## **Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Friday, 21st June, 2013

#### MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Robinson (Chairman);

Aldermen Browne and R. Newton;

Councillors Attwood, Corr, Haire, Hargey, Hendron, Jones, Lavery, Maskey, Mullan, McCabe, McVeigh, Mac Giolla Mhín, A. Newton,

Reynolds and Spence.

In attendance: Mr. P. McNaney, Chief Executive;

Mr. C. Quigley, Town Solicitor/Assistant Chief Executive; Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources; Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and

Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman M. Campbell and Councillor McCarthy.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mullan declared an interest in respect of Item 3e, Integrated Stadia Regeneration, in so far as she was related to an individual associated with the contractors appointed by the Irish Football Association for the Windsor Park Development; and Councillor Hargey declared an interest in Item 9a, Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership, in so far as it related to the minute regarding the Update on the Bonfire Management Programme in that she was involved with the Clonard Partnership.

#### **Presentation**

## **Queen's University - Development Plans**

The Committee was advised that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda and that the representatives of Queen's University would be making a presentation to the Committee at a later date.

## **Investment Programme**

## <u>Investment Programme Delivery Plan – Year 2 and Communication Update</u>

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

## "1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Committee the Year 2 implementation plan for the Investment Programme and update Members of communication activities in relation to the programme.
- 1.2 The plan has identified 48 key projects. A project brief has been developed each of these projects. This means that for each project:
  - A project manager has been allocated.
  - There is a clear description of the project.
  - Milestones and deliverables have been identified and
  - time lined.
  - · Required resources have been assessed.
  - Anticipated outcomes and targets to be achieved have
  - been identified.
- 1.2 A full listing of the projects including key milestones and timelines for each project has been circulated as part of the table of contents, for ease of reference. Project Briefs for each project are detailed under the Investment Programme themes. The full year 2 Operational Delivery Plan has also been circulated for Members' information.

## 2.0 Background

2.1 Following the launch of the Investment Programme in February 2012 officers began a process to develop an internal implementation plan with key milestones identified for year 1. This plan was presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June 2012 and has been the key document Chief Officers have used to performance manage the delivery of the programme. Updates on elements of this plan have been reported to CMT and Committee throughout the year and details of the key achievements were highlighted by Members at both the City Investment Conference and the recent staff briefing.

- 2.2 A year 1 update on the progress of the Investment Programme is contained in the Council's Annual report which is also being considered at this meeting.
- 3.0 Delivery of Investment Programme Year 2
- 3.1 Over the past year much work has gone into both the delivery of the key commitments in the Investment Programme as well as building the project and programme management capacity across the organisation. This has included refining and further developing current frameworks to support the delivery of the Programme including risk management, project management with clearly defined accountability and governance structures. The year 2 implementation plan is therefore more detailed and covers both revenue and capital projects. Managers are overseeing the delivery of all projects and providing support to departments in the development of their plans. In the case of large or complex projects specific project boards have been established with a Chief Officer assigned as Senior Responsible Officer. Expert advice is also been provided on projects such as Leisure Transformation and Waterfront Hall. Procedures have been developed and rolled out to help with funding applications such as ERDF to help maximise resources and mitigate against risk. Regular reports are presented to Chief Officers on the delivery of individual projects together with quarterly reports on the entire programme. An Oversight Board chaired by the Chief Executive meets on a monthly basis to discuss and resolve any issues. Quarterly updates on the plan will be presented to Committee over the coming year.
- 3.2 The capital programme element of the programme is well defined within the projects briefs including linkages to the delivery of outcomes as well as the actual physical build. Work is continuing on the creation of social clauses within our tenders to ensure the benefits to the community are benign maximised.
- 3.3 This is intended to be a working document and additional projects / programmes, such as emerging priorities from the City Development conference linked to the Masterplan, will be incorporated into this where necessary. Also further detail on the next stages of the Local Investment Fund and the further development of the Belfast Investment Fund will be included for monitoring and reporting purposes.

#### 4.0 Delivery of the Investment Programme Year 2- Highlights

- 4.1 There are a number of key physical projects to be progressed over the coming year in particular the large capital schemes which are expected to have funding confirmed in the coming months. These include the extension to the Waterfront hall, an Innovation Centre at Springvale, a new community hub at Girdwood, a new zoo playground and infrastructure to support a green business park at the North Foreshore. The extensive pitches programme will continue to be rolled out and work will continue to work with communities in the distribution of grants under the local investment fund as well as ensuring the actual delivery of the projects on the ground.
- 4.2 The Council will continue to support a number of key events to increase tourism and support the local economy. This will include the World Police and Fire Games and the All Ireland Irish Dancing Championship. Preparations will also begin for the Giro D'Italia and the return of the Tall Ships.
- 4.3 Enhancing the employment opportunities and skills level of local residents is also important in developing the local economy and over the coming year the Council aims to support, 600 participants in job skills development activities; 180 people gain accredited qualifications; the creation of 121 jobs; and 440 young people access the Belfast bursary. The Council will also provide around 170 placement opportunities.
- 4.4 Internally the efficiency programme is still a priority so that we meet our £20m target by 2015 and also keep the rate below inflation.

## 5.0 Communication Update

- 5.1 The Investment Programme delivery plan is underpinned by a Communication Plan which was considered by Committee in February 2013. At this meeting it was agreed that Members would receive regular progress reports on all aspects of communication. This first update is set out below.
- 5.2 During the period January May 2013:
  - 25 press releases have been issued which resulted in 213 articles in the regional and local media (90 per cent resulting in positive coverage)
  - The Investment Programme accounts for 67 of our 596 media queries during the period (11%).

- The dedicated section of the website was revamped in March to include regular updates, photos and videos which resulted in the number of unique visitors doubling during the period.
- External events have included Local Investment Fund awards, launch of apprenticeship scheme, Connswater Community Greenway press briefing in relation to the contract award and the Belfast: Future City Conference;
- Internal events have included a senior managers update in January; a communications workshop in February for Project Clients and Project managers and a staff briefing event in May which was attended by around 240 staff.
- The Investment Programme has also featured regularly in City Matters, Intercom, on Interlink and Team Brief, with information also being made available to around 1,000 front line staff through the Getting People Connected TV screens which are now available at 53 locations.
- 5.3 Further communication activity has been planned for the coming months on a number of key projects and events including, the Mary Peter's Track, World Police and Fire Games, Woodvale and Dunville parks and the John Luke Bridge. Details of communications activities to date and those planned for the coming months are detailed in Appendix 3.
- 6.0 Resource Implications
- 6.1 The resources for the delivery of the plan are included in the Investment Programme budget.
- 7.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications
- 7.1 There are no equality and good relations implications arising from this report.
- 8.0 Recommendations
- 8.1 Members are asked to approve the year 2 Implementation plan for the Investment Programme."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Capital Programme Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

## "1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report provides an update on
  - Capital programme Recent highlights since March 2013
  - proposed recommendations for movement between the Capital Programme stages
  - proposed new emerging projects

## 2.0 Relevant Background Information

Capital Programme – Highlights since March 2013

- 2.1 There has been significant movement on the Capital Programme since its approval by SP&R Committee in March 2013. Many projects have progressed both on the ground and also in the necessary preparatory work required to deliver them. A number of projects have been completed including the £3m upgrade to the Mary Peter's Track; the Mountain Bike Trail at Barnett Demesne and the new fuel station at Duncrue. Work is due to be completed this month on the £4m upgrades of Dunville and Woodvale Parks and the new Hammer pitch.
- 2.2 Work is also well underway on the new John Luke Bridge, which is due for completion in August. Phase 1 of the Connswater Community Greenway project restarted in May and work is underway to appoint a contractor for Phase 2 of the works. Work is due to start in July on the relocation of the Belfast Welcome Centre which is due to open later this year. Preparatory work is also well advanced for a wide range of projects including new pitches and changing facilities under Phase 1 of the Pitches Strategy and the new pitch at Marrowbone and design consultants have been appointed for the Waterfront. Members are asked to note that Corporate Communications are working on a calendar of events to ensure that the media opportunities around each of these projects is maximised.

## Rolling Capital Programme 2013/14 onwards

- 2.3 Members have agreed that <u>all</u> capital projects must go through a Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Importantly it will also enable Members to focus on delivering the projects which can have maximum benefits and investment return for the city and local areas.
- 2.4 Members are aware that the Capital Programme (as agreed by Committee on 22nd March 2013) has been reconfigured to reflect the 3 approval stages as agreed
  - Committed projects (Stage 3) projects which have completed a Full Business Case (FBC) and where approval has been obtained by SP&R to proceed to tender. These projects will either be at the tender preparation stage (Stage 3 - Tier 1), construction stage (Stage 3 - Tier 2) or completed (Stage 3 - Tier 3).
  - Uncommitted projects (Stage 2) –projects where an SOC has been agreed by Committee and work on the project is being progressed through the development of an Outline Business Case (OBC), but they have not yet been developed to a stage where permission could be sought from SP&R to proceed to tender.
  - Emerging proposals (Stage 1) –proposals which require completion of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) before they could be considered further by SP&R Committee.

#### **KEY ISSUES**

Capital Programme – Proposed movements – Projects recommended to move up a Stage

2.5 It is proposed that the projects outlined in Table 1 below are advanced to Stage 3 – Committed projects. Members are asked to note that with the exception of the Suffolk Changing Pavilion all of these projects are subject to external funding. The timescales for funding, particularly for those which are seeking timebound EU funding, is extremely tight. The Zoo

Playground must be delivered by March 2014 while the EU funded projects (Girdwood, Waterfront, Innovation Centre, North Foreshore and the Creative Hub) must all be completed by 2015. The public bike hire scheme must also be completed by 2015.

- 2.6 Members are asked to note that the majority of these projects have not yet received Letters of Offer (LOO). However, in order to meet the tight deadlines and avail of the potential funding, it is necessary for these to proceed to tender preparation stage. As Members are aware preparing tender documentation and progressing this can be time consuming with procurement exercises taking on average 3-6months depending on the scale of the project. This may also lengthen if there are challenges to the procurement exercise. However Members are asked to note that NO CONTRACTS for these projects will be awarded until a letter of offer is in place, the terms and conditions for funding have been agreed by Legal Services or that any other outstanding issues have been resolved.
- 2.7 Essentially these projects will remain 'at risk' until all these issues have been signed off. Due to this, it is recommended that a further Tier is added under Stage 3 - Committed projects (Stage 3 - Tier 0 - Schemes at risk). This will include schemes which are still awaiting letters of offer from funders (i.e. ERDF/Peace III applications) but that need to be progressed to tender preparation stage in order to meet tight funding deadlines. This also includes projects which have other issues still to be resolved - i.e. public bike hire and agreement over where and how the ongoing revenue costs for the project will be secured and the Zoo Playground where the projected costs are over the letter of offer amount and which will require a reduction in specification to ensure that it comes in on the costs estimated. As outlined no contracts will be let for these projects until letters of offer are in place or all outstanding issues have been resolved. Members will be kept updated when letters of offer etc. are received for these projects.

2.8 Table 1 – Proposed Movements from Stage 2 – Uncommitted to Stage 3 - Committed

Project	Project overview	LOO received	Propos ed Stage	Estimate d Gross Cost	Estimated Net cost
Belfast Waterfront	Extension to provide world-class conference and exhibition facilities. ERDF application	No	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£30m	£11m

Innovation Centre	To construct a 35,000sq feet centre, designed to support the development and growth of indigenous businesses and attract FDI in key growth sectors. ERDF application	No	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£9.1m	£2.275m
Infrastructur e developmen t -North Foreshore	Development of infrastructure to support the development of a green economy business park at the North Foreshore including building 1,734 metres of roads and undertaking phase one site preparation works to provide sites for Cleantech businesses. ERDF application	No	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£8m	£2m
Creative Hub	To provide a digital / creative hub facility in Belfast to help support the development and growth of the film, television, music and digital content sectors within the council area. It is envisaged that this will be a refurb of an existing building. ERDF application	No	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£4.9m	£1.2m
Girdwood Hub	A £10million EU Peace III funding proposal to create a new community Hub facility on the Girdwood site in North Belfast. 100% Peace III funded	No	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£10m	-

Zoo Playground	Development of a new playground at the Zoo. Jointly funded by the NITB.	Yes -NITB	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£430,000	£215,000
Public Bike Hire	To create a network of 30 docking stations supporting 300 bikes in the city centre. The network will facilitate cheap and accessible transport, as well as benefits such as increased tourism, improved health, and reduced congestion. Funded by DRD.	Yes - DRD	Stage 3 (Tier 0)	£803,500	£104,800
Suffolk Pavilion	Provision of a two room changing pavilion and meeting area at Suffolk Playing Fields.	N/A	Stage 3 (Tier 1)	£185,000	£185,000
TOTAL			1	£63,418,500	£16,979,800

- 2.9 Members are asked to note that the costs cited are pre-tender estimates only at this stage. These costs will be challenged and assessed at the tender preparation stage. Any significant changes to these figures will be brought back to Committee.
- 2.10 Members are asked to note that the scope of the Suffolk Pavilion project has increased since this was first proposed following further consultation and work on the specification. This change in scope is to enable the facilities to meet intermediate league football standards, allow for a reception room and ensure disability access. Members will also note that at 2.13 below one of the proposed emerging projects is for

the wider Suffolk site. Importantly this project also allows for 2 modular buildings which are flexible and can be re-located if needed as future plans for the site develop. On the basis of the rescoped project it is estimated that the costs will be £185,000.

