flats demolished, 24 new homes to be developed (£3.4m);
 - Ross Street: 34 flats demolished, 24 new homes to be developed (£3.6m).

The Acting Director of Housing Services provided an overview of the proposed Tower Block Strategy and highlighted that these would take place over the following proposed timescales: Phase One (Demolition/Disposal within a 5-year timeframe), Phase Two (Demolition/Disposal within a 6-10 year timeframe with repairs in the interim) and Phase Three (Demolition/Disposal beyond a 10 year timeframe with repairs and improvements in the interim).

The Chief Executive also referred to the provision of support across the Council area through the Affordable Warmth Scheme and Boiler Replacement Scheme.

She detailed the new Strategic Priorities, as follows:

- Prioritising sustainable development – essential for ensuring households can live in warm homes and achieving a path to net zero carbon housing;
- Building capacity to borrow, to invest in existing homes and adding to new supply;
- Extracting social value from spending power to deliver local inclusive economic development by investing in skills and supply chains;
- Inclusion and involvement of customers in decisions and services that affect their lives;
- Strategic shift towards prevention of homelessness and urgent re-housing; and
- Being a delivery partner for all of government. Working towards the reduction of economic inactivity, delivery of green growth and early intervention to improve lives.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive emphasised the importance of the Community Planning Partnership and working together towards meeting the outcomes within the Belfast Agenda. She added that it was essential that the HIP, Community Plan and the new LDP should all align and fit together and emphasised the need for the outcomes to be regularly monitored and reported on annually.

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A number of the Members spoke positively about working relationships with proactive NIHE staff and welcomed the success of the retro fit programme.

A Member welcomed the Community Planning linkages between the Council and Housing Executive and encouraged the Members to ensure their Party Groups were represented at the Belfast Agenda Refresh Workshop being held on Wednesday, 7th September.

In response to several issues which had been raised during discussion, the representatives confirmed that:

- the NIHE would be keen to work with Council officers to investigate ways that the Affordable Warmth Scheme could be better publicised to residents across the city;
- for any new housing developments, it was noted that there was currently an emerging planning policy to ensure that, after February 2023, for any new planning application submitted for more than 5 units, the developer would have a requirement to provide at least a 20% allocation of social and affordable housing as part of planning requirements which should ensure more mixed tenure housing;
- a demand existed for smaller units as well as family homes. Highlighted that when Place Shaping were considering housing schemes it was not just about addressing housing need but also building communities;
- the co-ownership programme was still going and advised that a scheme for the over 55's was due to launch shortly;
- noted that since the closure of the Regina Woman's Hostel the NIHE had endeavored to ensure that it had sustained levels of services for woman experiencing chronic homelessness through the provision of appropriate services and accommodation and provided an assurance that this commitment would continue until such time as a new service had been identified;
- the Housing Executive had no input into the rents charged by Housing Associations and that NIHE rents needed to be affordable and sustainable for both the tenant and landlord (NIHE), ensuring the correct balance for both;
- the Housing Executive favoured a mix of social and private housing in the city centre;
- negotiations were ongoing with the Trade Unions in regard to the ongoing strike over pay and it was noted that this action was likely to directly impact the response maintenance services in various areas, including North and West Belfast.

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- the Housing Executive was assessing the implications arising from the removal of welfare mitigation measures, but it had no remit in this decision;
- the Housing Executive recognised the need to keep tenants involved in decisions regarding the Tower Block Strategy and rehoming and noted that the schemes could not progress until the residents had all been rehomed;
- extensions to properties were usually only considered when all other options in terms of rehousing had been exhausted and only where there was an extremely unique set of circumstances; and
- the NIHE was currently working with the Department for the Economy on Pilot schemes for Electric Vehicle Charging Points and it was also focused on the sustainability of its own vehicle fleet.

Discussion took place regarding growing housing needs, particularly among young families, and poor housing standards, as well as instances of the unsuitable allocation of tenancies.

Detailed discussion ensued in regard to homelessness and the representatives from the Housing Executive advised that the level of those presenting with complex needs continued to grow, involving a combination of mental and physical ill health and addiction which had been exasperated further as a result of the Covid pandemic. They referred to the ongoing work and highlighted that the focus was on prevention and support, with the emphasis being on trying to prevent the incidences rather than continuously firefighting emergency situations.

The Assistant Director of Land and Strategic Regeneration provided detail regarding the schemes to address the aging housing stock in South and East Belfast.

The Chairperson thanked the NIHE representatives for attending and the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairperson

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People and Communities Committee

Thursday, 22nd September, 2022

HYBRID MEETING OF THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McMullan (Chairperson);
Councillors Bunting, Bower, Canavan,
Cobain, Corr, Donnelly, de Faoite,
Flynn, Garrett, Magee, Maghie, Murray,
Newton and Verner.

Also attended: Councillor McCabe.

In attendance: Mr. D. Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services;
Mrs. C. Matthews, Director of Resources and Fleet;
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor O'Hara.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that the minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Donnelly and Verner declared an interest in items 2 (b) Advice Service and item 2 (c) Community Provision Funding Update in that they either worked for or were associated with an organisation that was in receipt of funding from the DfC. Both Members left the meeting whilst the matter was being discussed.

The Chairperson, Councillor McMullan, declared an interest in item 2 (d) Carew Family Centre: Bridging Support, in that he was a Council representative on the Eastside Partnership and he removed himself from the meeting and chair whilst the matter was being discussed.

Restricted Items

The information contained in the reports associated with the following 7 items 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 on

**People and Communities Committee,
Thursday, 22nd September, 2022**

the following 4 items as, due to their nature, 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.

Financial Reporting - Quarter 1 2022/23

The Director of City Services summarised the contents of the report which presented a Quarter 1 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. She explained that the Quarter 1 position for the Committee showed an underspend of £1.338m (6%), with the forecast year-end position being an underspend of £785k (0.9%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

The Committee was advised that one of the reasons for the Quarter 1 underspend were due to vacant posts across several services. In addition, the forecast did not include the significant financial pressures being caused by the current rate of inflation, the anticipated cost of these pressures was £8m, and funding of these would result in a forecasted corporate deficit of £2.7m.

The Committee was further advised that it needed to be aware of recent unbudgeted pressures, not factored into the departmental forecast, which would impact significantly on this position, therefore any further underspends that arose throughout the year would firstly be used to offset the forecast deficit.

The Committee noted the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

**Pitch Partner Agreement – Alderman
Tommy Patton Memorial Park**

The Committee noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda.

Community Provision Funding Update

The Committee considered a comprehensive report which provided an update regarding the current provision of Community Funding.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Members that this was the final year of the current funding arrangements for Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building Grants ending 31st March 2023. The open call for the Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Buildings Grants 2023-2026 had ended on 9th September. He advised that further papers would be presented to the Committee relating to these grants in the coming months.

Following consideration, the Committee approved:

- the second 50% instalment to organisations funded through Council's Capacity Building Grant, Revenue for Community Buildings Grant and Advice Funding allocations for the 2022/23 financial year. With all payments to be made as detailed in the Letter of Offer's terms and conditions;

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- the payment of a revenue grant to Independently Managed Community Centres on an annual basis and that this payment would include an annual increase aligned with Consumer Price Index increases (CPI), effective from 1st April each year; and
- the payment to Independently Managed Community Centres of a summer scheme funding allocation of £2,500 (for each IMCC) every year.

Carew Family Centre: Bridging Support

(The Chairman, Councillor McMullan, who had declared an interest in this item, left the meeting while it was under consideration and the Deputy Chairperson, Councillor Bunting, took the chair.)

The Director of Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to a report seeking authority to provide 'Bridging Support' to the Carew Family Centre. He took the Members through the detail of the report and advised that the proposed award would help to support interim revenue costs for the building (Tamar Street, East Belfast) to enable the Eastside Partnership (ESP) to meet the timeframe for an application to the Council's Community Development grants programme which was currently open to applications for grant support from April 2023.

The Committee was advised that the ESP would continue to develop Carew as a Children and Family Centre until it could be handed back to the community, to an existing group/organisation, or a new group that was representative of a coalition of interests aligned to the vision of the centre. He reported that, without the proposed additional support (financial and human resources), there would be a risk that it would not be able to sustain the role as custodian until a sustainable succession plan had been implemented.

The Committee agreed the provision of one off 'Bridging Support' to Eastside Partnership, to the value of £7,296, to contribute to the projected revenue costs associated with Carew Family Centre for the period September 2022 to April 2023.

(The Chairperson returned to the meeting.)

Pedestrian Access to Alexandra Park HWRC

(Mr. B. Murray, Waste Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Director of Resources and Fleet advised that, following the queries raised in relation to pedestrian access to Household Waste Recycling Centres, in particular, Alexandra Park Avenue (only one access and egress gate), Resources and Fleet had reviewed the position with the Corporate Health and Safety Unit (CHSU) who had advised that the current access/egress for facilitating walk in pedestrians at the site was not sufficient.

In response to the above, the Resources and Fleet Service had engaged with colleagues in Physical Programmes to commission a feasibility study into the pedestrian access of Alexandra HWRC. She reported that an assessment of the existing Alexandra Park HRC site and development of the optimal layout to accommodate the requirements of the pedestrian access had identified that it would be feasible to provide pedestrian access to

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the site and she took the Members through the proposals and preferred option as detailed in the feasibility report.

Several Members welcomed the outcome of the feasibility report and stated that they felt that option 1 appeared to be the most preferred option but stated that they would be keen to see the mature tree being relocated.

A further Member stressed the need for similar consideration to be given to the accessibility of other household recycling centres, specifically Palmerston Road.

The Committee:

- welcomed the proposed works to the pedestrian access to the Alexandra Park HWRC and that funds of £21k had been agreed to progress the work;
- noted that Option 1 appeared to be preferred option and noted the possible relocation of the mature tree; and
- agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would consider the pedestrian access to other Household Waste Recycling Centres, including Palmerston Road.

**Enforcement of Litter and Dog Offences –
Potential Supplementary External Pilot Project**

The Director of City Services drew the Members' attention to a report seeking the Committee's approval for Belfast City Council to commence a 12-month pilot project with Waste Investigations Support and Enforcement (WISE), along with permission for the removal of the early payment discounted rate pertaining to fixed penalties issued for littering dog fouling and fly tipping offences for the duration of the pilot.

The Members noted that littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling activity had been the focus of ongoing discussion in recent months due to significant adverse press coverage of the city, in particular, the city centre. The Director also referred to the recently established Cleansing Task Force and the Member focus on these issues. She advised that this report was being submitted in the context of the current financial situation that the Council faced with growing pressures and that the Members would be further appraised at the September Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

During discussion, there was unanimous agreement from all Parties that they did not wish to adopt the proposed pilot project, with the Members citing their desire to keep this role in-house to ensure the quality of the service and the job security of staff. Several of the Members also drew reference to problems that had been experienced with the use of the pilot in other Council areas.

The Members discussed at length the ongoing cleanliness issues in the city which had also been discussed at the Cleansing Task Force, along with the need to enhance the service by building up the Council's in house resources and skills to ensure continuity of the service.

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The Members also discussed the recommendation that the early payment discounted rate pertaining to fixed penalties issued for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping offences be removed. Following which, it was

Moved by Councillor Murray,
Seconded by Councillor Flynn,

That the Committee agrees the removal of the early payment discounted rate pertaining to fixed penalties issued for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping offences.

