

Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Chief Executive's Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



4 November 2014

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on Friday, 21st November, 2014 at 10.00 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- (a) Minutes
- (b) Apologies
- (b) Declarations of Interest
- 2. **Ulster Orchestra - Request for Funding**
- 3. **Investment Programme**
 - (a) Area Working Update (Pages 5 - 8)
 - (b) Waterfront Hall - Future Operating Model (Pages 9 - 12)
- 4. **Democratic Services and Governance**
 - (a) Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 13 - 18)
- 5. **Finance/Value-for-Money**
 - (a) Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel (Pages 19 - 28)

- (b) Half Year Finance Report (Pages 29 - 60)
- (c) Request for Funding - City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (Pages 61 - 76)
- (d) Request for Funding - Belfast City Centre Management (Pages 77 - 78)
- (e) Revaluation - Non-Domestic Rate - Oral Report

6. **Asset Management**

- (a) Tenancy Agreement - Botanic Gate Lodge (Pages 79 - 80)
- (b) Lord Mayor's Vehicle (Pages 81 - 86)
- (c) Future Use and Management of the City Hall (Pages 87 - 90)
- (d) City Hall Grounds - Navratri Hindu Festival (Pages 91 - 94)

7. **Human Resources**

- (a) Organisational Development (Pages 95 - 98)
- (b) Standing Order 55 - Employment of Relatives

8. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Good Relations Partnership (Pages 99 - 106)

9. **Building Control**

- (a) Naming of Street (Pages 107 - 108)

To: The Chairman and Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Area Working Update
Date:	21 November 2014
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officers:	Sinead Grimes, Programme Manager, Ext: 6203

1.0	Relevant Background Information												
1.1	Members are aware that the Area Working Groups (AWGs) were established in 2012 as a means of connecting Members to local areas in preparation for their role in community planning under the Reform of Local Government. In governance terms, the AWGs were established to have an advisory role, informing the implementation of the Investment Programme. Since this time, the AWGs have played an integral role in recommending investment decisions for their areas in terms of the Local Investment Fund (LIF); the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF); the Feasibility Fund and Local Interventions Funds to the SP&R Committee.												
1.2	Members are asked to note that a detailed update on the current status of LIF and BIF projects will be taken to Committee in December as part of a detailed update on the physical programme.												
2.0	Area Working Group updates												
	At the most recent round of meetings the South, North and East Area Working Groups agreed the following recommendations for the consideration of SP&R.												
	South AWG - Local Intervention												
2.1	The South AWG made a recommendation for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to Gilpins project which is an emerging BIF project. Members noted that it was highlighted that there was a need to build capacity in relation to this project – however although this is an emerging BIF proposal there is no funding available under BIF for this type of project development activity. Capacity building would be a matter for the Development Committee to consider as and when it has the budget and resources to do so.												
	North AWG												
2.2	The North AWG made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their Local Investment Fund												
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>LIF Ref</th> <th>Project</th> <th>£</th> <th>AWG Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>NLIF051</td> <td>St Marys Nursery School</td> <td>£6,596</td> <td>That an additional £6,596 from unallocated LIF monies is allocated to St Marys Nursery School project Committee is asked to note that this project has previously received £47,000 and this additional money is to make up a shortfall in funding for the project</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NLIF030</td> <td>Deanby Youth Club</td> <td></td> <td>That this project is withdrawn from the process and that the £70,000 which was agreed in principle is decommitted from the project</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	LIF Ref	Project	£	AWG Comments	NLIF051	St Marys Nursery School	£6,596	That an additional £6,596 from unallocated LIF monies is allocated to St Marys Nursery School project Committee is asked to note that this project has previously received £47,000 and this additional money is to make up a shortfall in funding for the project	NLIF030	Deanby Youth Club		That this project is withdrawn from the process and that the £70,000 which was agreed in principle is decommitted from the project
LIF Ref	Project	£	AWG Comments										
NLIF051	St Marys Nursery School	£6,596	That an additional £6,596 from unallocated LIF monies is allocated to St Marys Nursery School project Committee is asked to note that this project has previously received £47,000 and this additional money is to make up a shortfall in funding for the project										
NLIF030	Deanby Youth Club		That this project is withdrawn from the process and that the £70,000 which was agreed in principle is decommitted from the project										

Following the above decision the North AWG still has approximately £300,000 of unallocated LIF funding. Given realistic concerns that this money could potentially be subsumed into general Council budgets as the new organisation establishes itself amidst very difficult financial circumstances the North AWG held a special meeting to agree allocation of the £300,000.

Officers were not invited to this meeting but have since been provided with a list of 'projects' totalling over £280,000.

The estimates against these 'projects' are entirely notional as officers have had no input as yet and we do not know what or where some of these projects are.