- 2.11 Members will recall that they agreed in January 2012 that the Girdwood Community Hub project would progress 'at risk' and that £250,000 was allocated towards this project in order to progress the design to meet the tight Peace III deadlines. The Council has continued to work at risk on this project to progress it to a level where it is ready to commence as soon as possible after a Letter of Offer is received from SEUPB in order to ensure successful delivery of the Hub. This will now require design up to RIBA Stage E and to facilitate this it is recommended that an additional £150,000 is allocated to this project. Members are asked to note that the costs for this project have that these covers will be recovered if a Letter of Offer is received.
- 2.12 The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that these projects are within the affordability limits of the Council on the proviso that no contracts are awarded until letters of offer are received and all outstanding issues in relation to business cases have been agreed.

Projects recommended to be added to the Capital Programme

2.13 It is proposed that the following projects are added to the Capital Programme Stage 1 – Emerging Projects. These projects will all require the completion of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) before they are progressed. Members will acknowledge that there is increasing demand on the Council to deliver projects within increasingly scarce financial resources. Members will also be aware that the Council is commencing an ambitious leisure transformation programme. Due to the scale of investment required this will have implications on future project delivery and will necessitate prioritisation of projects under the capital programme. Members are therefore asked to take this into consideration when making investment decisions around projects.

Proposed Project	Overview	Proposed through
Tamar Street	Members will be aware that the Council owns land in Tamar Street off the Newtownards Rd. There is a modular building on part of the land which was previously leased by the Scout Association. The building is in a bad state of repair. Consequently in April 2012, the SP&R Committee agreed to accept a surrender of the lease from the Scouts and	East Area Working Group

	approved the demolition and removal of the building.	
	The site is designated as 'white land' under BMAP and, as such, is free from constraint and might be suitable for development, subject to normal development control considerations. The Council also owns adjoining land and this may facilitate a wider development of the whole site. The building has not yet been demolished.	
	The East Area Working Group have since been approached by a group who wish to investigate using the modular building on the site. Members are asked to note that there will be capital implications to bring the modular building back into a fit standard. The approx cost of this work is £50,000. This will limit the future use of the site and constrain future development	
Boxing Statues	To erect a statue of a celebrated local boxer in each of Dunville Park (John Cadwell), Woodvale Park (boxer to be agreed) and Cathedral Gardens ('Rinty' Monaghan) to acknowledge the valuable contribution which boxing had made to the city. The proposal originated from the Belfast Boxing Ring which was established in 2010, with the aim of celebrating the rich and shared history of boxing, both amateur and professional, across communities in the city. Members are asked to note that Cathedral Gardens itself is an Emerging project on the capital programme list.	Parks & Leisure Committee
Suffolk site	Proposal to purchase the school site and open up access to the wider community to the existing pitches and to look at options for the wider site. Links to the Suffolk Pavilion project as outlined in 2.10 above	West Area Working Group

**Updates on capital projects** 

Approval to go to tender

2.14 Approval is sought from Committee to advance the projects under the pitches strategy and Roselawn Site Development (Section Y) to the invitation of tenders, to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver with authority delegated to the Director of Property & Projects.

#### 3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and
  - agree if they wish to progress the projects as outlined in Table 1 (2.8 above) to move from Stage 2 -Uncommitted to Stage 3 - Committed in the capital programme and if so, agree that these projects are advanced to the invitation of tenders, to be awarded on

the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver. Members are asked to note however the tight funding deadlines for the majority of these projects and that NO contracts for these projects will be let until letters of offer are received, the terms and conditions are agreed by Legal Services or other outstanding issues in relation to projects are satisfactorily resolved

- approve the change in scope of the Suffolk Pavilion project
- approve an additional allocation of £150,000 'at risk' towards the Girdwood Hub project prior to confirmation of funding in order to progress design work and ensure this project is ready for tender to meet the tight timescales for EU Peace III funding. Members are asked to note that the costs of the project have not increased and this money can be recovered if a Letter of Offer is received
- agree if they wish the proposed new projects as outlined in 2.13 to be added as Stage 1 – Emerging projects
- agree that the projects under the pitches strategy and Roselawn Site Development (Section Y) are advanced to to the invitation of tenders, to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received with authority delegated to the Director of Property & Projects."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **North Foreshore Update**

## Commercial Cultural Leisure Development Opportunity

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 24th August, 2012, it had agreed to proceed with a revised Developers' Brief for commercial leisure and cultural purposes for a 58 acre site at the North Foreshore, on the basis of a clearly defined end date for the receipt of developers' submissions containing all the due diligence information required to assess the commercial robustness and financial viability of the proposed scheme. Following advertisement of the brief, the Council had received one development submission from China Sun Asia Pacific Limited for the construction of a sports and media village concept.

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Committee further that the submission had been assessed by an Evaluation Panel which had indicated that the submission was lacking in sufficient detail to be able to demonstrate to the Council that the proposed scheme was commercially sustainable and financially viable. Subsequently, a report was submitted to the Committee on 22nd March where it had been agreed to grant a two month extension, with a final deadline of 2nd June, for the company to comply with the Council's request for all the information outlined in the Development Brief, on the basis that that two month period would not be granted on an exclusivity or preferred developer basis. The company had been advised of the Committee's decision but the Council did not receive any further information from China Sun Asia Pacific Limited to substantiate its development submission. On 23rd May, 2013, a representative of the company had confirmed to the Director of Property and Projects that it would not be progressing the sports and media village concept project at the North Foreshore site.

The Director reported further that the Council had been approached separately by Ms. J. Gilbert of Team Network Limited, which was part of the China Sun Asia Pacific Limited consortium involved in the media village concept. She had expressed an interest in separately pursuing the development of the media village, comprising sound and production film studios, and was to forward further clarification and details on the proposal, including resources and the proposed project team. Upon receipt of such clarification detail, legal advice would be sought in relation to the Council progressing any discussions with Team Network Limited on the basis of the Development Brief which had been issued.

The Committee noted that China Sun Asia Pacific Limited had confirmed that it would not be progressing the sports and media village concept project at the North Foreshore site and noted further the interest which had been expressed by Team Network Limited to separately pursue the development of the media village element and that a further report in this regard would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

## <u>Environmental Resource Park</u> – <u>Cleantech Cluster Development</u>

The Director reminded the Committee that it had, on 20th January, approved the release of a Marketing Prospectus for the disposal of a three acre site for a cleantech biogas renewable energy generation facility. The closing date for submissions was 30th May and an Evaluation Panel was currently undertaking an evaluation exercise in order to assess the commercial sustainability and financial viability of the proposals which had been received.

The Committee noted that a report on the outcome of the evaluation exercise would be submitted for its consideration following completion of that exercise.

## **Local Investment Fund Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

## "1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 At its meeting in April 2012, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed to convene Area Working Groups (AWGs) to support effective 'place-shaping' and make recommendations on investment decisions for their local area including the Local Investment Fund (LIF) and the Feasibility Fund.
- 1.2 LIF was established to support the delivery of key local regeneration projects in neighbourhoods and as a means for Members to connect with local communities in their area, in preparation for their formal role in community planning under the RPA. SP&R Committee agreed on 23 March 2012 that there was a minimum level of investment through LIF of no less than £15,000 and unlikely to exceed £250,000 to ensure focus on more local investments and the opportunity for a broad spread of investment across the city. North, South, East and West AWGs were allocated £1,127,500 each, with a proportionate amount of £490,000 for the Shankill area.
- 1.3 The Feasibility Fund was established as a ring fenced fund of £500,000 to enable initial feasibility work to be undertaken on proposed projects to bring them to a point where Members could decide if they should be progressed as Capital, Local Investment Fund or Belfast Investment Fund schemes. SP&R at its meeting on 21st September 2013 agreed the governance arrangements for the Feasibility Fund and agreed that because no proposals were being taken forwarded in the 2012/13 financial year under BIF that each Area working Group would be able to 'consider and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, a maximum of five Local Investment Fund proposals per area which should proceed to feasibility study stage'.

## Area Working Groups - Updates and progress to date

1.4 The Area Working Groups held their first meetings in June 2012 and each AWG has met on at least a monthly basis since this time. As part of this process, 62 Local Investment Fund project proposals have been recommended for funding by the AWGs and been approved in principle for funding by Strategic Policy & Resources.

1.5 Members will be aware that 20 projects totalling £1.26m received their funding agreements at the LIF event on 16<sup>th</sup> May in the City Hall. A full list of these is attached at Appendix A. This event was very well attended by the successful groups and received very positive feedback. Due-diligence work is continuing on the other projects and Members, through the Area Working Groups, will be kept up to date of projects which have been through the due diligence process and received funding agreements.

## **Election of Chairs**

1.6 Members will recall that in April 2013 it was recommended that all Area Working Groups should elect a Chair. Members are asked to note that Area Working Groups have now elected their Chairman as outlined below.

1.7

North	Cllr Danny Lavery	South	Clir Kate Mullan		
East	CIIr Tom Haire	West	Cllr Jim McVeigh		
Shankill	To be nominated at next meeting				

### 2.0 Key Issues

## May/June AWG Recommendations on LIF proposals

2.1 At the most recent round of AWG meetings, officers updated Members on the external meetings they have facilitated on the LIF proposals. In accordance with Council procedures, individual Members declared any conflicts of interest and this was noted in the minutes of the AWG. On the basis of the information presented, the following AWGs have made recommendations for the consideration of the Committee:

#### East AWG

## **LIF** recommendations

#### 2.2

Proposal	Ref No.	Up to £	AWG Comments
Mountpottinger Methodist Church	ELIF026	£112,000	
Short Strand Community Centre	ELIF015	£14,648	Committee is asked to note that it previously approved in principle (in September 2012) £80,000 for this

project. Subsequent discussions with the Group have revealed a gap in funding and the
East AWG has recommended that they receive an additional £14,648 towards this identified shortfall

## Feasibility study

2.3 Members are asked to note that the East Area Working Group agreed in January 2013 to undertake a feasibility study on Templemore Avenue (ELIF012). However it has subsequently been noted that this project is being progressed by the East Belfast Partnership Board and that no feasibility study is therefore required.

#### **West AWG**

2.4 Members are asked to note that the West Area Working Group was taking place on Wednesday 19th June. The following were being proposed for funding under LIF. Members will be updated if there are any changes to these proposals.

## LIF recommendations

2.5

Proposal	Ref No.	Up to £	AWG Comments
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum (St John the Baptist: Community Garden)	WLIF060	£40,000	
Clonard Boxing Club	WLIF061	£20,000	
Riverdale Residents' Association		WAS £60,000	REMOVAL OF PROJECT FROM RECOMMENDED LIST OF APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE PROJECTS with the money being reallocated to the two projects above

## Feasibility study recommendations

- 2.6 At their meeting on 21st April, the West Area Working Group received a presentation from the Springfield Charitable Association who were looking for feasibility support for a health and employment based development project in the former Peter Pan Bakery site and it was agreed that support should be provided to the Group.
- 2.7 Members are asked to note however that as outlined in 1.3 above, SP&R Committee had agreed that each Area Working Groups would be allowed to recommend 'a maximum of five Local Investment Fund proposals per area which should proceed to feasibility study stage'. The proposal by the Springfield Charitable Association does not fit with this criterion as it was never proposed as a Local Investment Fund project and it is therefore recommended that feasibility support is not provided to this Group at this stage.

## South Area Working Group

- 2.8 Intervention funding
- 2.9 Members are aware that £100,000 was made available to each Area Working Group for local interventions that would add value to the capital investments made through LIF.
- 2.10 In April, the SP&R Committee agreed the recommendation from the South Area Working Group to use a proportion of its intervention monies (£50,000) to support retail initiatives in South Belfast and also agreed that the Lisburn Road Business Association (LRBA) be allocated £15,000 from this budget (on the basis that the Association provide match-funding) to enable it to employ a Development Officer should benefit through assistance from this specified resource.
- 2.11 Following this, officers from the Economic Development Unit worked with Legal Services and the LRBA on progressing the necessary legal agreements to secure the development officer post. At this stage, LBRA were advised by the Council's Legal Services that there would need to be а 'fundina agreement signed up to by LRBA which is subject to BCC's funding terms and conditions'. It was also highlighted that 'the recruitment of the Development Officer will have to follow BCC recruitment guidelines and the monies will be subject to relevant outputs and performance indicators (as are all other funding agreements) in order that we can show best value for money in accordance with our Statutory obligations, and also to ensure that this funding is fully auditable.

Members are asked to note that the LRBA have indicated that this is not what they had anticipated and that they wished for this to be brought back to Committee. Legal Services and officers from Economic Development have made it clear to the LRBA that if they 'are not willing to sign up to a funding agreement then they cannot receive the funding and that If LRBA wish to use the monies for another purpose then they will have to go back to the Area Working Group with their new proposal and seek their consent to change which will in turn be required to be ratified by Committee'. It is therefore recommended that this is taken back to the South Area Working Group for further discussion.