On a vote, six Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was declared lost.

The Committee:

- agreed not to proceed with the procurement of a 12-month supplementary enforcement pilot with an independent enforcement company, targeting litter and dog fouling; and
- agreed to retain the early payment discounted rate pertaining to fixed penalties issued for littering, dog fouling and fly tipping offences.

Resources and Fleet Waste Update

(Mr. B. Murray, Waste Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Director of Resources and Fleet updated the Committee on Waste Collections Management and Performance. This included an overview and update in respect of the following key issues:

- Waste Performance and City Recycling Rates;
- Waste Framework Update;
- Carpet Recycling Scheme;
- Reuse of Laptops and Electrical Equipment Scheme;
- Diversion of (Bulky Household) wooden items from landfill;
- Feasibility studies for Brown Bin and Glass Collection expansion;
- HVO fuel trial; and
- Inter Council / DAERA Collaboration.

Following a query from a Member, the Director advised that every effort was being made to reinstate the glass recycling service that had recently been suspended due to resource issues, specifically the lack of category C (HGV) drivers. She outlined that the current employment market was making it extremely difficult to recruit and retain drivers, however, she reported that a successful recruitment exercise had been held recently and job offers made. Once the drivers commenced employment this service would resume with immediate effect. She also added a range of other measures, including a Council run Driver Academy, were being progressed to support continuity of service operations.

The Committee noted the update provided.

Request for a Funfair at Boucher Road Playing Fields

The Committee:

- noted that the item had been withdrawn from the agenda and that the Director would take the decision, in consultation with the Party Group Leaders and the Chairperson, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation; and
- agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting explaining the Scheme of Delegation for future reference

Matters referred back from the Council/Motions

**Commonwealth Games Success and
Female Sporting Needs in the City**

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Members that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 23rd August, had referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Maskey and seconded by Councillor McCabe, to the People and Communities Committee for consideration:

“This Council also notes with concern a lack of capacity for female sports across the City and resolves to work in partnership with the Department of Communities, Sport NI, the Irish Football Association and any other relevant body to do an immediate and focussed audit of female sporting needs across the City in an attempt to have as early data as possible in terms of what is required to meet capacity for female sports across all sporting disciplines.”

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor McCabe, who had seconded the motion, addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the motion.

A number of Members spoke in support of the motion and urged officers to ensure that, whilst considering the motion, female participation in smaller sports was also considered.

The Chairperson also emphasised the need to ensure that all sporting disciplines give due consideration to the need to be inclusive for those with a disability and asked that this also be considered within the remit of the report.

The Committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be submitted to a future meeting.

Herbicide Reduction Policy

The Democratic Services Officer informed the Members that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 23rd August, had referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Councillor Smyth, to the People and Communities Committee for consideration:

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“This Council notes that Northern Ireland ranks 12th worst in the world for biodiversity loss, with significant threats to our natural and native wildlife and habitats due to human intervention.

It further notes that a scientific study published in June stated that chemical pollution has passed the safe limit for humanity.

This Council commits to the principle of herbicide reduction and will develop a herbicide reduction policy for use across the council estate, in line with best practice regarding weed control and land management.”

The proposer of the motion, Councillor Flynn, addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the motion.

The Committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be submitted to a future meeting.

Committee/Strategic Issues

**Belfast Boxing Strategy Quarterly
Update and 2022/2023 Action Plan**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that the Council had previously agreed to provide £200,000 in funding to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) in the current financial year for delivery of an agreed action plan which supported the Belfast Boxing Strategy and he then provided an update on the progress in relation to the agreement up to the end of June 2022.

He explained that, in line with the Council's objectives, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group had met quarterly. The Steering Group was chaired by the Director of Neighbourhood Services and attended by Council officers, IABA officers and officials and Co. Antrim officials.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had previously agreed a total of 37 Indicators with the IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. The Director reported that the IABA had been compliant with all the reporting requirements. He advised that the IABA had provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and planned to ensure that all targets were achieved at year end.

The Committee was advised that in line with normal process the IABA had developed its programme action plan relating to 2022/2023.

The Committee noted the quarterly progress update report.

Stadia Community Benefits Initiative

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative (SCBI) for 2022/2023 and provide an update on the action plan.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Note progress to date.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.

3.2 The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits, and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative ('the Project') to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.

3.3 In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it is anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting, People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in Gaelic Games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities became fully incorporated into the action plan at the start of financial year 2019-2020, with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at Communications Board, Delivery Board, Policy and Performance Board.

3.4 The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board, which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary.

3.5 The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:

- a. Number of coaching sessions provided
- b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching
- c. Number of sessions improving club governance
- d. Number of volunteering opportunities
- e. Participation opportunities for under 16s
- f. Female participation rates
- g. Number of people completing skills development programme
- h. Number of sessions for under-represented groups
- i. Number of sessions for school and youth groups
- j. Community group usage of stadia
- k. Number of clubs attaining club-mark
- l. Educational opportunities
- m. Number of programmes targeting ASB
- n. Improved collaborative working
- o. Number of disabled participants
- p. Number of older people participating

- 3.6 Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, annual workplans are developed each year. The Action Plan for 2022-2023 has been produced by the partners and includes a mixture of sports specific programmes (e.g. National Governing Body specific coach education) and some joint collaborative initiatives delivered by both sporting codes such as information webinars which proved highly successful within the previous Covid environment which restricted in-person workshops

3.7 Performance

As we continue to emerge from Covid Restrictions, programme delivery to date in Q1 of year 6 (financial year 2022/2023) has begun strongly and details of the IFA and GAA specific activities are included at appendix 1 and appendix 2.

Joint initiatives are planned for Q3 and Q4 and include sports nutrition courses, club funding, female coaching, club ethos, mental health first aid, collaborative delivery in schools.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project. In relation to 2022/23 Q1 spend, partners have reported a normal level of spend in line with programmes delivered. Partners have projected full utilisation of the budget across both

joint and individual work programmes and it is assumed that additional budget will be sought to cover activities planned and the expansion of projects to be delivered.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no additional impacts related to this report.”

The Committee noted the update.

**Update on Cemeteries and
Crematorium Working Group**

The Director of City Services drew the Members' attention to the minutes of the Strategic Cemeteries and Development Working Group and provided a brief update in regard to the matters that had been considered, as follows:

- Update on City Cemetery Heritage Project;
- Update on the Crematorium Development; and
- Update on Bereavement Services – Operational.

The Director advised the Members that the Coronavirus Act 2020 contained provisions which had allowed the electronic transfer of statutory documentation relating to burials and cremations. She reported that these provisions had been due to expire on 24th September, however, since the Working Group had met, she was glad to report that some of the measure had now been extended which would enable Funeral Directors to still lodge these electronically.

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Development Working Group meeting held on 24th August, 2022.

Update on Reference Group on Older People

The Director of Neighbourhood Services drew the Members' attention to the minutes of the Reference Group on Older People, advising that Alderman Copeland had been appointed as the Working Group's Chairperson. He then provided a brief overview of the items that had been considered, as follows:

- Update on the development of Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2022-2026;
- Update on Extreme Weather and Winter Planning with Older People; and
- Update in respect of age-friendly Belfast Activities and Events.

A Member advised that, given the current heating crisis, the possibility of waiving Building Control Inspection fess had been discussed at the recent Working Group meeting and he asked that this be further considered.

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The Committee:

- approved and adopted the minutes and the recommendations from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 22nd August, 2022; and
- agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting which would consider the potential of waiving Building Control Inspections fees in relation to insulation inspections.

Update on Belfast City Youth Council

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the Members that, due to a number of factors over recent months, the BCYC had seen a decrease in activity and he therefore suggested that the special joint meeting scheduled for October be postponed until December 2022.

He reported that a new Children and Young People's Co-ordinator had recently been appointed and this delay would give the officer time to build on relationships internally and externally and particularly with BCYC members to focus on reviewing previous plans and progress and on supporting them to develop new ideas, priorities and projects.

He also highlighted that, at the June 2021, joint special meeting between People and Communities and the BCYC, it had been agreed that there was potential to improve communication and co-operation between Councillors, officers and BCYC and that this could be done via the nominated Youth Party Champions who would engage with the BCYC on issues and/or motions relating to young people. He further suggested, given the recommendation to postpone the October Special Meeting, that a meeting of the nominated party Youth Champions and the BCYC be organised in October/November to enable introductions and initial discussions to commence in advance of the proposed December meeting.

The Committee approved the recommended approach to engagement with Elected Members and the BCYC in the coming months, including postponing the next special joint meeting of the committee with the BCYC until December 2022 and officers arranging an initial meeting with the BCYC and the nominated Elected Member Youth Champions.

Physical Programme and Asset Management

**Cherryvale Gate Anti-Social
Behaviour Measures Consultation**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:

- **Update members on the findings of the Cherryvale gate anti-social behaviour measures survey**

- Present options as to next steps for members to consider

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the results of the ASB measure survey residents' survey.
- Note that this matter was considered by the East Area Working Group on the 31st May 2022 and the feedback from EAWG in paragraph 3.7,3.8 & 3.10.
- Consider options in paragraph 3.14 and agree next steps.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1** Following a request at People and Communities Committee on 3rd March 2020, the Committee agreed to commence a consultation process with immediate neighbours and other stakeholders regarding the potential re-opening of an entrance gate into Cherryvale Playing Fields from Knockbreda Park.
- 3.2** At the People and Communities Committee meeting on 11 August 2020, officers were asked to arrange a site meeting to allow Elected Members the opportunity to meet with various user groups to discuss any relevant issues regarding the Playing Fields. A site meeting was held on the 3rd September 2020 and involved Elected Members, representatives from Friends of Cherryvale and various sports users of the facility. Belfast City Council Officers provided an update on works that were taking place within the Playing Fields. Officers also provided an update that 100 households within the immediate vicinity of the gate had been sent a questionnaire asking for their views concerning the potential re - opening of the gate.
- 3.3** At a further People and Communities Committee meeting, on 8th September 2020, officers were asked to widen the survey to incorporate additional residents. Following discussion, it was subsequently decided to extend the survey scope to a 400 metre radius (i.e. approximately within a 5 minute walk) from the gate.
- 3.4** The Committee, in reviewing the findings, asked that in an attempt to address the anti-social behaviour concerns, that an assessment be carried out in consultation with adjacent residents who might be affected on the possible options to prevent anti-social behaviour including new lighting options, anti-graffiti paint and anti-climb paint.
- 3.5** To complete this survey, Belfast City Council officers determined that 61 properties would need to be consulted in which residents

who may be affected by any such anti-social behaviour issues would live. The residents identified live in the following properties;

Address	Property numbers
Knock Eden Pk	1 to 17 odd and even side
Rosetta Pk	16-36 odd and even side.
Knockbreda Rd	24 - 55 odd and even side.

3.6 Belfast City Council received a total of 18 responses from residents who received letters requesting they be engaged with in person to discuss the potential reopening of the gate and to detail any concerns they may have. The respondents who had requested interviews which were scheduled for Wednesday 26th May failed to respond to any further correspondence or communication with the Open Spaces and Street Scene Manager. Interviews with the remaining 15 respondents were conducted over three scheduled days via face to face engagement or via Microsoft Teams. The respondents were asked to complete a semi structured interview with set questions and an opportunity to elaborate and detail further concerns they have during and after the questionnaire was completed. The results of the fixed questions are as attached in Appendix 1. A timeline of all decisions and stakeholder engagement is included as appendix 2.