More importantly a number of these ideas do not fit within the eligibility criteria for LIF funding. Even if Committee was minded to change the rules around LIF for some of these ideas this may cause audit, legal and reputational issues for Councillors and the Council and potentially jeopardise future funding of this type.

The list of ideas include straightforward top ups of exiting LIF schemes but then move to feasibility studies, expenditure on Council assets, small revenue amounts and areas outside the vires of Council and potentially illegal.

Rather than debate these individually at Committee it is proposed that:

- (i) A decision is made by Committee and the Shadow SP&R to ring fence the unallocated LIF monies to give the AWG time to think things through.
- (ii) The Committee asks the AWG to meet with the Directors of Legal Services, Finance and Resources and Property and Projects to refine the current ideas into eligible areas of expenditure.

East AWG

2.3 The East AWG made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their Local Investment Fund

LIF Ref	Project	£	AWG Comments
ELIF025	Wandsworth Community Association	Additional £8,356	That an additional £8,356 from unallocated LIF monies is allocated to Wandsworth Community Association Committee is asked to note that this project has previously received £25,000 and this additional money is to make up a shortfall in funding for the project
ELIF015	Short Strand Community Association	Additional £6,644	That an additional £6,644 from unallocated LIF monies is allocated to the Short Strand Community Association Committee is asked to note that this project has previously received £94,648 and this additional money is to make up a shortfall in funding for the project
ELIF016	Landmark East – Best of East Centre	-	The current funding agreement for this project is with East Belfast Partnership however the works are being carried out by Landmark East (a wholly owned subsidiary of the EBP) and other funding agreements for the project are with Landmark East. To facilitate this, the East AWG have agreed that the Funding Agreement is assigned to Landmark East – this has been agreed by Legal Services

Capital project update

2.4 The East AWG also received an update in relation to the Tamar Street proposal which Members are aware is currently a Stage 2 – Uncommitted project on the Capital Programme. This proposal was to

	refurbish an unused port-a-cabin for community use. This project was originally brought forward at the request of the East AWG. It should be noted that the SOC had previously identified a number of issues including that it went against a previous SP&R Committee decision (April 2012) to demolish the building due to its bad state of repair; none of the groups needed the premises 24/7 and that there were alternative facilities available in the neighbouring area and that the land is designated as 'white-land' and is therefore free from development constraints. The Council also owns the adjoining land and this may facilitate the wider development of the site.
2.5	On the basis of the OBC that has been worked up the East AWG was advised that - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a due diligence exercise has failed to identify any potentially suitable tenants from the pool of groups who had previously expressed interest in leasing the port-a-cabin - there are ongoing concerns regarding displacement and duplication - that further enquiries had been received since the due diligence exercise was carried out in September – this has included a proposal for using the site on an interim basis for storage. - BMAP now designates the council owned land at Ballymacarrett as Community Greenway which allows for the Tamar St site's potential incorporation into any planning exercise for this part of the Comber Greenway
2.6	In light of the information presented the East AWG has recommended that this project is rescoped as a wider masterplan for the Ballymacarrett area and is dropped back down to Stage 1- Emerging Project on the Capital Programme. This will help maximise the links with the Community Greenway project and the emerging urban village proposal led by OFMDFM for the lower Newtownards Road area. This proposal also fits with the emerging development proposals by the East Belfast Partnership under the Hollywood Arches Development Strategy. Master-planning would also provide an opportunity for any future development plans for the site to reflect wider community need and compliment the adjacent CCG Phase 2 works at C.S Lewis Square.
2.7	As outlined above there is also the potential that the site could be used on an interim basis for storage and Committee is asked to note that a short-term (1 year) lease would temporarily generate income and would not interfere with any planning of the wider site. Members are asked to note that further investigation is required is to whether such a proposal would require the use of the existing port-a-cabin or if a cleared site would facilitate extra interest on an interim basis.
2.8	Members are therefore asked to agree that this project is rescoped as a wider masterplan for the Ballymacarrett area and is dropped back down to an emerging project on the Capital Programme. Members are further asked to agree to the demolition of the port-a-cabin as previously agreed by Committee in April 2012 if this will help to facilitate an interim use of the site.

3.0	Resource Implications
Financial: As outlined above.	
Human: Officer time in working with groups on developing their project proposals	
Assets: none at present	

4.0	Equality Implications
As part of the Stage approval process, a screening will be carried out on each project to indicate potential equality and good relations impacts and any mitigating actions needed.	