## 3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 Human Resources are currently allocated to individual projects
- 3.2 Financial Proposed allocations as outlined in the report and summary detailed below:

AWG	(A) LIF Allocation	Amount allocated June 12- May 13 (B)	Proposals in this report (C)	(D) Projected Allocation (b) + (c)	Remaining amount (A) – (D)
East	£1,127,500	£1,000,852	£126,648	£1,127,500	£0
South	£1,127,500	£1,024,541.40	-	£1,024,541.40	£102,958.60
West	£1,127,500	£1,127,500	•	£1,127,500	£0
North	£1,127,500	£1,127,500	-	£1,127,500	£0
Shankill	£490,000	£438,000	-	£438,000	£52,000
TOTAL	£5,000,000	£4,718,393.40	£126,648	£4,845,041.40	£154,958.60

## 4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 The overall LIF programme will be screened at regular intervals to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its obligations as part of the Equality Scheme as well as ensuring that it is in line with the Investment Programme's underpinning principles related to good relations and balanced investment.

## 5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and
  - note that 20 LIF funding agreements totalling £1.26m were given out on 16th May and that further work is continuing on the due-diligence of the other projects which have been approved in principle by Committee. Members will be kept up to date, through the Area Working Groups, of future projects as they are awarded funding agreements after going through due-diligence
  - note the Chairs that have been elected for Area Working Group
  - approve in principle the allocation of Local Investment Funding as proposed by the East and West Area Working Groups Members are asked to note that in relation to the West Area Working Group this is a reallocation of money to 2 new projects as the West AWG have recommended that the Riverdale Residents' Association project is removed from the funding list
  - note the position re the Feasibility Studies for East and West i.e. that the Templemore Av feasibility study in East is no longer proceeding and the West proposal for feasibility for Springfield Charitable Association does not met the criteria for feasibility as agreed
  - note the advice received from Legal Services regarding the money that was approved in principle to the Lisburn Road Business Association and recommend that this is brought back to the South Area Working Group for further discussion.

## Appendix A

## GROUPS IN RECEIPT OF FUNDING AGREEMENTS ON 16th MAY 2013

LIF	PROJECT & GROUP	AWARD
REFERENCE		
NLIF020	Carrickhill Community Centre, Carrick Hill Residents	£15,000
	Association	
NLIF022	PIPS Programme, PIPS	£60,000
NLIF041	Willowgrove Centre, Ballysillan Community Forum	£44,000
NLIF043	Benview Community Centre	£35,000
SLIF002	Harlequins Hockey Club	£30,000
SLIF038	TREE, Greater Village Regeneration Trust	£25,541.40
SLIF040	Windsor Women's Centre	£70,000
SLIF054	St Malachy's Youth Centre	£70,000
ELIF010	Fraser Pass, East Belfast Partnership	£30,852
WLIF011	Slí an Gaelthacta, Fáilte Feirste Thiar	£50,000
WLIF016	Tullymore Community Centre, Upper Andersonstown	£41,000
	Community Forum	
WLIF023	Relatives for Justice, Glen Road	£34,000
WLIF025	Irish Language Cultural Resource Centre, Glór na	£112,000
	Móna	
WLIF030	Community Restorative Justice Ireland,	£17,000
	Andersonstown Road	
WLIF051	O'Donvan Rossa GAC	£80,000
WLIF054	Coláiste Feirste	£250,000
WLIF055	Community Restorative Justice Ireland, Springfield Road	£27,000
WLIF059	Colin Glen Ropes Course, Colin Glen Trust	£61,500
ShLIF016	Conway Youth Centre, Church of God	£58,000
ShLIF018	Springmartin Mini Soccer Pitch, Springfield Star	£150,000
	Blackmountain	,
	TOTAL FUNDING AGREED TO DATE	£1,260,893.40"

After discussion, during which it was agreed that feasibility funding for Non Local Investment Fund projects had to be equivalent to Local Investment Fund feasibility amounts, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Democratic Services and Governance**

## **Council Photograph**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Alderman Browne requested that the Committee consider arranging for a Council photograph of all Elected Members to be taken. He explained that, rather than arranging for a photo to be taken at the

commencement or at the end of the monthly Council meeting, that the Committee consider recommending to the Council that the monthly meeting be adjourned for a period of time in order for the photograph to be taken.

The Committee agreed to this course of action and noted that matter would be discussed with the Lord Mayor.

## Appointment to Outside Body - University of Ulster Community Liaison Forum

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the University of Ulster for the Council to nominate four Members to its Community Liaison Forum which it was establishing in order to co-ordinate and focus the existing wide range of community engagement activities and to ensure that the benefits of the new Belfast Campus flowed to the neighbouring disadvantaged communities.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that the Council, following the Local Government elections in May, 2011, had determined through the application of the d'Hondt system of proportionality its representation on a wide range of outside bodies. On 19th August, 2005, in considering the nomination of a Member to make application to represent the Council on the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland, the Committee had agreed to continue the application of the original d'Hondt process to determine the Party Groupings which would be entitled to appoint nominees to any subsequent invitations of a similar nature which might be received during a Council term. Accordingly, that system was again applied during that Council term when appointments had been made to the Lyric Theatre Education Advisory Panel and the World Police and Fire Games Special Purpose Vehicle Company. He pointed out that, under that current system for determining appointments to outside bodies, the next four choices would fall to the Social Democratic and Labour, the Democratic Unionist, the Sinn Féin and the Alliance Parties.

He explained that the University of Ulster had indicated that, in its opinion, the appointment of Members who represented the communities closest to the campus would best assist in the aims and objectives of the Forum and the Parties were requested to consider that when making nominations of individuals.

The Committee approved the appointment of one Member from each of the Social Democratic and Labour, the Democratic Unionist, the Sinn Fein and the Alliance Parties to the University of Ulster Liaison Forum.

# Requests for the use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality

The Committee considered the undernoted requests which had been received for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality:

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
Queen's University Belfast – Interdisciplinary Linguistics Group	International Language in Conflict 2013 Symposium Reception 2nd November, 2013 Approximately 150 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £500
Cartoon AISBL	AISBL 2013 Seminar Dinner 26th November, 2013 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the City'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £500
British Irish Chamber of Commerce	2014 Annual Conference Dinner 12th February, 2014 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a predinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the City'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception  Approximate Cost £500
University of Ulster / Social Policy Association	UK Social Policy Association Annual Conference Reception 6th July, 2015 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre- dinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception Approximate Cost £500

Irish Strength Association	Belfast Ultimate Strongman Giant Weekend 2013 Reception 24th August, 2013 Approximately 70 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event, which is funded by the Belfast City Council Support for Sport Events Funding, will showcase Belfast as a World Class host for World Class events. It will aim to show that this is an event for all cultures within our society supporting all needs and age groups.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £350
Victim Support, Northern Ireland	Volunteer Recognition Event 25th November, 2013 Approximately 70 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event seeks to recognise the work of the volunteers who have played an important role in providing support to those who have been affected by crime.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £350
Chartered Institute of Housing	2014 Annual Chartered Institute of Housing Awards Ceremony 27th February, 2014 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a predinner drinks reception	This event seeks to recognise the achievements and contribution made by individuals who have contributed to providing affordable housing in thriving and safe communities.  This event would contribute to the Council's key themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together', Better opportunities for success across the City' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception Approximate Cost £500

	1			
IN! Magazine	22nd March, 2014  Approximately 400 attending		This event aims to promote and celebrate the positive achievements of Northern Ireland's leaders in the fields of sport, music, fashion and film & television.  This event will recognise individuals from the aforementioned fields who	The use of the City Hall
			have excelled and promoted Northern Ireland both nationally and internationally.	
			This year's event will be hosted by Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford and previous recipients of the awards include Darren Clarke, Nadine Coyle, Katie Larmour and Graeme McDowell.	
			This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	
Allergy NI	Allergy Fair  14th September, 2013  Approximately 400+ attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	This event aims to promote awareness of the various allergies faced by people and provide support while promoting alternative foods to those who have intolerances. It will encourage sufferers to share their stories and experiences.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £1,000
			This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	

Dublio!#	DANI America 2014	The was of the	This overt and t	The use of the O'
Publicity Association of Northern Ireland	PANI Awards 2014  10th October, 2014  Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall	This event seeks to recognise the high standards set by its members in the publicity industry in Northern Ireland. The awards are widely recognised as the most credible and relevant awards for the industry and are the only awards to specifically recognise the talent of the Northern Irish people.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the City.	The use of the City Hall
The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland	The Women's Fund for Northern Ireland Celebration Event  11th September, 2013  Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	This event will aim to highlight the often unequal barriers currently preventing women's person and professional development. It will provide the opportunity for women to share their experiences, and to listen to some of the inspiring stories from people who have been helped by the Women's Fund.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits  Approximate Cost £250
Reminiscence Network Northern Ireland (RNNI	Reminiscence Network Showcase 26th September, 2013 Approximately 80 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event, which was held in City Hall in 2012, aims to highlight the work carried out by the Reminiscence Network. The RNNI aims to promote well-being through recall therapy and reminiscence. The organisation is made up of members from a variety of backgrounds and will give an opportunity for all members to contribute by way of their memories.  This event would contribute to the Council's key theme of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better Support for People	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits  Approximate cost £200

			and Communities'.	
Ullans Academy	Feast of Columbanus Lunch 30th November, 2013 Approximately 300 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will highlight the growing support within communities for a common identity. This event will aim to send a very positive message to all communities that there is a new approach and new thinking which will help communities to feel supported and less isolated.  This event would contribute to the Council's key theme of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better Support for People and Communities'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception Approximate cost £500

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Crumlin Star Football Team**

The Committee was reminded that at the Council meeting on 3rd June Councillor Mallon had requested that a report be submitted to the Committee regarding her suggestion that a civic reception should be held for the Crumlin Star Football Team. Councillor Mallon had indicated that that team had recently won the treble, winning the league title, the Border Cup and the prestigious Clarence Cup. That success had not been achieved by any other Amateur Football Club since 1951. Accordingly, Councillor Mallon had suggested that the Council should mark that achievement by holding an appropriate civic reception.

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that similar requests to mark sporting achievement had, in recent years, been accorded a finger buffet type reception. He pointed out that it might be more appropriate if the Committee

established a process for dealing with such requests in the future and suggested that a report in this regard be submitted to a future meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Lord Mayor be requested to hold an appropriate civic reception to mark the achievement of Crumlin Star Football Team. The Committee agreed further that a report be submitted in due course indicating how any similar requests for hospitality in relation to sporting or arts achievements could be marked by the Council.

## <u>Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland –</u> Annual Conference

The Committee was advised that the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland was holding its annual conference in Clonakilty, County Cork from 12th till 14th September, 2013. The main theme of the conference would be "Putting the People First" and would examine the mechanisms local government could put in place to maximise service delivery for the citizens. There would also be conference sessions relating to Local Government Reform and, in particular, the Reform of Local Government in Scotland and the similarities with the proposed Irish structure.

In accordance with Council policy, it was recommended that the Committee authorise the attendance at the Annual Conference of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Council's representatives on the National Association of Councillors, Northern Ireland Region, the Democratic Services Manager (or their nominees) and a representative from each of the Parties on the Council not represented by the aforementioned Members. The approximate cost per delegate would be £964.

Moved by Councillor Reynolds, Seconded by Councillor Spence,

That the Committee agrees that it not be represented at the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Annual Conference.

On a vote by show of hands seven Members voted for the proposal and nine against and it was declared lost.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to adopt the recommendation.

#### Request for the Use of the Council Chamber

The Committee was advised that a request had been received for the use of the Council Chamber for the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Councillors which would be held in Belfast from 22nd till 24th November.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the Association would like to hold the formal meetings which would take place over that weekend in the Council Chamber. He pointed out that permission for the use of the Chamber was not a matter which could be dealt with under delegated authority and required the Committee's approval.

The Committee approved the use of the Council Chamber for the Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Councillors in November and for the provision of appropriate hospitality.

#### **Creation of Statutory Transition Committees**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

## "1.0 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Council has recently received the draft 'Local Government (Statutory Transition Committees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013' which seeks to move Voluntary Transition Committees onto a statutory footing. A copy of draft Regulations has been circulated for Members information.
- 1.2 The Regulations set out the procedures to be applied for the creation of the Statutory Transition Committee including the composition and appointment of Members, the functions to be undertaken and the governance within which the STCs will operate. Members should note that the draft Regulations are made under the Provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010.
- 1.3 The Regulations were laid in the Assembly on 17th June and are subject to draft affirmative resolution procedure. They will have to be considered by the Examiner of Statutory Rules, the Environment Committee as well as the Assembly itself. It is understood that as part of the affirmative resolution process that the Regulations can only be accepted (affirmed) or rejected.
- 1.4 The table below sets out the anticipated process and timetable to be applied by the Department in taking forward the Regulations.