3.7 Key findings include:

- 60% of residents surveyed are not in favour of opening the gate. 40% are in favour of reopening. (Note that overall, 89% of respondents to the wider consultation were in favour of reopening).
- 67% of those surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that the opening of the gate will increase the instances of anti-social behaviour in the area.
- Of the three measures proposed to prevent ASB higher fencing was the most popular, although the majority of those interviewed either disagreed or strongly disagreed that the proposed measures would have any effect on reducing the likelihood of ASB.

3.8 During the course of the interviews, a number of measures were requested if a decision to open the gate was made. The measures detailed are as follows:

- The gate to be 12 foot in height in order to prevent youths entering the park during such times the park is closed.
- Meaningful control measures to prevent dogs running freely and fouling within the park indiscriminately.

- The erection of extensive two-meter security fencing at the rear of the properties in Rosetta Park to protect their private property from intrusion from people and dogs as well as potential crime.
- Installation of surveillance cameras (CCTV) in order to closely monitor and deter anti-social behaviour and potential crime.
- The erection of higher fencing around the substation to prevent youths congregating within the substation.
- The reduction of foliage and tree coverings within the area inside the gate in order to increase light and to discourage anti-social behaviour.
- Potential installation of a lighting system to provide light within the area of access the reopening of the gate will allow as a means of security and prevention of anti-social behaviour.
- Increase dog fouling bins if the gate is reopened to facilitate the increase in dog walkers within the area and access to the park via Knockbreda Road.

3.9 If such measures detailed above were implemented in order to manage anti-social behaviour concerns, the costs would be as follows –

- Additional Litter bins - £800
- Erection of fencing around substation and rear of houses of Rosetta Park - £8,000 - £10,000
- CCTV –based on similar CCTV being erected at Girdwood, costs would be approximately £25k.
- Resurfacing of the small unadopted land situated outside the gate between 36 Rosetta Park and 36 Knockbreda Road - £4,000
- Installation of security lights within the proximately of the gate - £51,800

3.10 During the course of the resident interviews, a number of items of note were discussed:

- The funeral parlour at the junction of Knockbreda Road and Knock Eden Park was, according to the residents, refused permission by Belfast City Council to hold funeral services within the premises. This was due to concerns around congestion and parked cars, which according to the residents would constitute the same issues as opening the Knockbreda Road entrance into Cherryvale Park and residents have questioned should the P&C committee not have a consistent approach to the Planning committee.

- If parking restrictions are implemented within the area, this will de value properties within and change the areas character.
- The residents interviewed have requested a consultation meeting with either the elected members of Lisnasharragh DEA or members of the P&C committee.

3.11 This matter was considered by the East Area Working Group (EAWG) at their meeting dated 31st May 2022 and they

- noted the update provided
- noted that a triangle of land exists between the gate and the footpath which officers had not yet been able to identify ownership of and the issue had been referred to Legal Services
- agreed that after the funding options have been explored further and the matter considered by this committee that Members representing the Lisnasharragh District Electoral Area would seek to have a meeting with any concerned residents.
- requested a more comprehensive ASB profile for the park would be provided to the People and Communities Committee in August. Colleagues in Community safety team have confirmed that they have had no reports of ASB in this area with the exception of 2 incidents reported in relation to the Kingspan stadium. The PSNI have also been contacted and officers are awaiting information from them.
- requested that should committee agree with option 2 that the proposed safeguarding measures such as the installation of higher fencing around the electricity substation and to the rear of the houses in Rosetta Park which abutted the Park should be completed before the gate was opened.
- requested that officers would engage with NI Electricity to request that they would consider permitting the Council to connect to the substation within the park in order to reduce the proposed cost of £51,800 for the security lighting.

3.12 Officers have met on numerous occasions with Department for Infrastructure officials to discuss any implications on traffic, parking and crossings in regard to the gate. The road service has stated that no additional lighting is required. Parking restrictions lines would not be added prior to the gate opening; however, this would be monitored and if lines are required there would be no cost to the council.

3.13 The Department for Infrastructure have identified their preferred option for a traffic light system on Knockbreda Road. Funding

has been assigned to the project by The Department for Infrastructure and we are awaiting confirmation from the department on timescales.

3.14 The committee is asked to agree upon one of the following options and consider next steps:

- 1. The gate remains closed: the overall consultation results support the re-opening of the gate. However, concerns have been expressed by both those in favour and those against, of opening the additional pedestrian access.**
- 2. The gate is opened taking into account the matters raised by the EAWG. This decision would be subject to the completion of an equality and rural needs assessment and funding being found to fund the costs listed in 3.9 above. The majority of initial wider consultation returns (89% of those indicating a preference) would support this option.**

Financial and Resource Implications

3.15 Operational arrangements can be accommodated within existing budgets. The funding for the proposed measures listed at 3.9 within the report are not within existing budgets. Should members agree to proceed with option 2 this will be subject to funding being identified to complete the work.

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

3.16 An Equality & Rural Needs impact assessment of the proposal has been completed and no implications have been identified.

Legal Implications

3.17 A triangle of land exists between the gate and the footpath which officers had not yet been able to identify ownership of. The issue had been referred to Legal Services and is subject to further investigation in relation to title."

A Member asked the Committee to consider reopening the gate and requested that a letter be forwarded to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) seeking it to proceed with the installation of the pedestrian crossing prior to the actual reopening of the gate, to address the obvious safety concerns.

A further Member stated that whilst he had no specific objection to the gate being reopened, he did have concerns about the possible cost of some of the proposed measures identified to manage potential anti-social behaviour concerns, highlighting the antisocial behaviour issues that were already prevalent in other parks throughout the city.

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During discussion a Member acknowledged that he felt that some of the proposed measures were excessive and he suggested that the Committee agree to the reopening of the gate 'in principle' and in the interim a meeting of the Lisnasharragh Elected Members would be held to seek agreement on the necessary measures.

The Committee:

- agreed 'in principle' to reopen the gate at Cherryvale, subject to a further meeting of Lisnasharragh Elected Members to agree the final remedial measures to be implemented to try and mitigate against anti-social behaviour, with a report detailing the proposed measures to be submitted to Committee prior to final approval; and
- agreed to write to the DfI asking it to proceed with the installation of the pedestrian crossing prior to the gate being reopened.

**Request for the Renaming of
Moltke Street Playground**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services reminded the Committee that a housing association development in 2014 in the Village area of the city had created an area of open space at the junction of Nubia Street and Moltke Street. He reported that after a very protracted legal process a transfer of the land to the Council had been completed in 2019, this was the last transfer agreed before the Council took a decision to accept land only from statutory partners, along with an accompanying financial contribution towards future maintenance.

The Director detailed that, at the beginning of the development, the community through the Blackstaff Community Development Association had requested the asset be named after the late Ruby Murray who was a local resident. With the complexities of completing the land transfer the naming had not been treated as a priority at that time.

He detailed that there had been a number of requests from the community over the intervening years and most recently contact had been made by Mr. Burgess the husband of the late Ruby Murray in support of the initiative. The Chair of the local Neighbourhood Partnership had also been consulted and had indicated that he had no issue with the name being proposed.

The Committee was advised that, whilst there was no current policy on the naming of parks, the framework (available on mod.gov) formed the basis of current practice with the public consultation element carried out through the Council's "Your Say" platform. Officers were therefore suggesting that, given the strong support within local community, the Committee might consider not undertaking the normal process of wide scale public consultation on this occasion and that the asset be renamed the Ruby Murray Park.

The Committee agreed that officers should commence the process of renaming the Moltke Street Playground the Ruby Murray Park.

Public Right of Way at Orby Green

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Under the Article 3 of the Access to the Countryside Order (NI) 1983 all Local Councils have a duty to

...assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment any Public Right of Way.

- 1.2 A fence with a gate was erected in 2014 across a path between Orby Green and Orby Link. In 2020 this gate was welded shut and members of the public alleged that this had blocked a public right of way. A questionnaire and map were sent out to residents. The evidence returned showed that people did use the routes as of right and that the developer at the time of construction had intended to create public access through. The evidence also revealed that this route has been used regularly for a prolonged time by members of the public.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Assert the Public Right of Way on foot from Orby Green to Orby Link.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 places a duty on District Councils to ‘assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment any public right of way’.
- 3.2 In 2021 when the gate was welded shut once again, having been reopened, the Council were compelled under the above duty to investigate. The Council wrote to the landowner asking for the gate to be reopened to restore the public right of way. The landowner stated that they held no evidence of a public right of way. The Council investigated the matter by means of a community survey. 100% of the total returns (25 respondents) provided evidence that a public right of way had come into existence by presumed dedication.

- 3.3 Legal Services have been consulted and have confirmed that the path appears to meet the common law tests for establishment of a public right of way, so have recommended that the Council assert this Public Right of Way as required by its duty under the Access to the Countryside Order.
- 3.4 For a Public Right of Way to exist at Common Law there are two essential elements,
- a) Dedication by the owner of the soil
 - b) Acceptance of the Right of Way by the public
- 3.5 Dedication by the Landowner can be either express or presumed. The vast majority of cases will turn on presumed dedication by the Landowner, as only very rarely will a Landowner expressly dedicate his lands as a Public Right of Way.
- 3.6 The following evidence shows presumed dedication by the landowner;
- a) The path was constructed through the amenity space by the developer providing a pedestrian link between Orby Green and Orby Link. It is constructed of a sealed tarmac surface.
 - b) The route in question has been used 'as of right' by the general public.
 - c) The public's use of the path was open until 2014. At this point a fence with a gate was erected but the use continued until the gate was welded shut in 2020. The gate was reopened in 2020 but reclosed in 2021. Prior to this the public's use of the path was open so that the landowner knew or should have known about it, did nothing to stop it. The construction of a fence with gate indicates an intention to retain access through.
 - d) the use continued for a sufficient period to imply the owner intended to dedicate a Public Right of Way.
 - e) The route connects two public places or places to which the public regularly resort
 - f) That use has followed a more or less consistent line.
- 3.7 Given the above assessment, members are asked to assert the route from Orby Green to as a Public Right of Way on foot.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.8 There are no Financial or Resource implications.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.9 There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications."

**People and Communities Committee,
Thursday, 22nd September, 2022**

The Committee agreed to assert the Public Right of Way on foot from Orby Green to Orby Link.