5.0	Recommendations
------------	------------------------

Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and

South AWG

- note the recommendation from the South AWG as laid out in 2.1 in relation to Gilpin’s project regarding the potential establishment of a trust to oversee the project. Members are asked to note that there is no budget available under BIF for this type of project development activity and that **if agreed this recommendation will need to be referred to the Development Committee for consideration**

North AWG

- **agree that an additional £6,596 of LIF funding** is allocated to the **St Marys Nursery School project (NLIF051)** from unallocated North LIF monies
- **note the Deanby Youth Club project (NLIF030) has been withdrawn from the process** and the £70,000 which had been agreed in principle has now been decommitted
- **agree to ring fence unallocated LIF monies and ask the North AWG to meet with Directors as suggested in the report.**

East AWG

- **agree the additional amounts of LIF funding of £8,356 to Wandsworth Community Association (ELIF025) and £6,644 to the Short Strand Community Centre (ELIF015)** from unallocated East LIF monies
- note the **change in the funding agreement for the Best of East Centre project (ELIF016)** and that this is assigned to Landmark East
- agree that the **Tamar Street proposed capital programme project (currently a Stage 2 – Uncommitted project) is rescoped to become a wider masterplan for the Ballymacarrett area and is dropped down to a Stage 1 – Emerging Project on the Capital Programme** to maximise the potential of the site. If agreed this will be included in the next Capital Programme update report

6.0	Appendix
N/A	



Report to: Strategic Policy & Resources Committee

Subject: Waterfront Hall – Future Operating Model

Date: 21 November 2014

Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470

Contact Officers: Graham Thompson, Project Sponsor, Ext
Geoff Fenlon, Interim Managing Director, Ext

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will be aware that on 31 March 2014, Belfast City Council received a Letter of Offer from the Northern Ireland Tourist Board offering £18.6m towards the construction of new conference and exhibition facilities at the Belfast Waterfront Hall.
1.2	<p>The Letter of Offer contains a number of conditions which must be fulfilled in order for the Council to secure payment of the funds by NITB. These conditions include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belfast City Council shall have implemented arrangements for the operation and management of the project going forward which are in substance and in form acceptable to NITB and shall have provided copies of the management contracts for the project to NITB and those contracts are acceptable to NITB. - Belfast City Council will fully test a range of operating options for the project to ensure the operating model deployed gives the greatest return to the economy in line with the targets outlined within the approved business case. These options are to include (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The review and potential enhancement of the current status quo operating model ii) Outsourcing the operation to an established private sector operator iii) The creation of an arms length company/non profit distributing organisation wholly owned by Belfast City Council (NDPO/Mutual Company)
1.3	<p>The objectives which the project is required to deliver are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of an integrated conference/convention centre by 2015 - A minimum of 2000sq metres exhibition space across one level - Banqueting space for a minimum of 750 people - Attract 50,000 annual conference delegates to the city by 2020 - To attract 35,000 (of the 50,000) out of state conference delegates by 2020

2	Key Issues
2.1	On 25 April 2014, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee approved the procurement of consultants to undertake an options analysis for the future operation of the Waterfront Hall, as required by the conditions in NITB's Letter of Offer set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.
2.2	Following a tender exercise, RSM McClure Watters was appointed to undertake the appraisal. Following agreement of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 22 August 2014, a series of Party Briefings took place in October to make Members aware of the proposed options to be considered along with the assessment criteria to be used.
2.3	<p>There was general consensus at Party Group Briefings that the following options be considered within the options analysis for the future management of the Waterfront Hall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Do nothing b) An enhanced in-house management model c) An arms length company wholly owned by BCC d) A Trust e) A Mutual f) A joint venture and; g) A fully outsourced operation
2.4	<p>There was also broad agreement that the options should be assessed against the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose - will the option be able to provide what is required from the venue? e.g. economic impact, surplus, prestige and publicity • Strategy - will the option be able to comply with BCC, venue and funder corporate and strategic objectives? • Expertise – would the option have or be able to obtain the necessary skills to deliver excellence? • Quality – could the option deliver to the required service standard? • Mutuality of operation – could the option deliver synergy between BCC, Visit Belfast and other economic operators? • Cost – how cost efficiently could the venue be run? E.g. economy of scale, transference of fixed cost to variable cost, increased revenue, reduced running costs, taxation etc. • Civic pride – how well does each option comply with the original strategic intentions of the Waterfront Hall and how will each option contribute to a positive perception of the city and the venue?
2.5	On 22 August 2014, the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee also agreed to the appointment of a new Head of Sales and Marketing for the Waterfront Hall as it was recognised that the introduction of a Commercial Sales and Marketing Team was essential to achieving the objective of attracting 50,000 conference delegates to the Waterfront by 2020.
2.6	It is planned to commence the recruitment process for the Head of Sales and Marketing in December 2014. Given the importance of this post, it is proposed that the procedure which applies to the appointment of a Head of Service is used for this particular appointment. It is proposed therefore that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee or their representatives sit on the selection panel along with one further representative of the Development Committee from one other party.