Action	Date	Who
	(Anticipated timescale)	
Regulations laid in draft in the	Mon 17	DOE
NI Assembly	June	
Draft regulations passed to	Mon 17	DOE
Assembly Committee and the	June	
Examiner of Statutory Rules for		
technical scrutiny		
Departmental briefing to the	Thurs 20	DOE
Environment Committee on regulations	June	

Environment Committee reports outcome of committee examination to the Assembly Business Office	Week commencin g 24 June	Environment Committee
NI Assembly Debate on the regulations / Minister tables motion of approval	Mon 1 or Tues 2 July	NI Assembly / Minister
If affirmed - regulations are made (sealed & signed)	Mon 1 or Tues 2 July	Minister / Departme nt of Environm ent
Detailed Guidance issued	July	DOE

It is envisaged that, if there are no material issues raised during this procedure, the Regulations will come into effect at the beginning of July, 2013. The Regulations state that the Statutory Transition Committees shall hold its first meeting within 35 days of the date on which the Regulations come into operation and based on the above timetable would mean August 2013 at the latest.

The Regulations state that STCs shall cease to exist 28 calendar days after the local government elections in 2014 which is anticipated for 22 May 2014 (subject to Secretary of State agreement).

## 2.0 Key Issues

## 2.1 <u>Membership/Representation on Belfast Statutory Transition</u>

- 2.1.1 The Regulations state that the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee shall consist of not more than 25 councillors comprising of:
  - not more than 21 councillors from Belfast City Council;
  - two councillors of Castlereagh Borough Council; and
  - two councillors of Lisburn City Council.
- 2.1.2 It should be noted that, despite the Minister indicating that he would support the adopted position of Belfast City Council that the appointees from Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council should represent those areas transferring to the new Belfast District in 2015, no such provision is made in the draft Regulations. It is understood, however, that the DoE

would intend to issue supporting STC Guidance which may give further direction on the process to be applied for the nominations of members onto STCs. The Chief Executive has written to senior DoE officials seeking early sight of the draft Guidance.

- 2.1.3 With regard to the representatives from Belfast City Council, the Committee is recommended to agree to appoint 21 councillors and that, as advised by the Minister; these should reflect the political make-up of the existing Voluntary Transition Committee. Therefore, the Belfast City Council representatives would comprise:
  - 7 Sinn Fein Party
  - 7 Democratic Unionist Party
  - 3 Social Democratic and Labour Party
  - 2 Alliance Party
  - 1 Ulster Unionist Party
  - 1 Progressive Unionist Party

It should be noted that this political party breakdown mirrors precisely the party split which would result were a one-off proportionality exercise be undertaken to appoint a 21 Member representation.

#### 2.2 Functions of a Statutory Transition Committee

- 2.2.1 The Regulations set out the functions to be undertaken by the STCs including:
  - (i) gather information and consider and advise on matters relevant to ensuring that the new council will be able to adopt its full range of powers and functions from 1st April 2015;
  - (ii) prepare a draft Corporate and Business Plan for the agreement of the new council;
  - (iii) prepare a draft budget for the agreement of the new council;
  - (iv) arrange the first meeting of the new council;
  - (v) publish its Corporate and Business Plan; and

(vi) agree with the predecessor councils within the district in relation to which it is established, a budget for the operation of the Statutory Transition Committee

## 2.2.2 Appointment of staff to a new council

The Regulations also state that STCs shall appoint the clerk (Chief Executive) of the incoming new Council, applying the following process:

- (a) must be on merit on the basis of fair and open competition; and
- (b) must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the membership of the statutory transition committee (Chairperson of the committee shall not have a casting vote)

The Environment Minister has issued a letter to all Council Chief Executives, Mayors and Chairs of Voluntary Transition Committees, reaffirming the role of STCs in appointing Chief Executive as set out within the draft Regulations. The letter states that STCs will appoint a Chief Executive designate for the incoming new Council through an open competitive process and that any such appointment will transfer across to the new councils when they are elected in 2014. There is no detailed Guidance been released by the Department as yet appointment process to be applied.

## 2.3 <u>Payment of Allowances to Members of Statutory Transition</u> <u>Committees</u>

2.3.1 Paragraph 11 of the Draft Regulations authorises the Council to pay an allowance to the members of the STC from Belfast City Council. The maximum amount which can be paid is £2,700 per annum. The Committee is recommended, given the importance of the work to be undertaken by the STC members and the additional time commitment which will be required of them, to agree that the allowance be established at £2,700 per annum paid monthly in arrears. Provisions for this will be incorporate within the budget to be established for the Statutory Transition Committee.

## 2.4 Governance

2.4.1 Schedule 1 of the draft Regulations sets out the proposed governance and operational proceedings (i.e. Standing Orders) of meetings of Statutory Transition Committees. Whilst the majority of the provisions set out appear to align with the Council's own Standing Orders, there may be a need for some

minor changes in proceedings. Members should note that the draft Regulations makes specific provision for the admission of the public to meetings of STCs. The STC may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting of the committee whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

## 2.5 Next Steps

- 2.5.1 In anticipation that the draft Regulations will be approved (affirmed) by the Assembly in early July 2013, and with 35 day timescale specified to establish the STC, it is recommended that:
  - 1. We seek to schedule the inaugural meeting of the Belfast Statutory Committee for early August;
  - 2. Initiate early engagement with Lisburn & Castlereagh regarding nominations to the Belfast STC;
  - 3. A presentation will be delivered at the inaugural meeting of Belfast STC expanding upon the functions to be undertaken and the governance arrangements to be applied to the STC;
  - 4. A written briefing will be circulated to all Members of the Committee following Agreement of STC Regulations and release of associated Guidance over the July recess period;
  - 5. The appointment of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Belfast STC will be agreed at the inaugural meeting of STC

#### 3.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- (i) consider the contents of the report and the appendices attached;
- (ii) reaffirm that the current Members of the Belfast VTC be put forward as the nominations to the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee as set out at para. 2.1.3 above;
- (iii) agree that early engagement take place with Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council regarding nominations to the Belfast STC;
- (iv) agree that the inaugural meeting of the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee be scheduled for early August 2013

## (v) consider and agree that £2,700 be set as the Members' allowance for participation on STC"

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed that a letter be forwarded to each of the Political Party Leaders seeking confirmation of the membership of the Statutory Transition Committee.

## Finance/Value-for-Money

## <u>Implementation of Content Management</u> on Council Website

(Mr. E. Deeny, Head of Corporate Communications, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee noted the contents of a report in relation to the Implementation of Content Management on the Council's Website which was currently undergoing a major revamp and would be launched on 31st July.

#### Annual Report 2012-13

The Committee was reminded that on an annual basis the Council produced a Corporate Plan which outlined its priority actions for the coming year. Departmental Plans were developed also which provided details on how those priorities would be delivered through key services and projects. The previous year the Council had also produced an Investment Programme which outlined the Council's commitments to developing the City and supporting the local economy up until 2015. The Council's Annual Report 2012/13 provided an update on how the organisation had performed across all those plans during 2012/13.

The Chief Executive outlined the contents of the draft report and indicated that individual Committees had already considered their relevant sections as part of each Department's Year End Reports.

The Committee approved the contents of the Annual Report for 2012/13.

#### **Belfast City Council Financial Accounts 2012-13**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Committee's consideration the undernoted report:

#### "Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to present to the Audit Panel the Financial Accounts of the council for 2012/13.

The Financial 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.

The Financial Report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 09/13 dated 12 April 2013.

I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department of the Environment 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.

### **Key Issues**

### Reserves

The credit balance on the District Fund Reserves has increased to £20,614,051 (of which £7,290,376 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

## Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

	Opening Balance Prior Year Adjustments Revised Opening Balance			£13.9m £ 1.0m £14.9m
K000K	In year movement	on	£ 1.8 m	
reserv	2012/13 Finalisation		£ 3.9 m	
	Increase in Reserves			<u>£ 5.7 m</u>
	Closing Balance			£20.6m

end

Balance Available £13.3m

**District Fund** £20,614,051

Specified Reserves at year

The District Fund Reserves can be used to supplement income and unexpected expenditure in future years. Of the £20,614,051, £7,290,376 relates to expenditure committed at year-end.

£ 7.3m

**Capital Fund** £17,979,319

The capital fund is made up of the City Investment Fund (£12,979,319). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, and the Local Investment Fund (£5m) to fund smaller local regeneration projects.

#### Capital Receipts Reserve £961,791

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure. This amount relates mainly to the sale of land & buildings at Loop River (£860,000) which has been ring-fenced for the development of the capital scheme 'Loop River – New Facilities'.

#### Other Fund Balances and Reserves £7,395,483

This relates to the Election Reserve (£413,887) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections and a Sinking Fund (£6,981,596) which has been set up to repay the Council's interest only mortgages.

## **Capital Programme**

In 2012/13 the council committed to a programme to invest £150m in capital projects including £75m in council facilities for local communities, £20m in partnership projects which will contribute to city regeneration, £50m levered from Europe and other sources to provide key economic infrastructure projects and £5m in smaller local regeneration projects.

#### **Debt**

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased steadily over the previous 3 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £4.2m at 31 March 2013. Included in this figure are invoices to the value of £1.1m raised in the last three weeks if the financial year. The majority of this money was paid by the end of April 2013, with the total debt down to £2.98m. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2013	31 March 2012
Less than three months	£3,015,062	£4,260,233
Three to six months	£84,508	£137,235
Six months to one year	£226,735	£191,602
More than one year	£883,437	£1,110,712
Total	4,209,742	£5,699,782

### **Creditors**

The council has a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 53,340 invoices totalling £97,597,574

The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 24 days for the year ended 31 March 2013.

The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and monitors these figures on a regular basis.

### **Resource Implications**

**Financial** 

None

**Human Resources** 

None.

**Asset and Other Implications** 

None.

# **Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to approve the Council's financial accounts and report for the year ended 31 March 2013."

The Committee adopted the recommendation and commended the work of the staff of the Finance and Resources Section who had been involved in preparing the Annual Accounts.

# Financial Reporting - Quarter 4 2012/13

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

### **"1.0 Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 18 June 2010 that:
  - The Council would produce financial reporting packs for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and each Standing Committee on a quarterly basis

- The Budget and Transformation Panel would also receive monthly financial updates if there were any significant issues to report.
- 1.2 The reporting pack contains a summary dashboard of the financial indicators and an executive summary explaining the financial performance (Appendix 1). It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators covering outturn for the year, implications for reserves, payment of creditors and recovery of debt. The reporting of procurement compliance to members was introduced as part of the quarterly financial reporting from quarter 1 2012/13.
- 1.3 The style and layout of the financial reporting pack reflects the discussion and feedback arising from the Members' financial training at the end of September 2010.
- 1.4 Central Finance and departmental management teams have worked together to develop the information within the reporting packs.

### 2.0 Key Issues

### 2.1 Financial Outturn 2012/13

The year-end financial position for the Council is an underspend of £864k (0.7%), which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

2.2 As in Quarter 3, the key elements of the under-spend relate to savings in employee costs through unfilled posts and restructuring, significant reductions in landfill costs through reduced tonnages and gate fee costs and the deferred introduction of the alternate weekly waste collection service to the inner city. Increased utility costs, above the budgeted levels were incurred, particularly in the Parks and Leisure Department, but this was mainly offset by increased income within Parks and Leisure.

# 2.3 LPS Rates Finalisation

The year end outturn as reported by LPS is a positive settlement to BCC of £3.9m. This compares very favourably to the claw back position which the Council experienced in 2011/12 (£259K) and 2010/11 (£3.41m). The vacant rating exercise, led by the Building Control Service, has made a significant contribution to the positive position and the settlement also indicates slight growth in the rate base despite the difficult economic environment.

2.4 Officers will be working with LPS to analyse the detail of the settlement including the reasons for the slight growth, the recurring impact of the additional income generated through the vacancy inspections and the current position regarding the significant outstanding rating appeals. This analysis will inform the assumptions presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in August 2013 regarding the stability of the rate base and the impact on the high level guidelines for the 2014/15 revenue estimates.

# 2.5 Capital Financing

The capital financing budget was fully utilised during the year resulting in all capital expenditure incurred being fully financed

### 2.6 Reserves Position

The Belfast Voluntary Transition Committee on the 7 June 2013, recommended that the SP&R Committee approve the establishment of a local reform budget of £2m to support delivery of local government reform. If this proposal is agreed by the Committee then, the General Reserves at the end of 2012/13 will sit at £13.3m as compared to the balance of £11.39m at the end of 2011/12.

2.7 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee previously agreed that an acceptable level of general reserves is £10.0m. It is worth noting the significant improvement in the reserves base of the council since the end of 2009/10 when the level of general reserves stood at only £4.6m which was well below this acceptable level. At this stage it is proposed that general reserves remain at £13.3m to cover the financial risks associated with the uncertainty around the future rate base in the context of local government reform and potential one-off resources required to support the delivery of the leisure transformation programme.

# 2.8 <u>Investment Programme</u>

Committed expenditure approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the 3 year Capital Programme stands at £28.3m, leaving £46.7m of schemes within the 3 year programme at the uncommitted or emerging project stage. A separate report, which will be considered at this meeting, provides an update on the physical progress of projects within the Capital Programme.