Operational Issues

Proposal for Naming New Streets

The Committee approved the application for naming a new street in the City as set out below:

Proposed Name	Location	Applicant
Gilchrist View	Off Linen Mill Grove, Edenderry, BT8	KMBC Properties, Ltd

**Consultation response to Food Standards Agency
on the Draft Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display)
Regulations (NI) 2023**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Over recent years, there has been significant growth in the online sale of food, including from cafes, fast food and restaurant outlets, via online apps (including online aggregator outlets/apps such as ‘Just Eat, Deliveroo, Uber Eats’), websites and via social media channels.**
- 1.2 Food businesses that offer food for sale at a physical premises are legally required to display a food hygiene rating sticker. Currently online food sales are not required to display a food hygiene rating at point of sale.**
- 1.3 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is now seeking views and comments of stakeholders on draft Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 and the potential impact on food businesses and district councils. The consultation focuses on the introduction of secondary legislation needed to implement the online display provision within the statutory food hygiene rating scheme established by the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.**
- 1.4 The Council’s Food Safety team have reviewed the FSA consultation questionnaire and have prepared a draft response for committee approval. The draft response indicates general support for the implementation of the regulation, however makes comment on a number of technical points and queries in relation to implementation.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** The Committee is asked to approve and endorse the draft consultation response, subject to ratification at the October meeting of Council.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** The Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 introduced a statutory food hygiene rating scheme in Northern Ireland. The legislation includes provisions which make it mandatory for food businesses to display food hygiene rating stickers at their premises and, if consumers can order online, to display their rating online in a specified manner.
- 3.2** Secondary legislation has been implemented to require the display at physical establishments however a separate piece of legislation is required to implement the requirement for display on an online ordering platform. Without this legislation there exists an asymmetry of information available relating to a business' food hygiene compliance, therefore increasing consumers' risk of illness attributed to foodborne disease. This absence of accountability to consumers also limits compliance incentives for businesses, exacerbating regulatory burdens. Secondary legislation mandating online display of food hygiene ratings (FHRs) will seek to correct these shortcomings and ensure the scheme delivers its intended benefits in all settings.
- 3.3** While it should be anticipated that this secondary legislation will ensure consistency of Food Hygiene Rating display across all platforms and provide authorised officers with the appropriate tools for enforcement, and the consultation response indicates support in this respect, Food Safety Officers within Belfast City Council have also raised a number of reservations with regard to implementation of the legislation and future enforcement. These concerns have been reflected in the consultation response to assist FSA in taking forward the proposed legislation and to seek further clarification on specific points.
- The requirement for a sitting NI Executive/NI Assembly to introduce new legislation may affect the suggested commencement date.
 - There may be an increase in complaints from consumers with regard to display of Food Hygiene rating information on sales via Social media. We anticipate there may be difficulties in finding sufficient information to locate these businesses to enable appropriate investigation and follow up. FSA will need to undertake further engagement with social media platforms to address these difficulties.

Finance and Resource Implications

3.4 None

Asset and Other Implications

3.5 None

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

3.6 None.”

The Committee endorsed the draft consultation response available [here](#), subject to ratification at the October meeting of the Council.

**Regulation of Cosmetic
Treatments in Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 The popularity of aesthetic cosmetic treatments has grown rapidly in recent years, with new non-surgical procedures continually emerging on the market.
- 1.2 New legislation to improve regulation of this sector has recently been introduced in England, along with a proposed licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures. Powers available to Environmental Health Officers in Northern Ireland to regulate this sector to protect health and safety remains significantly more limited. The NI Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group (on which BCC is represented) is seeking support of all Councils to advocate for an appropriate regulatory regime for this sector.
- 1.3 This report seeks the committee’s support and approval for Belfast City Council to write to the Minister for Health to seek improved regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- Write to the Minister for Health to seek improved regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 In October 2021 the Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act 2021 came into force in England making it illegal to administer Botox or a filler by way of injection for a cosmetic purpose to a person under 18 years of age. No such law exists in Northern Ireland.**
- 3.2 The UK Government recently confirmed its intention to introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures to better regulate the cosmetic industry in England through an amendment to the Health and Care Bill.**
- 3.3 The licensing scheme in England will introduce consistent standards that individuals carrying out non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as lip fillers, botox etc. must meet, as well as hygiene and safety standards for premises. It will focus on those cosmetic procedures which, if not properly performed, have the potential to cause harm.**
- 3.4 In recent years there has been a significant rise in the number and type of non-surgical aesthetic procedures available, with many practitioners performing treatments without being able to evidence appropriate training and the required standards of oversight and supervision.**
- 3.5 The existing legislation available to Environmental Health Officers to regulate this sector in Northern Ireland is considered no longer fit for purpose and no licensing scheme (similar to that being introduced in England) currently exists in Northern Ireland.**
- 3.6 The Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG) is a subgroup of Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI). HSLG is seeking the support of all Councils by requesting that each Council write to the Health Minister to ask for better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.**

Finance and Resource Implications

- 3.7 None**

Asset and Other Implications

- 3.8 None**

Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

3.9 None.”

A Member welcomed the proposal to write to the Minister of Health regarding the regulation of cosmetic procedures and asked for the correspondence to be extended to also seek improved regulations of wellness centres, with a focus on regulating those offering fertility treatments. She stated that she felt this also lacked scrutiny in Northern Ireland and was an issue that had been raised with her by constituents.

The Committee agreed to write to the Minister of Health to seek the improved regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland and the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

It was further agreed that it would also to also raise with the Minister the opportunity for the regulation of wellness and treatment centres offering fertility treatments.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Council Allotments - Councillor Flynn

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor Flynn addressed the Committee and outlined his concerns regarding the general lack of maintenance and upkeep of Council owned allotments.

A number of Members concurred with the Member, highlighting that, despite numerous allotments not being maintained, there was lengthy waiting lists across the Council area seeking allocation. It was suggested that the lease system might need to be reviewed to address those people not maintaining their allotment.

It was also suggested that officers investigate if they could identify any suitable plots of land that would be suitable to accommodate new allotments.

The Committee agreed to undertake a review of all Council managed allotment facilities, including investigating the levels of upkeep of individual plots, the ongoing management and maintenance of the sites and length of waiting lists at the various sites with a comprehensive report to be submitted to a future meeting.

Chairperson

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Wednesday, 28th September, 2022

HYBRID MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Murphy (Chairperson);
Councillors Bunting, Duffy, Ferguson,
Heading, Hussey, T. Kelly, Lyons, Maskey,
McCabe, McDonough-Brown, McLaughlin,
Murray, Nelson, O'Hara, Spratt and Whyte.

Also present: Councillor de Faoite.

In attendance: Mr. J. Greer, Director of Economic Development;
Mr. S. Dolan, Senior Development Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Dorrian.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee of 10th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September, subject to the amendment under the heading "Ulster University – Belfast Campus Update", the Council had agreed that an All-Party Delegation would be immediately convened with representatives from Ulster University and the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure to expedite works on junctions adjacent to the new Belfast Campus.

Declarations of Interest

In relation to item 2.a) Major Events Update, Councillor McCabe and Councillor Maskey declared an interest, in that family members were employees of Féile an Phobail, and left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.

Councillor Spratt declared an interest regarding item 4.a) Ulster University Belfast Campus Update, in that his wife worked for the University.

Restricted Item

The information contained in the report associated with the following item was 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 meeting during discussion of the following item

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
Wednesday, 28th September, 2022**

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 (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Major Events update

The Committee was provided with an update on the progress of a number of major city events and bidding for the Fleadh Cheoil and One Young World.

It was highlighted that the funding referenced within the report was within existing departmental budgets which had been agreed by the Committee in March and April 2022.

During discussion, the Director of Economic Development explained further the engagement process and timeline for the bidding process.

After discussion, the Committee:

- Agreed to submit a bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil na Éireann in 2024;
- Agreed to provide funding of £7,500 to Ards Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE) via a funding agreement to cover associated bid costs that voluntary organisation would incur;
- Noted the planning for One Young World Belfast 2023 and the costs related to the handover delegation that attended the Manchester Summit and that those costs were approved by Committee in August 2022;
- Noted the learnings from St. Patricks Day in 2022 and the findings of Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) with regards to the commissioning approach;
- Agreed to the retrospective approval of the process followed to date, including the award of the service contracts for St. Patricks Day 2022 as per Standing Order 37a (i.e. the public advertisement of tenders) to ensure continued compliance; and
- Agreed to provide £15,000 of funding towards the NI Music Prize from existing departmental budgets.

Presentations

Streetdock

The Chairperson introduced Mr. I. Richardson, CEO, and Mr. D. Kane, CTO Hardware, representing Streetdock to the Committee and they were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. Richardson provided an overview of Streetdock, a Belfast start-up focused on sustainable urban logistics solutions. He presented the Streetdock E-cargo Bike Pilot which used e-cargo bikes to operate an on-demand delivery service, open to all businesses, together with using Hub locations for cargo consolidation.

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Mr. Richardson explained that the benefits of using Cargo Bikes included:

- Achieving net zero commitments;
- Reduced congestion, air and noise pollution;
- Making the city centre more liveable, safer and healthier; and
- New and improved services for businesses.

Mr. Richardson highlighted the range of services businesses could avail of and described the end to end user experience. He highlighted the Future Vision of the Company would include: Introducing new services; Adding new hub locations to serve more of Belfast; Adapting our technology to introduce automated processes; and Trailing new equipment and EVs for larger consignments. He advised that retailer incentives and a broader cycle network would help to grow the business.

During Members questions, the representatives explained further the current volume of Businesses using their services, the capacity and speed of the bikes and the plans to grow the business. In relation to a Member's question regarding the etiquette of cyclists, Mr. Richardson pointed out that each rider completed a training programme and followed a code of conduct.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided on the e-cargo delivery pilot that was funded through the DfC Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme.

**Translink Lagan Junction to Yorkgate
Track Renewal**

The Chairperson welcomed representatives of Translink to the meeting: Mr. G. Smyth, Public Affairs and Project Communications Officer; Mr. M. Gormley, Programme Manager – Renewals (Network Engineering), together with Ms. S. Clements, ARUP and Mr. A. Cupples, Senior Project Manager, Babcock.

The representative's provided a presentation on the Lagan Junction – Yorkgate Track Renewal Project. Mr. Smyth explained the Central Area Track Renewal (CATR) was a track renewal strategy in the centre of Belfast, which started from the south side of Lanyon Station to Yorkgate station as well as 499 metres on the Bangor line from Lagan Junction.

He highlighted that significant track renewal works would be required each year for the next 5 – 6 years to deliver track works in priority order. He advised that this would maintain operational performance and avoid a backlog of renewals building up, which the supply chain would be unable to resource. He advised that the first element of CATR works had been successfully carried out through the renewal of Lagan Junction during 2020.

Mr. Gormley advised that the project location for this element of CATR was from Lagan Junction (where the Bangor line met the Belfast line) to the north side of Yorkgate

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Station over Dargan Bridge. He highlighted that this was a strategic part of NI Railways network for both the Larne and North West lines.

Mr. Cupples provided a detailed overview of the site works, together with the key project facts and construction timeline. He highlighted that the impact of works included:

- The train line between Yorkgate Station and Belfast Lanyon Place Station would be closed on several occasions in line with the possession strategy;
- Yorkgate Station would be closed over the Christmas period;
- A temporary timetable with bus substitution services would operate, ensuring public transport routes were maintained;
- Passengers with valid rail tickets would also be able to travel on scheduled Ulsterbus services 218 operating between Ballymena/Antrim and Belfast in addition to the 212 service between Derry~Londonderry and Belfast during the closure periods; and
- Mitigation measures would be implemented to minimise impact and disruption, for example, noise attenuation, timing of deliveries, appropriate management of stie compounds and considerate working by contractors at all times.

Mr. Smyth pointed out that, unfortunately, some disruption to local residents was inevitable as engineering works progressed. However, Translink would seek to keep noise and inconvenience to a minimum and explained further the mitigation measures which would be put in place.