2.7	In order to ensure access to the widest pool of high quality applicants, it is recommended that a Sales & Marketing recruitment specialist be used to assist in this critical appointment.
2.8	An update report is also being taken to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	It is proposed that the services of a recruitment specialist be used for the appointment of the Head of Sales and Marketing. The cost will not exceed £20,000 and will be met from existing resources.

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	Employment of the Head of Sales and Marketing will comply with all fair employment and equality requirements.
4.2	An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of the preferred model following a Council decision in 2015.

5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree that the options appraisal for the operation of the Waterfront Hall considers each of the options set out in paragraph 2.3 above; - Agree that the options be assessed against the criteria set out in paragraph 2.4 above; - Agree that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Development Committee and a third member of the Committee from another party sit on the selection panel for the Head of Sales and Marketing post at the Waterfront Hall; - Agree to the engagement of a recruitment specialist for the above post.

6	Decision Tracking
A full report on the options appraisal will be presented to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in January 2015 following which a detailed business model will be completed by March 2015.	
Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development	

7	Key to Abbreviations
NITB – Northern Ireland Tourist Board	

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	Friday, 21st November, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 26th September, 2003, agreed to the criteria which would be used to assess requests from external organisations for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting on 7th August, 2009, further amended the criteria so as to incorporate the new Key Themes as identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.
2.	Key Issues
2.1	The revised criteria have been applied to each of the requests contained within the appendix and recommendations have been made to the Committee on this basis.
3.	Resource Implications
3.1	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality.
4.	Equality Implications
4.1	N/A
5.	Recommendations
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.
6.	Decision Tracking
Officer responsible – Kate McCafferty	
7.	Key to Abbreviations
Not applicable.	
8.	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

This page is intentionally left blank

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
St. Mary's University College Belfast	Global Studies Association Annual Conference 2016 30th June, 2016 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 meeting 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
Adapt NI	Adapt Legacy Awards 16th January, 2015 Approximately 75 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will highlight the ethos of better access to premises and promote the various services on offer to organisations. Hosting this event will highlight the socially inclusive nature of the City Hall and present it as a model of good practice for Civic Buildings striving to improve and reconcile accessibility with heritage and conservation requirements. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £190
Belfast Community Sports Development Network	Sheer SKILL (Sporting Knowledge Igniting Lifelong Learning) Celebration 24th March, 2015 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 recognise the opportunity for greater learning through the value of sport and community engagement. Since its inception many of the young people who have graduated have gained full and part-time employment within the sports and youth work sector across the City. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities' and in	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £250

			addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
Chartered Institute of Personnel Development	Chartered Institute of Personnel Development Northern Ireland Awards 2015 14th May, 2015 Approximately 250 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will provide the opportunity to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in HR and the impact HR has on business success. Categories include the HR Professional of the Year award, the CIPD Chairman's Special Achievement award and the Outstanding HR Student of the Year. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and 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 drinks reception Approximate cost £500
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Volunteer Services	Belfast Trust Volunteer Awards 2nd June, 2015 Approximately 100 attending	The use of the City Hall	The Belfast Trust has approximately 300 volunteers who support existing services in a variety of roles. This event seeks to recognise the contribution made by the volunteers in supporting service delivery in both acute and community settings. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.	The use of the City Hall
Gerry Rogan Initiative Trust	GRIT Achievement Awards 8th June, 2016 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits	This event will celebrate the achievements of young people through the Grit Rey programme. Grit Rey aims to support, motivate and encourage young disadvantaged and at risk people in making the right choices for their future. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better opportunities for success across the City' and	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits Approximate cost £1,000

			'Better support for people and communities' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.	
City of Belfast School of Music	50th Anniversary of City of Belfast School of Music 21st March, 2015 Approximately 500 attending	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event seeks to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the City of Belfast School of Music and to acknowledge its contribution to the general life and well-being of the city. 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 provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception Approximate cost £500
Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure	DCAL – Outline of priorities and opportunities 18th December, 2014 Approximately 200 attending	Use of the City Hall	This event aims to provide a platform for the Minister and staff of the Department to consider its work over the past twelve months as well as focus on the priorities and opportunities for the next twelve months. Much of the event will showcase the vibrancy and ambition of Belfast, by specifically focusing on the legacy of the World Police and Fire Games in 2013; the major capital investment in three Belfast stadia - Casement Park, Ravenhill and Windsor Park; and the opportunities and challenges presented through the Creative Industries Innovation Fund. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better opportunities for success'.	Use of the City Hall