- 2.9 Committed expenditure on LIF projects at the year-end totals £4.6m, leaving a balance of £400k in the local investment fund.
- 2.10 The amount of levered external funding for the Investment Programme which has been agreed in principal increased to £18.6m at the year-end, with £16.9m of these funds confirmed through letters of offer.
- 2.11 Actual capital expenditure was £7.9m against the annual budget of £19.4m, while non-recurring expenditure was £0.8m for the year end against a budget of £1.8m.

# 2.12 Other Financial Indicators

The overall Council debt has reduced to £4.2m compared to last year's position of £5.7m. This has reduced to £2.98m by the end of April 2013. Adjusting for the end of year anomaly the percentage of debt under 90 days old is 61.1%, which is an improvement as compared to the position at Quarter 4 2011/12.

2.13 The average number of creditors paid within 28 days for 2012/13 was 80% which represents a significant improvement on the previous year performance of 63% of invoices paid within 30 days. Work continues in this area to meet the Investment Programme commitment of 90% of creditors paid within 28 days by 2014/15.

### 2.14 Treasury Management

The year-end Treasury Management report has been circulated.

- 3.0 Resource Implications
- 3.1 The year end outturn was an underspend of £864k (0.7%) and general reserves are £13.3m.
- 4.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

There are no equality and good relations implications associated with the report.

### 5.0 Recommendations

 Members approve the establishment of a local government reform budget of £2m to support the delivery of local government reform, as recommended by the Belfast Voluntary Transition Committee on the 7 June 2013.  Members are also asked to note the above report and associated financial reporting pack."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

# **Leisure Transformation- Finance Report**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

# "1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 At its meeting on 1 March 2013 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to consider a report on the affordability of the leisure transformation programme. This report provides Members with an overview of the estimated capital expenditure and potential financing options required to deliver leisure transformation.

# 2.0 Key Issues

## 2.1 Assumptions

The emerging leisure financing strategy has been developed in the context of the guiding principles which Members agreed (SP&R 25 January 2013) to use to inform decisions regarding leisure provision. These are:

- Quality
- Focus on health and well-being outcomes
- Value for Money
- Balanced investment and accessibility
- Partnership
- Affordability

## It has therefore been assumed that:

- The programme will provide balanced investment across the city and that each city quarter will have wet, dry, health and fitness facilities that cater for a diversity of activity.
- There will be no rates increase to support the financing of the programme.
- Revenue savings generated from within the leisure budget will form a key element of the financing strategy.

 The leisure programme will be phased over at least a ten year period.

# 2.2 Estimated Cost of Leisure Transformation Programme

Council officers have worked with a leading QS firm, Turner and Townsend to estimate the overall capital cost of transforming the leisure estate. The costs are based on industry baselines and have been benchmarked against recent leisure developments across the UK. The total estimated cost of the leisure transformation programme is £105m. The challenge for the Council will be to secure the financing of the £105m in the context of the assumptions outlined in paragraph 2.1 and our current and future capital commitments and ambitions.

# 2.3 Current Capital Programme

At present, the Council allocates £10.1m per year from the district rate to finance capital expenditure. The table below summarises the use of the capital financing budget.

	Capital Expenditure	Capital Finance
	£m	£m
Existing Loans	21.20	2.004
Committed	31.40	2.386
Schemes		
Uncommitted	17.50	1.400
Schemes		
Emerging Schemes	60.40	4.90
Total	130.50	10.69

The table shows that the entire capital finance budget is required to support the current capital programme. The implication for the leisure programme is that there is no capacity within the capital finance budget to support the financing of expenditure on the leisure estate. Members therefore need to consider alternative funding options.

# Required Financing for the Leisure Programme

If it is assumed that the required £105m will be financed through 25 year loans the total annual financing cost to the Council will be £8.93m. The options for how this money can be raised are outlined below.

Options	Year	Finance	Expenditure
		£m	£m
Belfast Investment	2014	3.23	38.00
Fund			
Efficiency Savings	2016	2.00	23.50
Local Government	2015	2.00	23.50
Reform			
Balance	2018	1.70	20.00
Total		8.93	105.00

The Belfast Investment Fund is a capital fund set up to support the delivery of partnership projects across the city. Members agreed, as part of the rate setting for 2012/13 an annual allocation of £6m from the district rate to the fund with the purpose of providing £20m by the end of 2014/15. By the end of 2013/14 the fund will total £19,388,786. The target has almost been met a year early because originally the Connswater Greenway project was to be financed from this fund but it is now being financed through the capital programme. This means that Members could consider re-allocating a proportion of the annual rates contribution to the leisure programme without impacting on the achievement of the £20m target. The Director of Property and Projects, at the Committee meeting, will report that up to £38m will be required to deliver the Olympia and Andersonstown schemes. This expenditure will need to be financed from 2014/15. It is recommended that £3.23m of the £6m Belfast Investment Fund annual rates contribution is reallocated to finance the £38m Olympia / Andersonstown schemes. If this is agreed the Belfast Investment Fund would have a balance of £22.158.786 by the end of 2014/15 and £2.77m would continue to be allocated to the fund on an annual basis.

### Efficiency Savings

To date efficiency savings delivered by the Council have been used to support the district rate. However, as Members expand their capital ambitions and the growing need to demonstrate savings to secure external funding, for example, for the Waterfront extension; efficiency savings delivered as part of capital projects will become a key strand of capital financing. Members have already agreed that a key element of the leisure financing strategy should be the delivery of efficiency savings from the leisure budget. Currently the rates subsidy to the leisure service is over £8m per year. The cost recovery rate averages around 35% compared to a sector average of 65%. It is recommended that a target of £2m should be set and that these savings are allocated to the capital financing of the

leisure programme. The savings would release approximately £23.50m of capital expenditure. As this money will be required to fund the second phase of the programme, the savings will need to be delivered by 2016. The delivery of these savings would form an important workstream within the overall leisure transformation programme.

### Local Government Reform

In 2015 the Council's finances will be based on a new rate base. The boundary changes will bring in additional rates income from over 22,000 households and businesses. This additional income is not a windfall as it will be required to fund the delivery of services to the transferring residents and businesses. The estimated cost of the leisure programme includes provision for new leisure facilities in the transferring areas. It is recommended that Members set a target of £2m of the additional rates income being available to support the capital financing of the leisure programme. This would generate £23.5m of capital expenditure. The work to deliver this finance would be incorporated into the service and rates convergence workstreams of the local government reform programme.

### **Balance**

The above three options deliver £85m of the required £105m, leaving a balance of £20m and an annual financing requirement of £1.7m. Based on the phasing of the programme this finance will not be required until 2018. It is recommended that Members agree to include the £1.7m financing requirement in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. Officers will then explore potential funding options including partnership arrangements, external funding sources and capital receipts.

# **Next Steps**

The Director of Parks and Leisure is in the process of developing a detailed action plan for the development and implementation of the leisure transformation programme. A report will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in August which will detail the key elements of the plan and the resources required to deliver it.

### 5.0 Recommendations

### 5.1 Members are asked to agree to the following:

- 1. To set an overall capital expenditure affordability limit of £105m for the leisure transformation programme.
- 2. To allocate, from 1 April 2014, £3.23m of the £6m Belfast Investment Fund annual rates contribution to finance the £38m Olympia / Andersonstown schemes.
- 3. To set a £2m efficiency savings target for the leisure service as part of the leisure transformation programme deliverable by 1 April 2016 and that these savings are used for the purpose of leisure capital financing.
- 4. To set a target of £2m of additional rates income emanating from local government reform boundary changes being available to support the capital financing of the leisure programme.
- 5. To incorporate this target into the service and rates convergence workstreams of the local government reform programme.
- 6. To include the £1.7m outstanding financing requirement in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 7. To consider a report in August on the leisure transformation action and resourcing plans."

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

# **Integrated Stadia Regeneration**

(Councillor Mullan left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.)

(Mr. A Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

# "1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The key purpose of this paper is to:
  - present initial cost estimates, risks and the procurement approach around the stadium regeneration project at Olympia,
  - update members on partnership agreements and;

 to recommend a financial package for both stadia regeneration projects at Olympia and Andersonstown.

### 2 Relevant Background Information

- 2.1 Significant investment by DCAL and sporting bodies into the Stadium Development Programme fits with the Investment Programme and the strategic review of leisure, presenting major strategic opportunities for the Council to begin a transformation plan linked to the stadium developments. At Windsor Park, this offers the opportunity for regeneration around adjacent Council assets at Olympia. Planning permission for Windsor Park has been granted including an annex to the West stand designated for community benefit. The stadium development is due to begin on site in January 2014.
- 2.2 Members will be aware of the Strategic Policy & Resources meeting in March 2013, where it was agreed:
  - 'in principle' to progress both the Olympia and Andersonstown Leisure Centres to Stage 2 of the Capital Programme to form the first phase of the citywide leisure transformation review, and;
  - to develop regeneration plans in tandem and in conjunction with government departments given the one off strategic opportunity and DCAL community benefit commitment.
- 2.3 At a special meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 26 April 2013, members were updated on the status of negotiations with IFA regarding relocation of Olympia into the new stadium at Windsor Park. The Committee agreed to relocation only on the basis of a nil rental and agreement on a mutual community benefit arrangement with the IFA.
- 2.4 Members will also be aware that leave has been granted for a Judicial Review hearing regarding the development at Windsor Park, the dates of which are set as 16 18 December 2013.

# 3 Key Issues

# Windsor / Olympia - Phasing of physical regeneration

3.1 Members' preference was to move leisure provision into the new stadium; relocate community centre provision into the Village area; redevelopment of the Olympia site to provide a

new alignment and replacement for Midgley Park; a new pitch; play provision; some commercial development and new public realm and access to the stadium from Boucher Road.

- 3.2 DCAL/Linfield and the IFA also favour this option as the Council use of stadium space for leisure in the widest sense meets the sustainable community benefit criteria and it provides a much better setting and access for the new stadium adding to its offer.
- 3.3 The optimum phasing would be to build the leisure element in the stadium and when that is complete demolish Olympia and redevelop the site as Phase 2. This allows continuity in terms of leisure provision but will mean some temporary loss of pitch provision to both the Council and Linfield.

# 3.4 Table 1: Project phasing at Windsor / Olympia

Phase 1a: 'Active Belfast' facility, Windsor Park	This is the first stage where the new leisure facility would be built onto the West Stand of a newly refurbished Windsor Park. This is dependent upon satisfactory leasing and partnership agreements with IFA as the facility owner. Access to this new facility would be dependent on the delivery of Phase 1b: the enabling works
Phase 1b: Enabling works	This stage covers the 'enabling works' and environmental regeneration required to provide access to Council services and would take place once a new facility is complete, including:  - Demolition of the existing centre (this would be linked to the relocation of Community Services provision, see paragraph 3.19)  - Reorientation of Council outdoor space at Olympia  - Access improvement at multiple entry points including a new boulevard  - Redevelopment of Midgley Park which is currently located in front of the West Stand  - Redevelopment of play park at Olympia

Phase 2: Development opportunities	Development briefs may be issued for commercial development and/or capital receipts, at the front of the site on the basis of sports-led
	regeneration opportunities.

- 3.5 Significant risks remain around the delivery of this project. These include:
  - Leave granted to Crusaders for a Judicial Review
  - Partner agreements with both IFA and Linfield FC yet to be finalised
  - Procurement arrangements for both design and construction in partnership with DCAL and IFA
  - Planning approval for an enhanced annex to the West stand in order to provide a leisure facility and the regeneration of the wider site
  - Tight timescales in order to align with the delivery of the stadium programme

# Windsor / Olympia - design and cost estimates

- 3.6 Members will be aware that the Council are working 'at risk' on this project on developing up costs and detailed designs in order to meet the timescales for the delivery of the stadium programme.
- 3.7 Following the first stage of community engagement, an intense and sustained effort by officers from Property & Projects, Parks & Leisure and Development Departments has culminated in the development of requirements and design for the new facility and the wider site. Initial design development for the 'Active Belfast' facility at Windsor Park is now achieved to a stage which enables cost estimates to be produced.
- 3.8 Despite the design constraints apparent in building onto a stadium within a restricted site line, the proposed design meets the aspirations of the Parks & Leisure Department and

- is currently a 7,500m<sup>2</sup> centre, which is significantly larger than the current facility at Olympia with enhanced provision.
- 3.9 This design has been costed prior to any further design development taking place. Any subsequent modifications in design will result in an increase in this cost estimate. Due to the rapidly progressing nature of this project, a verbal update report on cost estimates will be provided by the Director of Property & Projects at Committee.

# Windsor / Olympia procurement arrangements

- 3.10 The time pressures, legal and procurement complexities of this project will require the appointment of an integrated design team. Officers are confident that this methodology whilst is undesirable will be still able to demonstrate value for money.
- 3.11 Officers have issued correspondence to DCAL which outlines a procurement approach for both Works and Services and requested key dates for which information is required to keep with the programme for delivery of the stadium.
- 3.12 Officers are in the process of drafting up contractual arrangements for consideration by DCAL and the IFA. The key elements to this contract will be that DCAL would the primary funder in this overall project and that the Council will be afforded every opportunity as the contract proceeds to test the value for money within the contract. The fit-out of the shell and elements outside of the shell and core may be tested through a separate procurement exercise ensuring value for money.
- 3.13 To date Belfast City Council have completed design work to RIBA Stage C and at present have not engaged with any supplier to further progress this work.
- 3.14 Officers are developing a series of planning applications for the project which would be progressed over the summer in order to align with DCAL's stadium development programme.