He highlighted that Translink was undertaking significant community consultation in advance of the construction works, which would include:

- Letters and leaflets posted to individual properties in the vicinity of the works;
- Online project webpage (www.translink.co.uk/catr);
- Train announcements and posters in key train stations;
- Individual engagement and presentations to key stakeholders (elected representatives / local community);
- Use of digital platforms, e.g. social media and webinar;
- A public drop-in session at Lanyon Place Station;
- Dedicated contractor control phone number provided to residents to effectively deal with any queries or complaints; and
- Support for local community initiatives.

During discussion, a Member questioned if there were plans to improve the walkway for pedestrians from Yorkgate to the City Centre. Mr. Smyth advised he would provide feedback on this issue in due course.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

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The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that, where relevant, Translink would provide further information on the issues raised.

Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

Ulster University Belfast Campus 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 provide an update to Members on the proposal for a site visit to the Ulster University’s Belfast Campus.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:**

- Agree to a site visit of the Ulster University’s Belfast Campus in the coming weeks.**

3.0 Main report

- 3.1 Members will recall it was agreed at the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2022 to receive a presentation from Ulster University on the opening of the Belfast Campus. This was originally scheduled for the postponed main Committee meeting on 14 September.**
- 3.2 Ulster University have subsequently advised that in order to appreciate the significance of the Campus for the whole city it would be most beneficial if Members were to consider undertaking a site visit. This would also include a presentation from representatives of the University, briefing Members on the positive impacts of the new campus, the migration plans to enable a controlled opening and the management of the sustainable transport approach, and the work ongoing to address the wider area issues including any community concerns and ongoing engagement and work of the Community Campus Regeneration Forum, as reported to Committee in August 2022.**
- 3.3 Members will recall that an amendment to the August 2022 City Growth and Regeneration Committee Minutes was put to Council and passed at the September 2022 Full Council Meeting. This was in relation to the Ulster University, Belfast Campus Update ‘That an All-Party Delegation would be immediately convened with representatives from the**

University of Ulster and the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure to expedite works on junctions adjacent to the new Belfast Campus.’ Democratic Services have issued a letter to the University regarding this.

- 3.4 Members are asked to agree to undertake a site visit of the Ulster University, Belfast Campus within the coming weeks.**

4.0 Financial & Resource Implications

None

5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.”

The Committee agreed that a site visit of the Ulster University's Belfast Campus would take place on Tuesday, 11th October at 12 noon, and information regarding the partial closure of York Street and traffic management at the site would be requested.

Positioning Belfast to Compete

Belfast Imagining 2024 - Partnership Development Opportunities

The Committee was provided with an update on the pre-launch activity with existing and prospective partners for Belfast Imagining 2024, together with the opportunities recently presented for showcasing, collaboration and match funding from partners.

The Director of Economic Development explained that opportunities were being identified to help progress the Council's plan to develop relationships and map stakeholders and grow collaboration and investment opportunities for the year of culture. He highlighted that the partnership engagement plan included meetings, events and presentations locally and internationally to inform our existing and prospective partners of the plans and invite their collaboration and support in the development and delivery of Belfast imagining 2024. He reported that the co-design and partnership approach was led by best practice and enabled strategic relationships and plans to be scoped and developed where possible before, during and after the public launch communications.

He highlighted that the activity complemented with the themes of the cultural strategy, A City Imagining: A City Belonging, A City Challenging, A City Creating and a City Exploring and a full update report on plans would be presented to the Committee in November, with a view to commencing public communications also in November.

The Director of Economic Development advised that, in relation to partnership opportunities, a unique opportunity had arisen to work with Belfast International Arts Festival during its 60th year celebrations to deliver two key pre-launch special events to

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
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showcase the talent of globally recognised local artists to potential sponsors and key partners:

- Oona Doherty would present her original dance piece as a premiere at The MAC arts centre, at end of October. British Council had agreed to partner with the Council on this event and had offered match funding towards delivery costs.
- Conor Mitchell would present his new original opera, Propaganda at the Lyric theatre in early November before its international tour.

It was reported that the events would outline investment and collaboration opportunities of the Belfast Imagining 2024 year of culture to supporters and partners in advance of its official public launch in November and would be delivered with key partners, demonstrating collaboration and shared resources.

The Director of Economic Development encouraged all Members to attend the events and advised that further details would be confirmed and invitations issued to Members in early October.

He pointed out that £15,000 would be allocated to Belfast international Arts Festival towards the events (artists and venues) from existing departmental budgets agreed by Committee in March 2022 for the purpose of engagement and promotion for City Imagining 2024. He highlighted that the British Council had also agreed a contribution of match funding hospitality to offset the cost of hosting the MAC reception and enhance value of investment.

The Committee:

- Agreed to co-host Belfast Imagining 2024 engagement events and noted the contents of the report, in particular the recent partnership investment of the events; and
- Agreed participation by Members at two events to be held on 26th October at The MAC, and 2nd November at the Lyric.

Issues Raised in Advance by Members

Belfast Cycle Network Delivery Plan

Councillor de Faoite suggested that an update was required on the Belfast Cycle Network Delivery Plan and raised his concerns for the need for a pedestrian crossing at the Ardenlee Avenue junction of the Ravenhill Road.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Whyte,

Resolved - That the Committee agrees to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to request an update on the proposed timeline for the roll-out the Belfast Cycle Network

**City Growth and Regeneration Committee,
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according to the delivery plan that was announced in March 2022, and to further propose an additional piece of infrastructure, in the form of a pedestrian crossing, as part of the delivery on the Ravenhill Road/Ardenlee Avenue Junction.

Standing Order 14 - Submission of Minutes

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 3rd October for ratification.

Chairperson

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 21st September, 2022

MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Matt Collins (Chairperson);
Alderman Sandford; and
Councillors Canavan, Gormley, Howard, M. Kelly,
T. Kelly, Magee, McAteer, McCann, McCoubrey,
McCullough, McKeown, Murray, Nelson and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. K. Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and
Civic Services;
Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Mr. J. Cunningham, Senior Licensing Officer;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer; and
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Bradley, Hutchinson and Thompson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th and 17th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September, 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.

Delegated Matters

THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT UNDER STANDING ORDER 37(d)

HMO Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licences for Houses in Multiple Occupation which had, since its last meeting, been issued under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 21st September, 2022**

Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of applications for licences, Amusement Permits and Road Closure Orders which had, since its last meeting, been approved under the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

**Application for the Provisional Grant of a Seven-Day
Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence with Extended
Hours - QUB, One Elmwood Student Centre**

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 To consider an application for the provisional grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence with extended hours for QUB, One Elmwood Student Centre.**

<u>Area and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
QUB 1 Elmwood Student Centre 77 University Road Belfast BT7 1NF	WK/2022/00490	Mr Brian Horgan Queens University Belfast, University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NN

- 1.2 A location map has been circulated.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Taking into account the information presented and any representations received Members are required to consider the application and to:**

- a) approve the application for the provision of entertainment to 2.00 am from Thursday to Saturday, or**
- b) approve the application with special conditions, or**
- c) refuse the application for the provision of entertainment to 2.00 am from Thursday to Saturday.**

- 2.2 If an application is 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 County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided until any such appeal is determined.**

3.0 Main Report

Key Issues

Provisional Grant of a Licence

- 3.1** There is provision within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985 (the Order), to make application for the grant of an entertainments licence in respect of premises which are to be, or are in the course of being, constructed, extended or altered.
- 3.2** If the Council is satisfied that the premises would, if completed in accordance with plans deposited, be such that it would grant the licence, the Council may grant the licence subject to a condition that it shall be of no effect until confirmed by the Council.
- 3.3** This is described as the provisional grant of a licence.
- 3.4** The circumstances in relation to the new Student Centre are that the building has now actually been completed and is ready to open. The Building Control Service has completed it for the purposes of the Building Regulations and all fire safety, structural and access requirements have been satisfied.
- 3.5** In relation to the Entertainments Licence, all statutory consultations have been completed satisfactorily and the certificates pre-requisite to the grant of licence have been received.
- 3.6** Under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Place and Economy has authority to issue any application for the grant of a licence where there are no representations in respect of it and the hours of operation applied for do not exceed 1.00am.
- 3.7** However, applications to provide indoor entertainment beyond 1.00 am are subject to consideration by the Committee and the Student Centre has applied for the following days and hours of use:
- Sunday to Wednesday: 12.00 am to 1.00 am the following morning
 - Thursday to Saturday: 12:00 am to 2:00 am the following morning
- 3.8** To assist the University in the circumstances where the building is ready to open for the start of the new term in advance of consideration of this application for an extension

in hours to 2.00 am the Entertainment Licence has been issued permitting the premises to operate to 1.00 am.

- 3.9 The Committee is, therefore, only being asked to consider whether the provision of entertainment to 2.00 am may be permitted.

Details of the Premises and Proposals

- 3.10 The premises is a new building, which replaces the former Queen's University Students' Union on the same site.
- 3.11 The areas proposed to be licensed to provide indoor entertainment and their maximum occupancies are:
- Mandela Hall (Ground floor) – 1,300
 - 2nd Floor Bar (Second floor) - 780
- 3.12 The days and hours during which entertainment is proposed to be provided, are:
- Sunday to Wednesday: 12.00 am to 1.00 am the following morning
 - Thursday to Saturday: 12:00 am to 2:00 am the following morning
- 3.13 The applicant has stated that the extension of hours to 2.00 am from Thursday to Saturday is to enable them to offer their student population a comprehensive package of entertainment and to be competitive in the local area.
- 3.14 Members are reminded that the previous Students Union building which existed on this site operated with a Seven-Day Annual Entertainments Licence permitting entertainment to 3.00 am from Monday to Sunday.

Representations

- 3.15 Public notice of the application has been placed and no written representation has been received as a result of this advertisement.

PSNI

- 3.16 The Police Service of Northern Ireland has been consulted and has confirmed they have no objection to the application. Its response has been circulated.

NIFRS

- 3.17 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has been consulted and has confirmed that it has no objection to the application.

Health, Safety and Welfare

- 3.18 The premises has been inspected by the Building Control Service and it is now complete for the purposes of the Building Regulations.

Noise

- 3.19 The applicant has submitted an Event Management Plan (EMP) which has been evaluated by the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU).

- 3.20 EPU has recommended that events within the One Elmwood Student Centre shall be operated in accordance with the Event Noise management Plan approved under condition 19 of the planning approval and suggest the following special condition be added to the Entertainments Licence:

1. When Mandela Hall is in use, all exiting from the Annex Bar, Union Bar and Mandela Hall after 11.00 pm shall be directed to University Road.

- 3.21 Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives the Council additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.

Applicant

- 3.22 The applicant, and/or their representatives, will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.23 None.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.24 There are no issues associated with this report.”

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 21st September, 2022**

The Committee agreed to approve the application for the provisional grant of a Seven-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for QUB, One Elmwood Student Centre, with entertainment being permitted till 2.00 a.m. from Thursday to Saturday.