This page is intentionally left blank

Audit Panel

Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

SPECIAL MEETING OF AUDIT PANEL

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairman);
Alderman M. Campbell;
Councillors Hutchinson, Jones and Mullan; and
Mr. D. Bell.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. M. McBride, Head of Finance and Performance;
Mr. A. Harrison, Acting Head of Audit, Governance
Risk Services;
Mr. T. Wallace, Financial Accounting Manager;
Mr. R. Allen, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office;
Mr. A. Knox, Audit Manager, Northern Ireland
Audit Office; and
Mr. J Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apology

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Beattie.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Report to Those Charged with Governance 2013/2014

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The Local Government Auditor has issued, in draft format, her Report to those charged with Governance for 2013/2014. This summarises the system/control issues arising during the NIAO’s 2013/2014 audit and includes recommendations for management action.

The purpose of this report is to apprise the Audit Panel of the issues raised in the Local Government Auditor’s Report for 2013/2014. At this stage management have not had the opportunity to provide comments and/or actions to address these issues.

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

Key Issues

The audit is substantially complete and it is anticipated that the Local Government Auditor will certify the 2013-2014 statements with an unqualified opinion.

The Auditor has identified 3 significant risks as part of the audit strategy.

Risk 1 – Provisions

Provisions may not be identified, or if identified, may not be recorded correctly within the accounts.

The Local Government Auditor has highlighted an issue about the length of time the landfill provision covers, recognition of sale of electricity generation as an asset, and access to records after the transfer of leisure to a mutual trust.

Risk 2 – Capital Projects Funded by EU

The risk of incurring ineligible expenditure if the projects do not strictly comply to the terms and conditions of the Letters of Offer.

The Local Government Auditor has highlighted a lack of proactive controls in relation to monitoring compliance and also projects proceeding at risk in advance of receipt of a Letter of Offer.

Risk 3 – Significant Capital or Revenue Projects

The Local Government Auditor believes there may be a risk to the general control environment if key staff are occupied with local government reform rather than normal activities. There is also a risk to investment expenditure delivered through grant programmes if funds are not spent in accordance with terms and conditions specified.

At present The Local Government Auditor has identified 16 areas where she has made recommendations and prioritised them as 1) significant issues for the attention of senior management which may have the potential to result in material weaknesses in internal control, 2) important issues to be addressed by management in their areas of responsibility, and 3) issues of a more minor nature which represents best practice.

In summarising the letter there are:

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

- 5 priority 1 areas,
- 5 priority 2 areas, and
- 6 priority 3 area

the 5 priority 1 areas are:

- North Foreshore Landfill Site
- Impairment balances and asset revaluation
- Section 37 & 40 expenditure
- Unaccounted for Asset
- Measured Term Contract tender advertisement

the 4 priority 2 areas are:

- Assets under Construction – Capital
- Expenditure
- Right of access at Leisure Centre Mutual Trust
- Intangible Assets classified as Property Plant and Equipment

the 7 priority 3 areas are:

- Key to the City
- Heritage Asset Valuation
- Stores
- Donated Assets
- Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
- EU Capital Projects
- Waterfront Hall

A detailed response to the draft management letter, identifying timescales and responsible officers, will be completed and brought to a later meeting.

Resource Implications

None

Recommendation

The Audit Panel is requested to note the Report to those charged with Governance Audit results for 2013/2014.”

After discussion, during which the Director of the Northern Ireland Audit Office clarified a number of issues in relation to the sale of electricity generation as an asset and the Audit Office's view on closure costs in relation to landfill sites, the Committee noted the contents of the report and noted also that detailed response to the draft management letter, identifying time scales and responsible officers, would submit to a future meeting.

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

Update on Audit of Property Maintenance Unit

(Mr G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects, and Mr. G. Wright, Head of Facilities Management, attended in connection with this item.

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committees consideration the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Audit, Governance and Risk Service (AGRS) carried out an audit of the Property Maintenance Unit in 2013. The subsequent draft report contained a number of findings and recommendations, and characterized the overall risk level as ‘Red’. It must be emphasized that this rating was not assigned on the basis of any evidence having been found that any of the risks had actually materialised, but was instead largely related to putting appropriate supporting mechanisms in place to provide assurance that any potential risks were being properly managed and mitigated.

1.2 It must also be noted that the Service does not concur with some of the risks identified and/or with the weight attached to them in the report, in the light of the revised operating environment in which the Property Maintenance Unit now finds itself. Specifically, in the context of the abolition of internal trading and the centralization of maintenance planning and spending, the Unit has sought to concentrate its limited audit and checking resources in the area of the procurement of external services and associated contract-management issues, as this is seen as the area of greatest potential risk.