### Windsor / Olympia partnership agreement – IFA

3.15 The new stadium will impact on the entire city, however members have emphasised their aspirations that the Council works to ensure enhancements for adjacent communities. This is an opportunity to realise the potential socio-economic benefits and work towards an enhanced community provision.

3.16 Work to determine the nature of a community benefits partnership with the IFA is ongoing. There are emerging organisational synergies regarding health promotion, employability, good relations and sports participation around which to build a proposal for Committee's consideration. Options on the objectives of the partnership, associated programming, use of facilities and costs have been drafted and are with the Director of Parks & Leisure to approach the IFA Chief Executive. Until this agreement is in place, no agreement on leasing terms can be reached.

# Midgley Park land agreement - Linfield FC

- 3.17 Midgley Park is owned by Linfield FC and is situated on the edge of the west stand of Windsor Park, slicing through the potential sports village and any potential new access from Boucher Road.
- 3.18 Officers are working with Linfield FC to reach a land agreement in order to facilitate the regeneration project. Linfield have indicated that they support the concept of the project, and are keen to reach an agreement with the Council through their Board and club members. The Council has received Linfield's requirements and has now presented a proposal to Linfield in terms of site layout. Outstanding issues including, whether it will be a land swap, a management agreement, shared usage of the pitch are all still to be determined. Due to the rapidly progressing nature of this project, a verbal update report on the response from Linfield's Board will be provided by the Director of Property & Projects at Committee. This will follow Linfield's Board meeting of 17 June 2013.

### **Olympia Community Centre**

3.19 A report on Olympia Community Centre is due to be considered by the Development Committee on 20 June 2013. The report is seeking to engage external support to research and develop options, to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the identified options, the resources required to carry through and ultimately the prospects for success. The report indicates delivery of a community based consultation, research exercise and a series of recommendations within a twelve week process.

# Windsor / Olympia - Economic Appraisal

3.20 Currently a full economic appraisal is underway on the leisure offering and enabling works. Members will be aware that the

initial economic assessment showed that the option of relocation into Windsor is only feasible and value for money to the Council if this is provided at a nil rental with a 25 to 50 year lease period.

# **Andersonstown Regeneration**

- 3.21 At the special SP&R meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Members agreed to refocus the economic appraisal at the Andersonstown development on the Andersonstown Leisure Centre site and maximise regeneration benefits of both the leisure centre and stadium. Work is progressing on the regeneration plan, including a series of workshops with staff to develop initial options.
- 3.22 Discussions to ensure community benefit for the public money associated with Casement are ongoing with DCAL and the GAA and further updates on the Andersonstown project, including updates on the community benefits discussions, will be brought back to Committee in due course.

# <u>Integrated Stadia Developments – proposed financial package</u>

- 3.23 Cost estimates for the proposed 'Active Belfast' facility at Windsor and associated enabling works are due to be presented to Belfast City Council on 17 June 2013. Due to the rapidly progressing nature of this project, the anticipated budget requirements have been set out below in Table 2, and a verbal update report on the cost estimates will be provided by the Director of Property & Projects at Committee.
- 3.24 The anticipated financial package required in order to deliver the Windsor facility and associated works will be a maximum of £21.6m gross, including construction, professional fees and charges. DCAL have indicated that along with the IFA, they would make £2.6m available as part of the shell construction of the leisure facility at the stadium. This would leave a financial requirement of up to £19m from Belfast City Council.

Works		Maximum gross budget Includes professional fees, internal charges and contingencie s	External contributions	Anticipated net budget required from Council will be a maximum of
Phase Olympia 'Active Belfast' Facility	1a	£14.1m	£2.6m (DCAL/IFA)	£11.5m

Phase	1b	£7.5m	£7.5m
Olympia			
enabling			
works			
Total		£21.6m	 £19m

A financial package of up to £19m is proposed for Olympia, to include a new leisure facility and enabling works to the wider site.

A comparable financial package of up to £19m is proposed for Andersonstown, to include a new leisure facility, and regeneration at the site. These maximum affordability limits have been advised by the Director of Finance and Resources and are set out in more detail in the Leisure Strategy paper which outlines the overall leisure package.

# 4 Resource Implications

# 4.1 Financial

A potential £38M financial investment in regard to the two leisure centres and associated assets required to fulfil regeneration opportunities.

### 4.2 <u>Human Resources</u>

There are ongoing significant staff resource requirements from relevant departments in order to develop each project in line with DCAL's tight timeframe. Potential staffing issues will be examined as part of the overall review of the leisure transformation programme. Any resultant HR issues will be managed in accordance with the Council's processes, policies and procedures for dealing with HR matters and TU consultation.

### 4.3 Asset and Other Implications

Unknown at this stage, however comprehensive regeneration of the significant stadium developments should lead to improved services and benefits for the community and aesthetic improvements at Council sites. The project could include the Council giving up a freehold interest and moving to a leasehold interest with all the associated implications.

# 5 **Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

5.1 It is envisaged that both inclusive regeneration stadium strategies progress in parallel, enabling a wider positive impact across the city. The phases of the overall leisure transformation will be subject to equality screening. This will include the periodic screening of the stadia developments as part of phase 1 to identify differential impacts and any mitigating actions required, in accordance with standard Council procedures.

# 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the updates provided, and give approval:
  - To procure integrated design team within an agreed strategy with DCAL and IFA for the shell building for the new leisure facility
  - To prepare a planning application for Windsor / Olympia Phase 1 (a and b)
  - For a budget expenditure for up to £38m on behalf of the council comprising £19m each for both the Andersonstown and Olympia regeneration proposals"

After discussion, during which the Director of Parks and Leisure answered a number of questions in relation to the community benefit relating to both schemes, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Assurance Framework**

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Committee that the Council was required to produce a complex set of draft accounts for external audit review and, in support of that, to produce an Annual Governance Statement which described the Council's governance arrangements and the process for monitoring their effectiveness. He outlined the key elements of the year-end process and the framework which had been developed to ensure that the organisation complied with statutory requirements and so that Members and senior officers had effective, ongoing oversight of the governance and assurance arrangements.

He provided Members with an Assurance Framework which showed key sources of assurance and the basis upon which that assurance had been provided. In particular, the Corporate Plan Review update for 2013/14; an annual performance report; the annual Financial Report; an annual Managements Accounts, which was a summary of the accounts showing spend by department, service and function; the quarterly Risk Management report; an updated Code of Governance and Annual Assurance Statement

from the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services; the quarterly Health and Safety reports and the Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and that the Chairman of the Council's Audit Panel, Alderman Rodgers, had apologised for the fact that he was not available to attend the Committee's meeting to present the Annual Statement.

# **Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Panel of 11th June.

# **Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 13th June.

# **Corporate Plan and Performance Management**

### **Draft Corporate Plan 2012-2015: Year 2**

The Committee was reminded that the previous year it had agreed a three year corporate plan to cover the period from April, 2012 till March, 2015. The Corporate Plan and the Investment Programme were the two key strategic planning documents for the organisation which had been agreed and were overseen by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Corporate Plan was a high level document which contained both key actions from the Investment programme and other significant corporate projects and programmes. The Chief Executive pointed out that further detail on the projects and programmes listed in the draft Corporate Plan was contained within the Investment Programme Delivery Plan, the Local Government Reform Programme, Departmental Plans, the capital programme and the documents which had been submitted to the Committee as part of the financial estimating process.

The Corporate Plan Year 2 update had been drafted around the corporate themes of Leadership, Environment, Economy and People, Communities and Neighbourhoods and Value for money services which had been agreed by the Committee the previous year.

He outlined the information which was contained the Year 2 draft corporate plan and indicated that the current version of the document would undergo further editing as part of a design and production process and would be checked to ensure ease of understanding, with a summary document then being produced.

The Committee approved the Draft Corporate Plan 2012-15 Year 2 Update.

# **Human Resources**

### **Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives**

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Order 55 and the authority delegated to him, the Director of Finance and Resources had authorised the appointment of a number of members of staff who were related to existing officers of the Council.

Noted.

# **Staffing Issues**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- "1 Relevant Background Information
- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the letter received by the Council on 14 June 2013 from the Minister of the Environment, advising Councils and Voluntary Transition Committees of his intention to use open public competition to appoint the Chief Executives of the 11 new councils.
  - The Committee is recommended to direct the Head of Human Resources to bring back a detailed report on this matter to its meeting in August.
- 1.2 To advise the Committee that the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor has indicated his intention to leave the service of this Council before the end of this calendar year. It is proposed that the Chief Executive bring recommendations to the Committee at its meeting in August to deal with Mr Quigley's retirement.

# 2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Members are aware that the Local Government Reform will lead to the present 26 district councils in Northern Ireland being reduced to 11. The Local Government Reform programme is being driven by the Minister of the Environment and the Executive have agreed for the transfer of a package of functions to local government.
- 2.2 Legislation will be required to implement these changes. The primary legislation will be a new Local Government Act which is due to be submitted to the Assembly in September. In the meantime the Minister is anxious to drive forward the Reform programme and has introduced to the Assembly a set of regulations known as The Local Government (Statutory

Transition Committees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013, which makes provision for the establishment of statutory transition committees whose duty will be to draft a corporate and business plan for the agreement of the new council, prepare a draft budget for the agreement of the new council and make an appointment to the post of Clerk and Chief Executive of the new council. The selection and appointment of the Chief Executive must be on merit, on the basis of fair and open competition and must be approved by two-thirds of the majority of the membership of the Statutory Transition Committee. The appointment must be made in accordance with the provision of Sections 40 and 41 of the 1972 Local Government Act which provides for the appointment to be made in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Local Government Staff Commission.

- 2.3 The Minister has written to all councils by letter dated 14 June 2013, setting out the reasons why he has decided to introduce regulations to provide for open recruitment for the posts of Chief Executive for the new councils and a copy of this letter has been circulated. The letter makes it clear that 'any current Chief Executive that chooses not to apply for the new post or who is unsuccessful will continue in his/her existing post until 2015. At that stage he/she may choose to take voluntary severance.'
- 2.4 The regulations if approved by the Assembly come into effect thereafter. The Regulations provide that the first meeting of the new Statutory Transition Committee needs to take place 35 days after the Regulations are brought into force.
- 2.5 Once the Regulations are brought into force the Department will have to consult with the Local Government Staff Commission and a procedure will have to be put in place for the appointment process of the new Chief Executive. It is recommended that the Head of Human Resources is directed to liaise with the Local Government Staff Commission and the Department and to bring back a report to Committee in August updating them on the proposed arrangements.

# 3 Other posts in the new Council structure

There is no proposal in the Regulations that any post other than the Chief Executive post should be recruited by way of public competition. It is proposed at this stage that Directors for new councils will be appointed subject to the creation of pools of eligible people drawn from current staff employed by the councils to avoid compulsory redundancy and provide alternative employment opportunities. Given that this process may take some time, it is unlikely that proper consideration can be given to the structure of the new council until autumn 2014.

# 4 Retirement of the existing Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor

The Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor has indicated his intention to retire from service with this Council before the end of this calendar year. Given the provision above about the appointment of new Directors, it is proposed that interim arrangements are put in place to cover Mr Quigley's existing duties until a permanent new council officer structure is agreed. It is therefore proposed that the Chief Executive discuss the issues with the Party Group Leaders at the Budget Panel and bring back interim recommendations to the Committee at its meeting in August.

### 5 Recommendations

- 5.1 To note the Minister's intention in relation to Local Government Reform and the public recruitment of new Chief Executive posts.
- 5.2 To authorise the Head of Human Resources to engage with the Department and the Local Government Staff Commission to determine the process which will be followed to fill these posts.
- 5.3 To note the intention of the Assistant Chief Executive and Town Solicitor to retire before the end of the calendar year and To authorise the Chief Executive to consult with the Budget Panel and bring forward interim proposals to the Committee at its meeting in August."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

### **Asset Management**

# **Connswater Community Greenway Land and Assembly Update**

The Committee was reminded that, as part of the City Investment Strategy, it had agreed to co-ordinate the acquisition of lands to enable the Connswater Community Greenway to proceed. The Committee was advised that an area of land consisting of 0.074 acres adjacent to the entrance to Victoria Park had been identified as being required for the Greenway. The land was owned by the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company and, as it formed an integral part of the support to the railway line at that location, that organisation could not dispose of the land outright. Council officers had therefore agreed, subject to Committee approval, to take out a licence for those

lands from the Company to allow the area to be landscaped as part of the project to improve the aesthetics at the entrance to Victoria Park. The Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company had agreed to grant the licence rent free.

The Committee granted approval to the acquisition of the lands as outlined by way of licence from the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company.

# **Smithfield Car Park**

The Committee was advised that the Council owned the land to the rear of Smithfield Market, which the Department for Regional Development Roads Service (and formerly the Department of the Environment) had been operating as a car park since 1990. The Director of Property and Projects explained that the former Health, Markets and Meat Plant Committee had, in May 1990, agreed to seek car park operators for the open space at the rear of the market and agreed subsequently, at its meeting on 10th December 1990, to enter into a licence agreement with the Department of the Environment. The Licence Agreement with the Road Service allowed for a review of the licence payment on 1st December each year, with the agreement being terminable by either party by giving three months notice in writing.