Non-Delegated Matters

Pavement Café Licensing Scheme

The Building Control Manager submitted for the Committee's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

- 1.1 The Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 ('the Act') came into operation on the 1 October 2016. However, the Council, along with a number of other councils, did not implement the legislation at that time as the Department for Infrastructure Roads had not issued their technical guidance for Councils in support of the Act.**
- 1.2 The Committee is reminded that, in 2017, it previously determined a number of matters in relation to the administration of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (NI) 2014.**
- 1.3 This included setting Pavement Café Licence fees, agreeing the Standard Conditions to be attached to licences, agreeing the standard hours of operation for licences and amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to outline those matters that would be brought before the Licensing Committee for consideration.**
- 1.4 The Council in June 2020, decided to introduce a temporary process for considering pavement café applications to assist the hospitality sector during the pandemic, as we had not implemented the legislation due to the lack of technical guidance. The temporary pavement café licensing scheme was extended last year and will expire on 30 September 2022.**
- 1.5 This report is presented to seek guidance on how to progress from the temporary process for pavement café licences to a permanent scheme.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Based on the information provided Members are asked to consider proposals that:**

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 21st September, 2022**

1. a permanent pavement café licensing scheme should now be implemented;
 2. a transition and implementation period of 6 months be introduced to allow existing licensed businesses to continue to operate until the grant of their permanent licence is determined and after which temporary licences will no longer be valid;
 3. the application fees, as agreed by the Council in 2017, be introduced;
 4. there will be a review of current Licence Conditions; and
 5. there will be a gradual return to normal and proportionate enforcement procedures.
- 3.3 Members are advised that the Licensing Committee does not have delegated powers in relation to policy decisions concerning licensing matters and as such your recommendation will be subject to ratification by Council.
- 3.0 **Background**
- 3.1 The Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 ('the Act') came into operation on 1st October 2016. However, the Council, along with a number of other councils, did not implement the legislation at that time as the Department for Infrastructure Roads had not, and still has not, issued their technical guidance for Councils in support of the Act.
- 3.2 That said, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) has now evaluated and determined the appropriateness of 85 Temporary Pavement Café applications in Belfast, using their professional expertise following their own guidance documents.
- 3.3 As such, DfI's technical guidance document for Council's is no longer seen as crucial, as DfI are deemed to be the experts in determining the suitability for the use of the pavement.
- 3.4 The Council in June 2020, decided to introduce a temporary process for considering pavement café applications to assist the hospitality sector during the pandemic, as we had not implemented the legislation due to the lack of technical guidance. The temporary pavement café licensing scheme was extended last year to 30 September 2022.

- 3.5** This process included drafting temporary guidance for applicants, which was based on the Department for Communities guidelines and supplementary guidance from the Licensing Forum Northern Ireland produced when the Act came into force.
- 3.6** The Council's temporary guidance was issued to assist the hospitality sector during the pandemic. The principles contained in that guide will transfer into permanent guidance.
- 3.7** One of the key aspects of the temporary process was the ability of businesses to start using the pavement café area whilst their licence application was being determined and statutory agencies were encouraged, by Government, to take a very liberal view when considering applications to allow the hospitality businesses to reopen. This meant permitting:
- Much larger pavement café areas, than would have been agreed in 'normal' circumstances.
 - DfI introducing 'Parklets' to be used as a pavement café area.
 - DfI closing or restricting roads so they could be used as a pavement café area

Current Situation

- 3.8** There are now 85 Pavement Cafés in Belfast that have received temporary licences. The majority of these are well run with no complaints to the Council. More than 40 other applications have been received which could not progress due to applicants failing to provide sufficient information to consult with DfI Roads. There are also a significant number of businesses operating who have not applied for a Temporary Pavement Café licence.
- 3.9** A few licensed pavement cafés, in particular in the City centre, are now becoming a source of complaint from adjacent businesses and from members of the public. The nature of those complaints relates to:
- The size of the area being used.
 - The area affecting footfall and trade to adjacent businesses.
 - Furniture not being removed at the end of trade.
 - Impact on early morning deliveries.
- 3.10** We also have reports that the Council's cleansing and waste management crews are experiencing difficulties in getting their vehicles in to empty bins and clean the streets as

pavement café furniture is not being removed at the end of trade. Additionally, the pavement is not being cleaned and litter generated by customers using the area is not being collected by the business. This is contributing to the ongoing cleanliness issues in the City.

4.0 Key Issues

- 4.1 There is an obvious desire to create a vibrant café culture in the City with al fresco dining now an accepted part of the hospitality offer. In doing so we must also be mindful of the impact this may have on the various needs of all those who use our City.**
- 4.2 Temporary licences will expire at the end of September and several licensees have been enquiring about ‘renewing’ their licence.**
- 4.3 It is therefore proposed that a permanent pavement café licensing scheme should now be implemented given that DfI has already evaluated the technical appropriateness of many temporary Pavement Café applications.**
- 4.4 As previously determined by Council in 2017, Pavement Café licences will be granted for a period of 5 years.**
- 4.5 To implement pavement café licensing, it would be advisable to have a transition and implementation period of approximately 6 months. It is suggested that all grant applications from existing licensed pavement cafés should be made by the end of December 2022 at the latest. The implementation period will allow existing licensed businesses to continue to operate until the grant of their permanent licence is determined.**
- 4.6 The implementation period will also allow the Council time to process grant applications for permanent applications and for relevant statutory and public consultations to be undertaken. An implementation period will also avoid the prospect of an influx of grant applications having to be considered in a short space of time.**
- 4.7 A cut-off date for transitional arrangements to enable a move to a permanent Pavement Café Licence scheme is suggested as 31 March 2023. Thereafter any temporary licences will no longer be valid and any that have not made an application for a Licence will be subject to routine enforcement procedures.**

Fees

- 4.8** Given the circumstances under which the temporary scheme was introduced, the Council waived any fees associated with a Pavement Café application.
- 4.9** In 2017, the Council agreed that fees should be charged for a Pavement Café Licence and determined the grant application fee to be £225.00 with an annual licence fee of £55.00 for the ensuing 4 years. (No annual licence fee is charged in the first year).
- 4.10** Whilst the legislation allows the Council to set fees at full cost recovery levels Members decided to set a significantly reduced fee, equating to 25 pence per day for a 5-year licence.
- 4.11** It is therefore proposed that in implementing the Pavement Café scheme we also introduce the associated fees agreed by Council in 2017. In doing so this would be similar in approach to several other councils.
- 4.12** The financial implications of not introducing fees for 5-year pavement café licences will be lost income of at least £37,825, based solely on the current number of applications granted at present.

Licence Conditions

- 4.13** The Licensing Committee agreed, at their meeting of December 2016, to Standard Licence Conditions which would be applied to pavement café's.
- 4.14** The majority of those conditions have proven appropriate, however there is scope to clarify and augment some of those Conditions, particularly in relation to street cleanliness issues.
- 4.15** Should it be agreed that the permanent scheme be implemented a further report will be brought to Committee in the coming months to consider revised conditions.

Enforcement

- 4.16** Over the course of the pandemic the Council has responded to requests from the Assembly and industry to assist recovery and we have therefore been endeavouring to provide support and minimise impact on small businesses.

- 4.17** For that reason, there has been a very ‘light touch’ approach to enforcement in relation to those who have not made application, failed to provide the necessary information to progress their application or who may not be operating in accordance with the terms of their licence.
- 4.18** As restrictions have ceased there needs to be a gradual return to normal and proportionate enforcement procedures in line with established council policy guidance. This will include addressing applications which cannot progress because insufficient information has not been provided, commencing proactive action in relation to unlicensed pavement cafes and dealing with breaches of Licence Conditions.
- 5.0** **Financial and Resource Implications**
- 5.1** The grant application fee for a 5-year pavement café licence is £225.00 with an annual licence fee of £55.00 for the subsequent 4 years. If the fees are waived there will be a total lost income over 5 years of at least £37,825 on the basis of applications granted at present.
- 6.0** **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**
- 6.1** Full engagement with the Equality and Diversity Officer regarding the equality screening exercise undertaken in June 2020 and reviewed in 2021 will be undertaken prior to progressing to a permanent scheme.”

The Building Control Manager provided background details to the temporary pavement café licence process, with the purpose of seeking guidance from the Committee on how to progress to a permanent scheme.

A number of Members expressed their concerns around the timing of imposing a licence fee during a cost-of-living crisis, as the Council should be seen to be helping and supporting businesses. Concerns were also raised around cleanliness, stepping up enforcement and disrespect for Council officers. The Building Control Manager stated that those businesses currently holding licences could be approached and a stronger enforcement line taken, however, under a temporary scheme this was not as straightforward as it would be if the Council introduced a permanent scheme. The Members agreed that there was a need to reach a position of regulation as to how pavement cafes operate, in order to achieve fairness, accessibility and cleanliness. The Building Control Manager informed the Members that introducing permanent licences would enable further engagement with DfI in relation to the size of pavement cafes.

The Senior Licensing Officer provided the Committee with a front-line insight into the temporary licence process and responded to the Members’ concerns. He highlighted the level of administration created by the temporary scheme and the non-completion of

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paperwork by many applicants. He understood the temporary licence scheme from an economic point of view but advised there was a need for Members to be aware of all the factors involved. He noted that a number of problem premises were non-licensed and provided the Members with details around regulatory compliance, cleanliness and pedestrian obstructions caused by large temporary cafes.

Discussion ensued around engaging and encouraging businesses to apply for a licence and the timing of the introduction of a fee, given that businesses were still in a state of recovery following the pandemic and with many now struggling with the cost of energy bills.

After consideration, the Committee agreed to extend the current temporary arrangement for a further twelve months.

**Motion - Drink Spike Testing
Kits in Licensed Premises**

The Committee was reminded that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 23rd August, had referred the following motion on Drink Spike Testing Kits in Licensed Premises, which had been proposed by Councillor Murray and seconded by Councillor Maghie, to the Licensing Committee:

“This Council, in a bid to make our night-time economy a safer place, will work with licensed premises to introduce drink spike testing kits into their premises.

This will include training for staff on how to administer the kits, what to do in the event of a positive result, and promotional material promoting how customers can access the kits.”

The Committee agreed that a report on how this might be facilitated, resourced and managed be presented to a future meeting.

HMO Licence - Flat 2, 26 Jerusalem Street, Belfast

The Interim City Solicitor provided the Committee with an update on an appeal of its decision to refuse an HMO licence at Flat 2, 26 Jerusalem Street, which had been heard on 16th September. She confirmed that Judgement had been reserved and that the Committee would be provided with a further update when the Judgement had been delivered.

Chairperson

Planning Committee

Wednesday, 31st August, 2022

HYBRID MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Whyte (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff, Councillor Hussey;
Alderman Rodgers;
Councillors Bower, Carson, Douglas,
Garrett, Groogan, Hutchinson, Maskey,
Murphy and Spratt.

In attendance: Ms. K. Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management);
Ms. L. Walshe, Senior Planning Officer; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Councillors Matt Collins and Hanvey.

Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson (Councillor Whyte) declared an interest in relation to item 2a, LA04/2021/2856/O – Proposed mixed use regeneration development on lands surrounding the new Belfast Transport Hub, in that he had a professional relationship with the agent, Juno Planning. He left the meeting for the duration of the item.