1.3 Essentially the AGRS report has made recommendations in four principal areas, namely:-

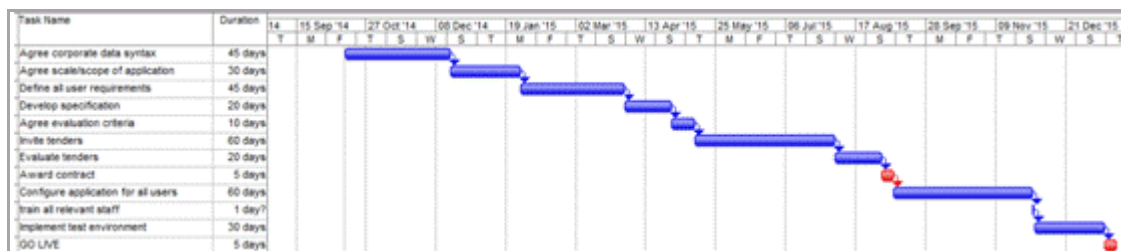
- inadequate information systems, system controls and associated management information;**
- a lack of documented processes across the Unit’s operations and a lack of consistency of application in respect of some processes;**
- evidence of the application of effective controls in areas such as the pre and post-inspection of work;
*and***
- the process for capturing key maintenance data on job cards.**

1.4 In each case, the Unit has been expending considerable effort to secure improvements where the issues in question are

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

capable of resolution at a local level, and progress to date is set out below in respect of each of these principal areas.

- 1.5 It must, however, also be pointed out that the Unit is facing an extremely volatile external environment at this time. The creation of a Leisure Trust will, for example, change existing internal processes in respect of the initiation and delivery of planned and reactive maintenance at leisure sites (some of which will be delivered directly by the Trust or its agents and some by BCC) and will require new processes to be developed in respect of this work.
- 1.6 Similarly, the transfer of nearly 50 sites under Local Government Reform, taken together with the potential transfer of nearly 300 pieces of land and property of various types from central government plus approx. 33 off-street car-parks will all have implications not only for the scale and scope of Property Maintenance work but also for the management arrangements surrounding it. Consequently, and while many of the recommendations of the AGRS report remain valid in a general sense, a definitive resolution of some of the issues raised will not be possible for some time.
- 1.7 Lastly, the specification, procurement, configuration and implementation of a fully-featured corporate asset management system which caters for the requirements of all stake-holders is a complex task which will take some considerable time to complete. The chart below illustrates the minimum duration of the necessary work:



This broad outline confirms that the earliest that a new asset management system could feasibly be operational is very late 2015 or early 2016. Even this analysis assumes that a procurement framework may be available to shorten procurement lead times, but if for example a full EU procurement exercise was needed this timescale could lengthen considerably. The main milestones are:

- Creation of agreed user requirements and corporate data 27/01/2015

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

- syntax:
- Develop system specification, invite tenders and award contract: 01/09/2015
 - Configure the application & train all relevant staff: 01/12/2015
 - Complete system testing: 12/01/2016
 - System 'go-live' for all users: 01/03/2016

A number of the issues identified by AGRS in the Property Maintenance audit require changes to existing systems which cannot be made in the current versions. The unit has already sought to make whatever changes are possible at this time (see 2.2 below), but only a new corporate system (or a new, bespoke maintenance system) will allow us to address the remaining issues.

2. Progress report

2.1 Progress made in respect of each of the 4 principal areas set out above is as follows:-

(a) Information Systems and management information

At time of writing it remains the case that the unit is using two separate systems to record its costs, with labour and inventory costs being processed in one application and the purchase of goods and services being recorded in the other. Interfaces seek to join up this data, but this does not happen in real time and poses real challenges in terms of extracting definitive and timely management information. In addition, the version of the Archibus system currently in use lags considerably behind the latest available version, and consequently the functionality available to the unit is restricted. A number of the issues raised in the AGRS report could potentially be resolved either by upgrading to the most up-to-date version or by procuring a new, dedicated application.

However a number of departments and sections within the council are involved in storing and retrieving data on council properties (e.g. Legal Services, Estates, Project Management Unit, Insurance Unit, Property Maintenance etc) and consequently discussions have been ongoing for some time in relation to specifying and procuring a dedicated corporate property management application which all interested parties can use in order to centralise and standardise all property-related information. This is doubtless a laudable aim, but it is this unit's view that a necessary preliminary step is to agree a standardised syntax and structure for the storage of property-related costs and information which can be used consistently

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

by all and which is properly catered for in the council's chart of accounts etc. Without this step, a new system will not necessarily improve the situation.

The Property Maintenance Unit would be keen to see this work come to fruition soon, or alternatively to be free to acquire a separate, dedicated system to assist it in the planning, resourcing, delivery and management of planned and reactive maintenance work.