He reported that negotiations had taken place with Land and Property Services, acting for the Road Service, regarding the licence payment for the period from 1st December, 2012. The fee was based on the gross annual turnover generated by the car park for the twelve month period immediately preceding any review. The current licence fee was £64,500 per annum. The proposed licence fee for the year 1st December, 2012 till 30th November, 2013 was £68,000.

The Committee granted approval to a Licence Fee of £68,000 payable by the Department of Regional Development Roads Service for the Smithfield Car Park for the year commencing 1st December, 2012.

# **Belfast City Hall Big Screen**

(Mr. G. Copeland, City Events Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report

### "1 Relevant Background Information

### 1.1 The purpose of this report:

- Is to request approval that Officers issue an Expression of Interest Tender for a content provider for the City Hall Big Screen.
- If Members approve the above process, seek approval from Members to limit content and operations of the City Hall Big Screen to Council projects until a new screen content/management company is appointed.

- 1.2 In April 2010 the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed that a 2012 Olympic Inspired Big Screen be positioned in the grounds of City Hall. The Screen is part of 22 LED systems located across regional capitals and key cities.
- 1.3 Up until October 2012 the BBC provided an extensive screen management process, which included local BBC NI input. However, this entire resource has been drastically reduced and means that anyone wishing to relay images on the screen must have these pre-formatted at their own cost. Plus technical assistance and camera relays must be sourced and paid for by the event organisers.
- 1.4 These changes mean that the BBC only provide a limited screen operations service, which is managed from its offices in Birmingham, for all twenty-two screens, with zero input from BBC NI. This limited service will cease in September 2013. However, in December 2012 the Council agreed to take part in a joint procurement exercise so a new screen content and management organisation could be found.
- 1.5 Unfortunately this joint procurement exercise has not taken place as the vast majority of the Big Screen UK network are no longer supportive of such a concept. This means that come September 2013 the screen will have only BBC News 24 showing and there will be no screen content management system in place.
- 1.6 Given the above Members are being asked to approve that Officers issue an Expression of Interest Tender on behalf of BCC. If the Council agree to this any appointment will be based on a zero cost to BCC and possibly the creation of an income stream. If unsuccessful in this process a further report will be taken to Councillors seeking views on the future of the Big Screen.
- 1.7 Another difficulty, which the BBC position has resulted in, is an increase in workloads for Officers, in regard to programme, editing and managing screen content. Therefore, the request to limit screen content and operations to Council projects until a potential new screen content/management company is appointed.

# 2 Key Issues

2.1 The BBC has been involved as the content and screen management provider since the screen's inception. However, as stated above, there has been a rolling reduction in the

BBC's input to this process, which will formally terminate at the end of September 2013. This is due to BBC budgetary constraints.

- 2.2 The resulting affect, in the BBC's reduction in services, has meant a significant increase in staff resources from the Council's City Events Unit, who are now being asked to vet and arrange content for the Big Screen. This work entails dealing with requests, editing content, dealing with event organisers who wish to use the screen and liaising with the BBC's team in Birmingham.
- 2.3 Given the above, Members are requested to approve that the Big Screen content is now limited to programmes and initiatives of the Council. These restrictions would stay in place until a new screen/management company is appointed.
- 2.4 In addition Members are asked to note that NI Planning Service has granted planning consent, for the Big Screen, to stay in situ until April 2014. Members initially agreed that the screen should be considered as part of the refurbishment of the Donegall Square, to be undertaken by the Department of Social Development, as part of phase two of the Streets Ahead programme. However, the Department of Social Development have now 'suspended' this phase of work. Therefore, Officers are investigating the Council's options in order that a solution to the planning issue can be found.

### 3 Resource Implications

# 3.1 Financial

The Council has agreed to allocate £40,000 as part of the Department's annual budget. These finances are used to cover the operational costs of the screen alongside animation of the grounds.

### 3.2 Human Resources

There would be no additional staffing requirements of the City Events Unit if Members were to agree to restrict screen content to BCC related content. However, if Members wish permit external use of the screen there would be a requirement to appoint either a temporary member of staff or an external contractor. At this stage it is difficult to define these costs, but it would be in the region of an additional £30,000 per calendar year on top of the current £40,000 indicated in 3.1 above (total cost per annum £70,000).

# 3.3 Asset and Other Implications

As per 2.4, Members are asked to note that NI Planning Service has granted planning consent, for the Big Screen, to stay in situ until April 2014. As stated in 2.4, Members have agreed that the screen should be considered as part of the refurbishment of the Donegall Square, to be undertaken by the Department of Social Development, as part of phase two of the Streets Ahead programme. However, the Department of Social Development have now 'suspended' this phase of work. Therefore, Officers are investigating the Council's options in order that a solution to the planning issue can be found, with a report being taken back to Council in due course.

# 4 **Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

4.1 There are no relevant equality and good relations implications. However, the project has the potential to bring together people from a wide range of backgrounds and therefore promote good relations in the city.

### 5 Recommendations

### 5.1 Members are asked to:

- Approve that Officers issue an Expression of Interest Tender for a content/management provider for the City Hall Big Screen at a zero cost to Council. It would be suggested that appointment of an appropriate supplier be delegated to the Director of Development.
- Recommend that until a new screen content provider is appointed that Officers are permitted to restrict content to details generated by BCC."

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that a report on any expressions of interest received and associated costings would be submitted to the Committee in due course for approval.

# **Corporate Accommodation Strategy Update**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update in relation to the Council's Corporate Accommodation Strategy and:

(i) noted the findings of the Charted Institute of Public Finance and Accounts initial report on an analysis and high level evaluation of the Council's existing office accommodation stock and that a business case would now be progressed for the delivery of the most appropriate property solution for the Council's Corporate Accommodation Strategy, with a further report being submitted to the Committee by November, 2013; and

(ii) in the context of completing the strategic approach to the Accommodation Strategy, noted the current position regarding Clarendon House which might be of interest given its proximity to the Cecil Ward Building and agreed that it be included as an option within the Strategy, with a further report being submitted to the Committee depending upon any developments in relation to its disposal on the open market.

### Request to use the Cenotaph area

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

### **Good Relations and Equality**

(Mrs H. Francey, Good Relations Manager, attended in connection with these items.)

## Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership

### **Forum for Cities in Transition Conference**

In considering the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 10th June, the Good Relations Manager drew the Committee's attention to the minute under the heading "Forum for Cities in Transition Conference" and to the decision of the Partnership agreeing, in view of the valuable work which was undertaken by the Forum in striving for peace and reconciliation in troubled cities, that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to make available an appropriate level of funding to assist in that work.

She indicated that initially only a small payment of £500 would be required and she recommended accordingly.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Subject to the forgoing amendment, the Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 10th June.

# Flag Flying Policy - Armed Forces Flag

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

### "Relevant Background Information

The Committee will be aware that each year since 2009 the Council has considered requests from the Ministry of Defence

to fly the Armed Forces Day flag for a week leading up to the Armed Forces Day itself at the end of June.

In the first three years, 2009, 2010 and 2011, the Council agreed, in accordance with existing Council policy, that the request to fly the Armed Forces flag at the City Hall be acceded to but that the approval be for one day only.

In 2012, because a request to fly the Armed Forces Flag was not received until June, a Special Meeting of the Council was held on 21 June which agreed to fly the Armed Forces Flag for the period from 25-30 June 2012.

In 2013, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 24 May deferred making a decision on the matter and the Council agreed at its meeting on 3 June that the Armed Forces Flag should fly from 24-29 June 2013. The Council discussed the possibility of establishing a policy on the flying of flags, other than the Union Flag, as outlined in the Flag EQIA and the Chairman undertook to request that a report in this regard be submitted.

## Key Issues

It is clear that there has not been a consensus on this matter among the political parties represented on the Council.

In 2010, at its meeting on 23 April, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had determined that that it did not wish to establish a policy position on the Armed Forces Day flag and that each request should be considered annually on an individual basis.

Members will be aware that last year the Council undertook a major EQIA on its policy on flying the Union Flag and began a 16 week period of consultation on this last June.

On 22 June 2012, following the decision of the Council last year to fly the Armed Forces Flag for the 6 day period, the Equality Commission contacted the Council to comment:

'The Equality Commission notes the press reports of the special meeting of the Council last evening, 21 June, to consider the Armed Forces Day Flag. It will be important that the Council monitors any adverse impacts which would assist the Council in any future consideration of such issues. In circumstances where this issue may recur annually the Council should screen the policy in line with its Equality Scheme commitments.

The Equality Commission also notes the ongoing EQIA on the display of flags. It would of course be preferable if the Council's settled policy on flags extended to such displays so that any proposal is addressed within the settled policy and not separately discussed in this way.'

The equality screening which was undertaken in respect of the proposal this year reminded the Council of this, stating that:

'It should be noted that, during the EQIA of the policy on the flying of the Union flag, the Equality Commission suggested that the Council should ensure that there is a policy framework in which to consider, in a consistent manner, the flying of other flags. They advised that such considerations would include the duration and extent of displays of flags which may be more closely associated with one community background in Northern Ireland, or indeed associated with neither of the two main community backgrounds.'

In view of the fact that this issue is likely to recur annually, the Committee is requested to consider whether it might incorporate the flying of the Armed Forces Flag within its current policy. This would avoid the discussion and dissent which has given rise to tension on an annual basis with consequent negative publicity for the Council.

The Committee is reminded that the existing Council policy on the flying of flags allows for flags other than the Union Flag to be flown on specific occasions. The Cross of St. Patrick is flown on 17 March, the European Union Flag is flown on Europe Day on 9 May and the Red Ensign is flown on National Merchant Navy Day on 3 September each year. (see list attached)

The Armed Forces Flag could be added to this list if the Committee so agrees.

All flags are flown in accordance with standard flag flying protocols.

# **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

The Equality Screening Report completed this year in respect of the flying of the Armed Forces Flag (and previously circulated to Members at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 24 May 2013) had concluded:

'It is considered unlikely that the flying of the Armed Forces flag would be regarded as being of strategic importance or be significant in terms of expenditure. It is also unlikely that a one-off decision in relation to action on a single day in 2013 would be challenged by way of judicial review. Depending on the decision, the impact on one community or the other may be adverse but only to a minor extent. Clearly the level of offence to one community would be greater if the Armed Forces flag were to be flown for six days rather than one day, but it is considered that neither option would result in a major impact on good relations.'

# **Resource Implications**

None.

# **Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to consider the issues in the report and decide whether:

- (i) the Armed Forces Flag should be added to the list of other flags which are flown on specific occasions at the City Hall
- (ii) and if so, determine whether this should be for a single day or a six day period."

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor McVeigh, Seconded by Councillor Hargey,

That the Committee agrees that the Armed Forces Flag should not be added to the list of other flags which are flown on specific occasions at the City Hall.

### **Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Reynolds, Seconded by Councillor Spence,

That the Committee agrees that the Armed Forces Flag be added to the list of other flags which are flown on specific occasions at the City Hall and that this be for a period of six days.

On a vote by show of hands six members voted for the amendment and eleven against and it was accordingly declared lost.

## **Further Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Hendron, Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Committee agrees that the Armed Forces Flag should be added to the list of other flags which are flown on specific occasions at the City Hall and that it be for a single day on Armed Forces day.

On a vote by show of hands two members voted for the further amendment and fifteen against and it was accordingly declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor McVeigh and seconded by Councillor Hargey that the Committee agrees that the Armed Forces Flag should not be added to the list of other flags which are flown on specific occasions at the City Hall was put to the meeting when nine Members voted for and eight against and it was accordingly declared carried.

### **Cross-Cutting Issues**

# **IBM Smarter Cities - Belfast Challenge**

The Committee considered the undernoted report

- "1 Relevant Background Information
- 1.1 Belfast is one of 100 cities around the world to be awarded a Smart Cities Challenge grant worth an estimated \$400,000 in consultancy work— which will provide Belfast City Council and its partners with access to some of IBM's top experts to analyse and recommend ways Belfast can become an even better place in which to live with an improved quality of life.
- 1.2 Each city has to work on a different city problem. The key differentiators for Belfast were the issues of 'segregation' and 'persistent deprivation'.
- 1.3 A team of 5-6 top 'IBM experts' from across the globe will spend 3 weeks looking at a key issue for Belfast [from Mon 16 Sept Fri 04 October]. They will use analytics and predictive modelling to try to address a city problem and provide a roadmap for building on this and enabling better decisions to be made as a city. This will be vital to the new function of community planning.
- 1.4 A range of workshops and meetings have been held both internally and with external stakeholders in an attempt to refine the city's key problem for this project. The Health sector have been particularly interested to date.