Withdrawn Items

The Committee noted that the following item had been withdrawn from the agenda by the Applicant:

- LA04/2021/1231/O - Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 36. apartments in 2 blocks at 385 Holywood Road

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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)**

LA04/2021/2856/O - Proposed mixed use regeneration development comprising office (Class B1), residential apartments (including affordable), retail (Class A1), hotel, leisure (Class D2), public realm, active travel uses, cafes, bars and restaurants, and community uses (Class D1), on lands surrounding the new Belfast Transport Hub and over the Transport Hub car park, to the east and west of Durham St and south of Grosvenor Rd. At Lands to east of West Link (A12) and south of Grosvenor Road; Lands at Grosvenor Road and intersection of Grosvenor Road and Durham Street; Lands to the east of Durham Street and north of Glengall Street; Lands at Glengall Street; Lands between Glengall Street and Hope Street including Europa Bus Station, Great Victoria Rail Station surface car parks at St Andrew's Square; Translink lands to west of Durham Street, south of BT Exchange building and north of Murray's Tobacco Works

(The Chairperson, having declared an interest in the item,
left the meeting while the item was under consideration.)

(Councillor Maskey in the Chair)

The Senior Planning Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the application for a mixed use regeneration development that would be comprised of office (Class B1), residential apartments (including affordable), retail (Class A1), hotel, leisure (Class D2), public realm, active travel uses, cafes, bars and restaurants, and community uses (Class D1), on lands surrounding the new Belfast Transport Hub and over the Transport Hub car park, to the east and west of Durham Street and south of Grosvenor Road..

She pointed out that there had been one late item, an additional representation which, in error, had not been included in the total number of representations within the report, however, it did not raise any further issues to that which had been contained within the case officer report.

She provided the Committee with aerial views of the site location plan and the Transport Hub planning permission site layout.

She pointed out that the Weaver's Cross Regeneration Project sought to redevelop lands which would be freed up by the future closure of the existing Europa Bus Station and Great Victoria Street train station and other vacant lands that were in the ownership of Translink, to the west of the Belfast Transport Hub development, and she outlined matters that would be reserved for subsequent approval, which included:

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- Siting;
- Design;
- External appearance;
- Means of access; and
- Landscaping.

She explained that, whilst most matters would be reserved, the application was supported by an Environmental Statement, an Indicative Scheme, a Planning and Design Principles document and a series of Parameters Plans.

The Senior Planning Officer referred to the main issues which were to be considered in the assessment of the outline applications, which included:

- The principle of the proposed uses at the locations;
- Regeneration, employment and investment;
- Housing, inclusive of affordable housing;
- Transportation, that included transport sustainability, parking and road safety;
- Impact on character and appearance of the area;
- Impact on amenity of nearby residents and businesses;
- Impact on built heritage and archaeology;
- Human health;
- Drainage and flood risk;
- Wastewater infrastructure;
- Natural heritage;
- Developer contributions and planning agreement; and
- Pre-application community consultation.

She referred the Committee to the Planning and Designed Principles document which contained seven key principles with which reserved matters applications must accord and outlined the parameter plans for the proposed Saltwater Square open space.

She stated that the City Fringe area had been designated as non-residential, however, a minimum of 21% of the total floorspace for all three zones would be residential, that would equate to 29% of the City Entries and Saltwater Square. She added that a minimum of 20% of the designated residential floorspace would be affordable.

She outlined the Developer Contributions to the scheme, a number of clauses would be included to secure key issues, that included:

- Minimum residential floorspace;
- Minimum 20% affordable residential floorspace;
- Green travel measures;
- Employability and skills, and
- Management of private spaces.

She informed the Committee that 159 representations had been received, which included 14 letters of support and the remaining having been considered as objections. She pointed out that the letters of support had welcomed the regeneration, investment and tourism

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potential, and that the majority of concerns which had been raised in objection referred to the demolition of the Boyne Bridge and the toucan crossing, both of which had been approved under the Transport Hub application by the Department for Infrastructure and were situated outside the red line of the application in front of the Committee.

She pointed out that all of the statutory consultees had responded with no objections, and that Belfast City Airport had stated that mitigations of tall buildings may be required, which had been included as a condition. She added that no non-statutory consultees had responded with objections, however, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had pointed out that there is a social housing requirement in the area.

She concluded by stating that it was recommended that planning permission would be granted, subject to conditions and a Section 76 planning agreement.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. W Dickson, Mr. B. McMahon and Mr. D. Hill to the meeting.

Mr. Hill informed the Committee that he had 38 years of experience working in the field of architecture. He stated that concerns about Translink's proposal had been well documented in the media and that he had two questions that he wished for the Committee to submit to Translink's Planning Consultants, Juno Planning:

- The Gunning Principles set out clearly how Consultation be carried out on large scale applications. Why had Translink not followed the Gunning Principles? and
- At a Consultation organised by Translink, on the top Floor of the Europa Hotel, in Spring 2017, 18 of the 19 people who spoke had serious concerns with regard to the buildings around the station, and Chris Conway, Chief Executive of Translink, had stated the concerns would be addressed in a Gateway Review, why had the review not taken place?

He concluded by stating that, should the Committee approve the application, he would undertake to submit a judicial review, which would delay the project and he asked the Committee to show civic leadership in the development of Belfast for future generations.

Mr. McMahon informed the Committee that he had worked for the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation and had worked in traffic management and engineering for the previous 30 years. He stated that he supported the concept but had a major concern regarding the safety of users of the Transport Hub.

He stated that he had voiced his concern regarding the traffic management plans since 2017 and had met with the consultants and that the implications of pedestrian crossings should be considered, as they were not necessarily a safe place to cross.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. H. Harrison and Mr. L. McComb, Juno Planning, Ms. G. Thompson, Translink, Mr. D. McAllister, Weaver's Cross, Mr. C. Bennie, McAslan and Partners, to the meeting.

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Mr. McComb stated that the station was on programme to be opened in 2024 and would act as a catalyst for Weaver's Cross, a transport led regeneration project which would be to deliver a new city neighbourhood with a high-quality public realm at its heart.

He outlined the key benefits of the development to the Committee, which included:

- Support an environmentally conscious lifestyle amongst residents and travellers;
- Support the delivery of the Belfast agenda and A Bolder Vision;
- Provide employment and living space;
- Benefit to the local economy; and
- Regeneration through reconnection.

He stated that a development partner would be appointed the following year and would be required to be ready to commence on development sites and be able to demonstrate long term partnership working approaches, experience of placemaking and creativity while demonstrating strong social value credentials.

He concluded by stating that Weavers Cross' impact on the wider community would be of paramount importance and, alongside the right partner, would provide a unique opportunity to create significant social value for the local economy for 20 to 30 years.

Ms. Harrison provided the Committee with an overview of the public consultation which had been undertaken.

In response to questions raised by several Members regarding the demolition of the Boyne Bridge, Ms. Harrison stated that the removal of the Boyne Bridge had been approved in 2019 through the previous Transport Hub works application.

After providing further clarifications to the Members, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions and the Section 76 Planning Agreement, to resolve anomalies identified by the Senior Urban Design Officer as appropriate, and to explore appropriate restrictions on hours of operation of the restaurants, bars, leisure, food and drink establishments.

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LA04/2022/0063/F - Construction of warehouse distribution facility, associated ancillary office, yards, car parking and access from Westbank Road. At Lands to the north east of 3 Westbank Road and immediately south west of the existing Stena Line Terminal, Belfast Harbour Estate

(Councillor Whyte, Chairperson, resumed the Chair)

The Planning Manager provided the Committee with an overview of the application . He pointed out that DfI Roads had indicated that it had no objections to the application and recommended conditions, as contained within the Late Items Report.

He presented the Committee with outline maps, aerial views and proposed elevations and stated that there had been no objections from consultees and that the proposals were in keeping with the locality.

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions and to deal with any DfI Roads comments or other issues that might arise.

LA04/2022/0853/F - Provision of a two-storey multi-purpose shared space building comprising main hall (to facilitate 3no. indoor pitches), changing and toilet facilities, kitchens, multi-function rooms. Car and cycle parking areas, service yard, perimeter fencing, temporary construction compound hoarding, associated external lighting and landscaping. Proposed vehicular and pedestrian accesses from Springfield Heights and Ballygomartin Road, service vehicles from Ballygomartin Road and all associated site works. At Site of the former Finlay's Factory SE of Ballygomartin Road, N of Moyard Crescent, NW of Springfield Heights and Springfield Park

The Senior Planning Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the proposal accompanied by site location and layout maps and the proposed elevation imaging.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. S. McDowell, Resolve Planning, on behalf of the Applicant, to the meeting. Ms. McDowell stated that the proposal would provide a range of integrated services and facilities that would include indoor leisure, community space, sport and wellbeing, education and multipurpose spaces.

She pointed out that the development would introduce significant landscaping and promote outdoor recreation on a derelict space which had been unused for a number of years.

She reported that the space would be managed by the Black Mountain Shared Space Partnership which aimed to bring together representatives from a number of representatives from the local communities to promote good relations within the interface area.

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She pointed out that all of the planning material matters which had been raised by single representation had been considered during the planning process.

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions and to resolve any further issues that might be raised by DfI Rivers and any other matters.

Restricted Item

Update on the replacement Planning Portal

The Director of Planning and Building Control updated the Committee on the progress of the implementation of the new regional Planning IT System to be shared by Belfast City Council, nine other councils and the Department for Infrastructure.

The Committee noted the content of the report

Chairperson

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Planning Committee

Tuesday, 20th September, 2022

HYBRID MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Whyte (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff, Councillor Hussey;
Alderman Rodgers;
Councillors Bower, Matt Collins,
Douglas, Garrett, Groogan,
Hutchinson, Maskey, Murphy and Spratt.

In attendance: Ms. K. Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control;
Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor;
Mr. E. Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management);
Mr. P. Fitzsimons, Principal Planning Officer;
Ms U. Caddell, Senior Planning Officer;
Ms. T. Harbinson, Senior Planning Officer; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Councillors Carson and Hanvey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 27th June and 16th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September, 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.

Notifications from Statutory Bodies

The Director of Planning and Building Control provided the Committee with an update in relation to the various notifications which are referred to the Planning Committee, with particular reference to the making of Abandonment Orders and the reasons for abandonment.

She explained that the Council received various notifications from a range of sources, such as the Department for Infrastructure, the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, that included:

- Abandonment Orders;
- Vesting Orders;
- Extinguishments of Public Rights of Way;
- Waiting Restrictions;
- Provision of Accessible/Disabled Parking Bays; and
- Other Traffic Management Schemes.

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She pointed out to the Committee that, while some of the aforementioned items appeared regularly on the agenda for the Planning Committee, others were referred directly to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

She explained the circumstances by which an Abandonment Order would be received and processed and that the Department for Infrastructure had indicated that objections to a proposed Abandonment Order would usually relate to opposition of a proposed development of the area, rather than a loss of a public right of way.

She advised the Committee that the range of potential considerations and the different approaches to the matters being brought to the Committees suggested that it would be appropriate to carry out a review of the process and procedures associated with such notifications, that would include consideration of whether it would be more appropriate for the matters to be brought before a single Committee.

The Committee noted the outline of the consultations and the proposed review of the current process and procedures in respect of the various notifications and their reporting to the Committee.

Extinguishments

Ross Street

The Committee noted the Ross Street Extinguishment Order.

Roumania Rise

The Committee noted the Roumania Rise Extinguishment Order.

Planning Decisions Issued

The Committee noted the Planning decisions issued between 10th and 7th September, 2022.

Appeals

The Committee noted that there had been no appeals decisions notified.