2.3 A lack of documented procedures across the unit's operations
Following receipt of the draft AGRS report a number of meetings have taken place with AGRS staff to discuss its recommendations. Since then, a review of the unit's principal processes and procedures has taken place which has resulted in the following changes:-

- the development of formal documentation in areas not previously addressed by specific charts or documents (e.g. emergency callout work, see attached);
- the amendment of a number of existing charts and documents to explicitly incorporate recommendations made in the AGRS report (see attached examples; changes highlighted in red);
- the creation of a universal shared folder in which all new and revised process charts can be accessed for reference at any time by all relevant managers, technical and supervisory staff from their desktop;
- the development of a training programme to ensure that staff are aware of the new and revised documentation and that the revised approaches are deployed consistently by all staff;
- the development of a comprehensive management system for the monitoring and management of all statutory compliance duties and obligations of the council.

Of the 10 process charts attached, 1 is new, 4 have been revised in the light of the AGRS report and the remainder have been reviewed and already comply with the report's recommendations. A new job card format has also been produced in line with the audit recommendations (copy attached). Much work has been done in terms of the development of new processes etc, and the current emphasis is on training and delivery.

2.4 Effective controls in the area of pre and post-inspections
This is one area where the unit does not concur with the overall thrust of the AGRS report. The report tends to view the Property Maintenance Unit almost as an external contractor

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

(as many were under the old CCT regime) rather than as an integral part of the council. Pre- inspections are normally undertaken to ensure that the work is in fact necessary, that the work is properly and proportionately specified (avoiding unnecessary and costly 'gold-plated' solutions) and to provide a benchmark for subsequent post-inspections designed to ensure that what was specified is what was delivered. These are standard techniques used when employing sub-contractors in order to avoid over-charging and profiteering.

However, with the abolition of internal trading and the centralisation of the planning, funding and delivery of maintenance work in the Property Maintenance Unit, it is difficult to see what motivation the unit could have for doing unnecessary work or over-specifying etc., as it would simply deplete our resources more quickly and leave us less able to respond to other corporate priorities. It remains our view that the risks associated with in-house work are of a much lower order than the risks posed by the procurement and management of external contractors, which costs the unit in excess of £2m per annum. Consequently our approach is to use what limited resources we have to carry out pre and post-inspections primarily on the high-risk external work.

Having said all this, the process charts in respect of pre and post-inspection have been modified to take into account the contents of the AGRS report in that, in certain circumstances, we will in future seek to implement pre and post inspections where the relevant criteria (see attached) are met. A new post-inspection form (copy attached) has been developed in line with the recommendations of the AGRS report.

- 2.5 The process for capturing key maintenance data on job-cards
The AGRS report correctly pointed up a number of situations in which more definitive operational data could and should be included on the actual job-card documentation. Recommended changes implemented so far include the following:-

- within the 'maintenance field' we have added a radio button to allow out-of-hours call-outs to be identified and reported on separately to emergencies;
- a free text contact name and number has been added to more accurately identify who phoned in the P1 (previously each building had a name automatically assigned to it which was not always correct); *and*
- a new 'contacted' field has been added to identify who in Property Maintenance was contacted in respect of the P1.

Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014

We also requested that Digital Services amend the production of the daily poll list to an automatic version as opposed to the daily manual print run as recommended in the audit report, but currently they advise this is not possible. Work continues on these issues, within the constraints imposed by current systems.

3. Resource Implications

- 3.1 There are no direct resource implications in respect of the issues set out in this report. However it must be recognised that the Unit faces a considerable increase in its workload and responsibilities on foot of LGR and transfer of functions changes etc, and that current staffing structures and many internal processes will need to be reviewed and revised again during 2015/2016.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Panel note and endorse the progress made to date, and also recognizes the potential for continuing and significant change in the operational environment of the Property Maintenance Unit.
- 4.2 It would be useful to request AGRS to conduct a limited, interim review of the progress which has been possible and which is set out in sections 2.3 and 2.5 of the report above, in order to assess the effectiveness of the changes which have already been made.
- 4.3 It may also be prudent to schedule a follow-up audit during 2015/2016 in order to ensure that the anticipated changes in the scale, scope, complexity and management of the unit's work and associated increase in potential risk are properly reflected in processes and procedures.
- 4.4 It may also be useful to specifically consider the content and operation of the Service-Level Agreement which will set out the distribution of work as between the Council and the new Leisure Trust in terms of its effectiveness, once a suitable period of time has elapsed."

During discussion, the Director and the Head of Facilities Management outlined the process which the Council was undertaking currently in order to identify associated risks with those properties which were transferring into Belfast as part of the Local Government Reform process.

After further discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Special Audit Panel,
Tuesday, 21st October, 2014**

Recruitment of Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services

(With the exception of the Director of Finance and Resources and the Senior Democratic Services Officer, all members of staff left the meeting whilst this item was under discussion.)