### 2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The 'aspiration beyond segregation' project proposes to:
  - Focus on 2 small geographical areas with some of the worst health indicators and to examine the statistics / perceptions and underlying issues including the effect of segregation.
  - The two areas suggested are Upper Springfield / Black Mountain and Inner East, including Short Strand; a population size of 10,000 is considered appropriate;
  - Focus either on Cardio Vascular Disease (worst health indicator in Upper Springfield) and/or Mental Health which is a concern in Inner East. This decision can only be made following an initial review of the data available, which will happen over the summer months;
  - Look at evidence of what works here and elsewhere;
  - Use predictive modelling and some live interactive approaches, including live data created from a social survey using social media;
  - Determine what services are needed in local areas to address locally specific issues;
  - For Whiterock / Black Mountain attempt to predict what community assets and services would be placed within the Whiterock Community Corridor - Phase 2.
  - For Inner East the link could be made to the potential for new joined health / educations facilities, the review of facilities at Templemore or any another regeneration scheme for the area.
  - Develop a model and a route map for decision-making on dealing with local disadvantage through better provision of services and facilities.
- 2.2 The route map could ultimately be used to inform the review of Leisure, the provision of community assets and local investment and regeneration decisions.
- 2.3 It could therefore not just have potential for BCC but also for other organisations investing in and providing services to the city such as Health and social care, education, BRO etc when

collaboratively determining the level and type of provision which should be made in areas of the city and it could influence decision making around One Public Estate Programmes. Ultimately it could create a decision making platform for Community Planning and Local Area Regeneration Plans.

- 2.4 To make the Belfast Challenge happen, the following steps are necessary:
  - Internal team to complete a detailed project plan and action list for the next 3 month period;
  - Confirm buy-in of all other relevant agencies as part of a wider steering Group, including:
    - > PHA and DHSSPS and others in health sector
    - BRO
    - > OFMDFM Delivering Social Change
    - > NISRA
    - Universities
  - Agree MOU with PHA/ DHSSPS;
  - · Obtain legal advice on data sharing;
  - Initial data collation and additional research to be undertaken to finalise decision on the health indicators to focus on – PHA and DHSSPS to advise;
  - Further research and collation of info to be complete by end of July 2013;
  - Gaps identified during August;
  - Pack to go to IBM by mid August;
  - Agree focus of social survey;
  - Schedule of key interviews / visits to be established for week 1 of challenge;
  - Time slots will be arranged for the Chief Executive, Directors and Members to allocate time in their calendars between Mon 16 Sept and Fri 4 October.

# 3 Resource Implications

### **Financial**

None, this consultancy is provided by IBM as a philanthropic initiative.

### **Human Resources**

A project team has been established involving a range of officers across Health & Environmental Services, Development and Finance & Resources Department. This is also supported by IBM officers.

However a programme for delivery now needs to be developed and this will require intensive action between now and 16th September 2013.

# **Asset and Other Implications**

None

### 4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

There are no known equality and good relations considerations associated with the IBM Belfast Challenge at this time.

### 5 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the project update including the areas in which the project will focus."

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

### **EU Funding Project Pipeline 2014-2020**

(Mr. J Mc Grillen, Director of Development, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

# "1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Members will be aware that BCC through the EU unit has been lobbying for 18 months, to maximise the drawdown of the future NI EU Mainstream Funds for the period 2014-2020. These funding programmes namely: ERDF, ESF, Peace IV, Interreg V and the Rural Development programme, are

- currently being designed by the relevant NI Government departments and agencies, and will be open to public consultation during the months of July to September 2013.
- 1.2 In preparation for the programme design, and within a very tight timescale, the Department of Finance and Personnel has asked the NI Local Government sector to provide a pipeline of project ideas to help shape their thoughts on what could be devolved for Local Government delivery within the various programmes. This comes as a result of the BCC lobby and in practice, would mean that a notional allocation of the NI EU Funds would be set for Councils. To draw this down, they would then have to develop strategic integrated plans in partnership with stakeholders and within the new Local Government Reform boundaries.
- 1.3 To this end, DFP has set a deadline of 30th June 2013 for all councils (hopefully in their post Local Government Reform clusters) to submit project pipelines of indicative activities based on need and results.

### 2 Key Issues

- 2.1 On 30 May 2013, the EU unit held a senior officers 'project brainstorming workshop to generate BCC project ideas and align these to the future NI EU funding criteria. The workshop provided a contextual overview of Belfast's economic challenges, and highlighted real need around addressing employability and skills challenges in the city going forward. The workshop also covered all EU funding opportunities for council within the forthcoming NI EU programmes named above, as well as the Big Lottery and Heritage Lottery Fund. Indeed it was felt at the workshop that a separate ideas workshop should be facilitated by Programme Managers to focus solely on these two non-EU funds.
- 2.2 A table circulated for the information of the Members with this report sets out the entire range of project ideas aligned to the EU criteria. Members are asked to note the pipeline ideas as a flavour of what could be Eu funded to support Belfast City Council's priorities.
- 2.3 A summary of these ideas is set out below, showing the link to BCC priorities as outlined in the Masterplan, and the European criteria. There are obviously other BCC priorities such as antipoverty and connected city which can be factored into this, but for simplicity sake the table aligns to the Masterplan in the first instance.

It is important to note that the new European programmes are written around 11 thematic areas, but NI as a region will only be eligible for activities funded under the themes outlined below:

# 2.4

EU Thematic Objectives	BCC Priority/ Master Plan	Project Ideas
Theme 1 Research and Innovation (ERDF via DETI)	Learning City	North Foreshore Green Business Park development and Questor Innovation centre     Springvale Innovation Centre Revenue support     Connected health Innovation Centre
Theme 3		
Competitivenes s of SMEs	Learning City & Digital City	Development of vacant, city centre, community and arterial Routes Properties (Sustainable Urban Development)  - Colin Town Centre Regeneration (Sustainable urban development)  - Gaeltacht Quarter development (sustainable urban development)
		Sirocco works development (sustainable urban Development) Commercialisation of arts via Business Arts Academy
		- Business support programmes for micro businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity
		<ul> <li>Programmes to support creative industries start up and grow</li> <li>Business infrastructure/workspace</li> </ul>
		- improvement to support business start -up e.g. old Grove site, , Market's Tunnels,
		<ul> <li>Neighbourhood markets</li> <li>Development of Crumlin Road</li> <li>Goal (Sustainable urban Development)</li> </ul>
		- Export market programmes Utilising graduates for business growth
		- Creation of small business park Visteon site - Creation of a design Institute
		Creation of world renowned     animation centre of excellence     Create neighbourhood market
		places and cottage industry start up
		Develop market tunnels  - Coordination of business start up and growth support for new and
		existing SMEs - Delivery of transferred INI business support programmes
		<ul> <li>Schools enterprise programme</li> <li>Support the establishment of high growth start ups</li> </ul>
Theme 4		
Shift towards a low carbon Economy	Low Carbon City & Accessible	-Strategic Citywide Energy Management Partnership in the City - Investigation of District heating – implementation
•		

(ERDF via DETI)	Connected City	at NFS
(LINDI VIG DEII)	Confidence City	at iti O

-Investigation of geo-thermal for heat (Leisure and

**Community Centres)** 

-Construction of cycle paths cross linking parks

and neighbourhoods

-Establishment of low carbon business cluster

twinned with Dublin and Dundalk

-Extension of electric vehicle infrastructure and Fleet, including charging points and BCC's estate

-Investigation of renewal energy powered leisure

estate

-Green/low carbon procurement programmes

-Energy efficiency awareness programmes

-Extensive retrofit programme for BCC property

to an advanced low carbon standard

- Sustainable urban drainage programme across

all council sites

-Water management via hydro schemes

Investigation of underground Aquifers for potential

water extraction for leisure

-Brownfield site programme ( sustainable urban

development)

Theme 6

**Environmental** Low

Carbon - Extension of Bike hire scheme to city

Neighbourhoods

Protection and Copy Resource Efficiency

(Rural Development

Programme via

DARD)

- Lagan Canal development

- 3D model for city planning

- Belfast Hills Development - Titanic bridge Construction

-ARC 21 Waste Management programme

- City wide Greenways linked To integrated travel plans

Theme 8

**Employment** and Supporting

**Labour Mobility** (ESF via DEL)

**Learning City** 

-Delivering Social Change Project targeting training And employability for target groups - NEETS

-Training and employability programmes around Sport, horticulture and post film production

Theme 9

Solid Inclusion and combating

**Poverty** (ESF via DEL

and theme for PEACE IV programme)

Inclusive

people/ Communities

- Peace walls capital programme -Fuel and food poverty programmes

-Whiterock and Castlereagh community hubs

Development

-City wide poverty and social exclusion programme -Retrofit of social housing to low carbon standard

-Installation of smart meters -Co Operative purchasing of fuel

-Facilitate collective switching for communities

-Community owned energy generation

e.g. hydro scheme in Ligoniel

-Social enterprises, food banks, GIY, Community food production and gardening to reduce food

poverty

-lending at community level and community

**Purchasing power** 

-advice services on debt management etc

- Sport, health and wellbeing Programmes as

Part of an integrated plan to tackle poverty across the city

- Create an urban sports academy

### Theme 10

Education Skills Learning City and Lifelong Learning (ESF via DEL)

- Harte II Programme & roll out to other growth sectors

The BCC project pipeline will be submitted to DFP by the 30<sup>th</sup> June deadline and also to NILGA who is collating an overall NI Local Government pipeline response for DFP. They will share this with all councils at a workshop on 24<sup>th</sup> June (10am-12pm) in NILGA offices.

Members should note that this pipeline exercise is not a final opportunity for councils to shape the future funds. DFP are seeking the pipeline primarily for guidance on Local Government thoughts and capacity for delivery. During July, DFP will issue guidance and ask Local Authorities to develop integrated plans of EU spend activity for the interim period of 2014-2016. It is important that this is done in partnership with city stakeholders and surrounding councils.

This will then be followed by another opportunity to submit second plans in line with Community Planning for the remaining period of the EU Programmes 2016-2020.

# 2.5 Peace IV capital proposal

In relation to Peace IV Programme, SEUPB has issued a request for projects of regional importance/critical mass, in order that these projects can be written into its draft operational programme. The projects must be iconic and transformational in nature and there will be a focus on deprived communities, particularly economically excluded young people.

Critically, SEUPB expect any submission to focus on a single detailed project, in order that the Council is not competing against itself. It is important therefore that any single preferred Peace IV bid from the Council is seen in the context of other EU funding streams and associated Council proposals, demonstrating balanced investment across the city.

### **Project Identification**

SEUPB has requested that the Council submits its proposed project/s by the end of June, for the purposes of the public consultation document. They would expect the full detail of the proposal e.g economic appraisals, designs by September.

SEUPB has now confirmed that 'Social inclusion and combating poverty' will be the thematic objective under which the Peace IV programme sits. This will be a key assessment criterion (30%) and any proposals put forward must fit strongly under this objective.

It is suggested, for Committee's decision, that there is a short-list of 2 projects that merit consideration:

a. North Belfast gateway: to include the renovation of Crumlin Road Courthouse as a shared history Belfast Story museum, built heritage centre and destination point for the North Belfast cultural corridor; and the development of Crumlin Road Gaol as an iconic cultural industries space in one of 2 vacant wings, in partnership with Arts Council and OFMDFM. This would be in the context of a DSD masterplan for the cultural corridor, as well as the Council's own masterplan. Could potentially include an outdoor event/performance space in an old prison yard. The Courthouse development would have to be in partnership with DSD, who have recently completed an options appraisal for the Courthouse. Both of these iconic projects would consolidate and extend the

regeneration impact of the University of Ulster further into North Belfast and there is potential for partnership with the University too. The key risk here is that significant work would need to be undertaken immediately to ensure that it meets SEUPB's full information requirements by September, as well as addressing the ownership of the Courthouse:

Interfaces regeneration programme to include a range of b. physical development projects aimed at the removal of barriers in city and the re-vitalisation of derelict land at the interface. This has a clear fit with SEUPB's aspiration regarding the removal of walls, as well as recently announced OFMDFM strategy, who would be an obvious partner for this proposal. Work is ongoing through the BCC Peace III programme and the International Fund for Ireland programme to develop local area plans which will come to full fruition in 2 years time. There is a strong likelihood that this could be a foundation piece for the Council-led local plan for Peace IV. The key risk therefore is whether here sufficient detail to meet SEUPB's information requirements by September and whether a scattered number of projects would constitute sufficient 'critical mass' for SEUPB.

Dedicated resources, including consultant/professional services would need to be invested in order to put forward a 'spade-ready' proposal by September.

### 3 Resource Implications

There are only staff resource implications at this stage to produce the Integrated plan for Belfast by Autumn 2013. Provision has been made within revenue budgets for any additional professional services that are required to develop a fully scoped project to the Peace IV programme.

# 4 **Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

There are no equality and good relations implications with this work at this stage and any future integrated plan of projects would be subject to equality screening.

# 5 Recommendations

- Committee is asked to indicate the preferred Council bid to go forward to SEUPB by the end of June, for submission of any outline proposals for inclusion in a draft Operational Programme for the PEACE IV Programme
- It is recommended that Members note the content of this report as a flavour sample of project ideas that could be funded through EU funds in the next programming round."

After discussion in the matter, the Committee agreed that option a, that is, the project in relation to the North Belfast Gateway be forwarded to the Special European Union Programmes Body for submission of any outline proposals for inclusion in a draft Operational Programme for the Peace IV Programme.

Chairman