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)**

**LA04/2022/0594/F 3-storey extension including bridge
link to the existing school building, reconfiguration
of existing parking with additional car parking areas,
restoration of hard play areas, landscaping, retaining
walls, and associated site, access and ancillary works
at 700 Antrim Road**

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the application for Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School at 700 Antrim Road.

He illustrated the impact of the proposal with site location and layout plans, aerial photographs and proposed elevation imaging and outlined the key issues which had been considered in the assessment of the proposed development, that included:

- Principle of redevelopment;
- Visual impacts;
- Impact on neighbouring amenity;
- Impact on Built Heritage;
- Traffic and Parking;
- Impact on trees and Natural Heritage;
- Contaminated Land;
- Drainage and Flooding; and
- Pre-application Community Consultation.

He stated that the proposal would not have any adverse impact on trees or natural heritage features, was compliant with relevant policy considerations, that there had been no objections received from any consultees or members of the public, and that the proposal had been considered as acceptable and he recommended that planning permission be granted, subject to conditions.

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2022/0917/F Renewal of temporary planning
permission, Titanic Exhibition Centre, at 17 Queens Road**

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the application for the renewal of temporary planning permission for a further period of five years, for a temporary exhibition centre, access arrangements, service and surface car parking and associated works.

He explained the following key issues for consideration of the application:

- The Principle of a Temporary Exhibition Centre at this location
- Transport including network capacity, parking provision and highway safety;
- The Impact on Built Heritage and Archaeological interests;

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- The Impact on Amenities;
- Environmental Protection and Human Health;
- Ecology and Natural Heritage;
- Drainage and Flood Risk;
- Planning Agreement and Developer Contributions; and
- Pre-Application Community Consultation.

He referred the Committee to the site location plan, aerial views of the site and environs, floor plans and the proposed elevation images.

He informed the Committee that no objections had been received from any statutory or non-statutory consultees and that, having regard to the Development Plan, relevant material considerations, and that the principle of the use as an Exhibition Centre had been established, the proposed development had been considered acceptable and it was considered appropriate, as the structure was temporary, to limit the permission to five years.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms. S. Murphy, Turley and Mr. C. O'Hara, RPS, on behalf of the Applicant to the meeting, and pointed out that they were in attendance to answer any questions from the Committee.

In response to a question from a Member with regard to the temporary nature of the application, Ms. Murphy informed the Committee that there had been steady growth until the Covid-19 Pandemic had impacted the industry and that there was a need for the exhibition industry to re-establish itself and allow the market to return.

The Committee approved the application for a period of five years, subject to conditions, and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2021/1985/F 15 storey building comprising 60 x
apartments with ancillary facilities and all other associated
site works (amendment to previous approval Z/2011/0472/F)
at 35-41 Queen's Square**

The Senior Planning Officer outlined the main issues to be considered in the determination of the applications, that included:

- The principle of development at this location;
- The acceptability of the design;
- Impact on character of the area and the setting of listed buildings;
- Access, parking and servicing arrangements; and
- Environmental Considerations - Drainage, Contamination, Noise.

She referred the Committee to the proposed floorplans and contextual elevation images and outlined the key design improvements.

She pointed out that the site benefited from a previous approval of a similar development, of a similar height scape and massing, that had been granted in November 2013 for a 16-storey building, comprised of 60 apartments, which remained live and therefore presented a lawful fallback position for the Applicant. The Committee was informed that the

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Council's Conservation Officer had indicated that the proposal would have an adverse impact on the character of the area and that officers had worked collaboratively with the Historic Environment Division and the Applicant to seek to improve the design quality of the proposed development, given the existing permission which had previously been granted.

She advised the Committee that no third party objections had been received and referred the Committee to late items which had been received, whereby the Applicant had indicated that a Schedule 6 consent to discharge had been approved and that the Historic Environment Division had provided a further final response, which did not change its overall position but did recommend two conditions - the submission of a method statement to indicate how the McHugh's Bar, which was a listed building, would be protected, and the submission of external material samples in advance of application.

She informed the Committee that the application was recommended for approval.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. T Stokes, Agent, Mr. A. Maxwell, Project Manager and Mr. J. Humes, Project Architect to the meeting who indicated that they would be available to answer any questions with regard to the application from the Committee.

In response to a question from a Member in relation to the residential capacity of the apartments, Mr. Stokes indicated that the intention had been to sell the apartments following construction and that the Applicant would have no control over how many individuals would subsequently reside within the apartments.

In response to a further question from a Member with regard to there not being a daylight assessment on the proposed development, the Senior Planning Officer indicated that there was not a requirement for a daylight assessment, as it was not in an established residential area and could not be considered as part of the planning application. It was clarified that the space standards for residential units do not apply in this location because it is not an established residential area for the purposes of the guidance. The Senior Planning Officer highlighted that the design quality of the application was a significant improvement on the previously approved design.

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions and the Section 76 and to deal with any DFI Rivers comments and other issues which might arise provided they are not substantive.

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**LA04/2022/0209/F 31 social housing units comprising
of 16 x apartments and 15 x townhouses, car parking,
landscaping and all associated site and access works
on lands at 176-184 and 202 Woodstock Road and
2-20 Beersbridge Road**

The Senior Planning Officer presented an overview of the application to the Committee. She explained the key issues to be considered, that included:

- The principle of the proposal at this location;
- Design, layout and impact on the character and appearance of the area;
- Impact on Residential Amenity;
- Impact on Historic Buildings;
- Access, Movement and Parking;
- Drainage and Flood Risk;
- Infrastructure Capacity; and
- Environmental Health.

She pointed out that the application site was located within the settlement development limit, had been zoned partially for housing and was located within the Housing Action Area in the adopted BUAP.

She informed the Committee that two letters of objection to the application had been received which raised concerns with regards to traffic, parking, loss of light and privacy and the impact on residential amenity.

She provided the Committee with illustrative representations of the impact of the proposed development on the objectors' properties and advised the Committee that the proposed development had not been considered to adversely impact the character and appearance of the surrounding area and was considered to be sympathetic in its built form, scale, massing and appearance with the surrounding area and neighbouring properties. She added that there had been no objections received from consultees.

She reported that the proposal had been recommended for approval, subject to conditions and a Section 76 agreement to secure green travel measures.

The Committee approved the application, subject to conditions, a Section 76 Planning Agreement and no new and substantive issues arising during the remainder of the consultation period with neighbours and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions and Section 76 Planning Agreement.

**LA04/2021/2462/F 13 dwellings on lands 60m north west
of Hazel View, Dunmurry**

The Senior Planning Officer provided the Committee with an overview of the application and outlined the following key issues:

- The principle of the proposal at this location;
- Design, layout and impact on the character and appearance of the area;
- Impact on amenity;

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- Access, Movement and parking;
- Infrastructure capacity; and
- Other Environmental Considerations.

She explained that the proposal was for social housing and that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had indicated its support for the proposal by stating that the “demand for social housing in the West Belfast area continues to be high and our projection of social housing need indicates a requirement for 2,148 new units of social housing across the Council area over the 5 year period 2021-2026”, and that they would welcome the scheme as a means to address unmet social housing need in the outer west Belfast catchment area.

She reported that there had been one objection to the application which had raised concern with regard to additional traffic leading to more congestion in the locality, however, DfI Roads had not indicated any concerns and no objections had been received from any statutory consultees.

She highlighted that a late item had been received from the Agent requesting that the landscaping and boundary conditions in relation to dwellings 10 and 11 would be worded to allow the development to be phased to allow each dwelling to be let upon completion and reported that officers indicated no objection to the request.

She pointed out that the application was recommended for approval.

The Committee approved the application, subject to conditions, and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions.

**LA04/2022/1236/F Art Sculpture on land located at roundabout
junction approx. 100m south west of 385 Springfield Road**

The Planning Manager reported that the application sought permission to install an art sculpture and was before the Committee due to the Council being the Applicant.

He presented the site location, site plans and elevation images to the Committee and pointed out that no objections had been received in relation to the application and that it was recommended that the Committee approve the application on the basis that:

- The scale, design and materials of the proposal would not detract from the appearance and character of the surrounding area;
- The sculpture was a well-designed compatible use at its location and would contribute positively to the overall environmental quality of the area; and
- The proposal would provide public art and an interesting feature for those who may access the Innovation Factory and Forth Meadow Greenway.

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of conditions.

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**LA04/2022/1018/F Retention of temporary car park
at Ballymacarret Community Centre**

The Committee approved the application for a limited period of two years only and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of conditions.

**LA04/2022/1380/F Installation of three projector units to
act as an interactive lighting installation along hoarding
on Castle Street (temporary 2 years), 83-87 Castle Street**

The Committee approved the application for a limited period of two years only, subject to conditions, and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to grant temporary planning permission and to finalise the wording of conditions.

**LA04/2022/1079/F 1 additional ball stop netting structure
along the boundary with Cregagh Presbyterian Church
at Cregagh Sports Club, Gibson Park Avenue**

The Committee approved the application and granted delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of conditions.

Restricted Items

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following two
items 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 meeting during discussion of the items 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.

Quarter 1 Finance Report

The Director of Planning and Building Control provided the Committee with an update on the Quarter 1 financial position, that included a reporting pack which contained a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary.

The Committee noted the content of the report.

**Update on Planning Portal Replacement
System – Verbal Report**

The Planning Manager provided the Committee with an update on the project to replace the Planning Portal.

The Committee was advised that the timeframe for the project remained under significant and increasing pressure.

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He provided an update on the project plan, change and transition plan and next steps to the Committee.

The Committee noted the contents of the report

Chairperson

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Standards and Business Committee

Tuesday, 27th September, 2022

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor De Faoite (Deputy Chairperson) (in the Chair);
Councillors Canavan, Corr, Douglas, Duffy, Flynn, Gormley,
T. Kelly, Long, Lyons, McCabe, McCullough and Verner.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal
and Civic Services
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Hanvey) and Councillors Kyle, McAteer and Pankhurst.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council, at its meeting on 1st September.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Motions

The Committee was informed that the following motion, which had been proposed by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly) and seconded by Councillor Smyth, had been received for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 3rd October:

Support for Parents

The Committee agreed that the motion be considered in two parts, with the first part, as set out hereunder, being adopted by the Committee:

“Parenting Week 2022 is Monday 17th to Friday 22nd October, this Council recognises and acknowledges the vital importance of parents in society.

Furthermore, it notes that in Parenting NI's latest Cost of Living Survey, 99% of parents are concerned about rising costs and the impact which this is going to have on their family and 69% of parents said that their financial has situation deteriorated in the last six months.

In order to bring attention to and attempt to redress this situation, the Council formally supports Parenting Week 2022 and parents in Belfast. The Council pledges to work towards ensuring that parents are given enough support to be the best parent they can be to improve the outcomes of their children, especially during the current cost-of-living crisis."

The Committee agreed that the second part of the motion, as set out hereunder, be referred, in the first instance, to the People and Communities Committee for consideration:

"To support parents, the Council commits to providing a list of existing initiatives which it delivers, with a view to working with the voluntary and community sector, as well as other partners, to explore if such initiatives may be improved, as well as seeking to bring forward new programmes during the cost-of-living crisis. The Council also commits to seeking parents' views on any further support it will provide to families to ensure that parent voice is a significant factor in the design and implementation of new initiatives that will help tackle the cost-of-living crisis for parents."

Chairperson