

# Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 30th May, 2025

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- Members present: Councillor Murphy (Chairperson);  
Alderman McCoubrey; and  
Councillors Beattie, Black, Brennan, Bunting, Cobain,  
de Faoite, R-M Donnelly, Duffy, Ferguson, Garrett,  
Groogan, Long, Maghie, McDonough-Brown,  
R. McLaughlin, Nelson and Whyte.
- In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and  
Civic Services;  
Mr. D. Sales, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood  
Services;  
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. J. Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. P. Hamilton, Lead Officer – Community Safety; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services and Governance  
Coordinator.

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor I. McLaughlin.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

### **Restricted Items**

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

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

The Members were also reminded that the content of 'restricted' reports and any discussion which took place during closed session must be treated as 'confidential information' and that no such information should be disclosed to the public as per Paragraph 4.15 of the Code of Conduct.

**Bonfire Update (verbal update)**

The Committee was provided with an update in respect of a number of bonfires which were being built across the City:

***Meridi Street***

The Committee was informed that the Bonfire Panel had requested that the site located at Meridi Street, Belfast be referred to the Committee for its consideration.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to delegate authority to officers to undertake legal action and the necessary steps to secure the site. The Committee also noted that further information would be submitted to a Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, if required.

***Annadale***

It was reported that engagement had been undertaken with the community in relation to a potential bonfire located at Annadale Embankment and it would now be replaced with a beacon.

The Committee agreed that the Council would work with the contractor to remove bonfire material which had accumulated on at the site.

***Lower Oldpark***

The Committee was reminded that the Committee, at its meeting in April, had agreed a funding award to the Lower Oldpark Community Association (LOCA) under the Summer Community Diversionary Programme.

The Committee was informed that a variation request to the application had been received.

During discussion, the City Solicitor confirmed that funding letters of offer had not yet been sent.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that officers would review the application and that engagement be undertaken with the applicant. The Committee also noted that further information would be submitted to a Special Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, if required.

**Standing Order 14 - Submission of minutes to Council**

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 2nd June for ratification.

Chairperson