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Members that the post of Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services was currently being filled on an interim basis. He explained that, following a review of the post, it was now proposed to recruit the post of Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services on a permanent basis and he sought the panel's authority to submit a report to the next meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in this regard.

The Audit Panel granted the authority sought.

Date of Next Meeting

The Panel agreed that the date of the next meeting be agreed in consultation with the Chairman (Alderman Rodgers).

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2014/15
Date:	21 November 2014
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This report presents the financial performance of the Council for the period 1 April 2014 to 30 Sept 2014.
1.2	As well as reporting the in-year financial performance of the Council, consideration of the Quarter 2 report by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee forms one of the key stages in the 2015/16 rate setting process agreed by Members in August 2014 as it provides the Committee the opportunity to consider the prioritisation and allocation of any forecast in year under spend to proposals for non recurring expenditure developed as part of the service convergence stage of the revenue estimates.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Current and Forecast financial Position 2014/15 The financial position for Quarter 2 is a net departmental under-spend of £1.16m (2.0%). The forecast year end departmental position is an under-spend of £1.42m (1.2%). The major reasons for the variance in the year end forecast, relate to reduced expenditure in corporate pension and invest to save budgets as well as additional income in Digital Services, and Building Control.
2.2	Capital Financing The capital financing budget is £13.37m. This budget is forecast to break even and will be used to finance the capital programme and feasibility work to support the Investment Programme. A detailed Quarter 2 half year capital programme report will be presented to SP&R in December 2014.
2.3	Rate Income The quarter 2 forecast by LPS is a positive rate settlement of £2.9m. The

	assumptions around this forecast will form part of the analysis of the 2015/16 EPP for the new Council.
2.4	Investment Programme Committed expenditure approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the 3 year Capital Programme stands at £30.10m, leaving £44.90m of schemes within the 3 year programme at the uncommitted or emerging project stage.
2.5	Committed expenditure on LIF projects currently stands at £4.75m, with 50 projects worth £4.06m having been through the Council's due diligence process. Actual payments of worth £1.047m have been made to date.
2.6	The amount of levered external funding for the Investment Programme which has been agreed in principal is £69.415m, with £50.290m of these funds confirmed through letters of offer.
2.7	Actual capital expenditure for the period was £4.85m, while non-recurring expenditure was £257k.
	Other Financial Indicators
2.8	The percentage of average for debt under 90 days old decreased during the quarter to 53.7% which was below the target of 65%. This mainly related to one significant debt which has since been settled. The percentage of debt collected in 30 days improved to 56.4% against a target of 60%.
2.9	The average number of creditors paid within 28 days for quarter 2 was 84.5%, compared to a target of 85%.

3.0	Resource Implications														
	Committed Non Recurring Funding Available														
3.1	Table 1 below shows the total forecast outturn which the Committee can use to finance one-off expenditure taking into consideration decisions already taken by the Committee to realign under spends at quarter 1.														
	<p>Table 1 Forecast Outturn Available for Non Recurring Expenditure</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Forecast Outturn 14/15</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4,307,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Less</u> Committed Expenditure</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Waterfront Mobilisation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£700,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Innovation Centre Mobilisation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£130,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IBF World Title Fight</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Section 37 Initiatives</td> <td style="text-align: right;">-£12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Available</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£3,414,500</td> </tr> </table>	Forecast Outturn 14/15	£4,307,000	<u>Less</u> Committed Expenditure		Waterfront Mobilisation	-£700,000	Innovation Centre Mobilisation	-£130,000	IBF World Title Fight	-£50,000	Other Section 37 Initiatives	-£12,500	Total Available	£3,414,500
Forecast Outturn 14/15	£4,307,000														
<u>Less</u> Committed Expenditure															
Waterfront Mobilisation	-£700,000														
Innovation Centre Mobilisation	-£130,000														
IBF World Title Fight	-£50,000														
Other Section 37 Initiatives	-£12,500														
Total Available	£3,414,500														
3.2	There are two key demands for the available finance: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding requests 2. Non-recurrent expenditure proposals. 														

3.3	<p><u>Funding Requests</u> Funding requests by external organisations are normally considered by the Committee at the half year position in the context of the forecast outturn for the Council. The Council has received two such requests for non-recurring funding from the Ulster Orchestra (£500k) and the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra (£25k) which are subject of separate reports on the Committee Agenda. In addition, the Development Committee has recommended to the Committee £13k funding for BCCM. Any in year allocation to these funding requests by the Committee will reduce the amount available for the non recurrent expenditure proposals outlined below.</p>								
3.4	<p><u>Non-recurrent Expenditure Proposals</u> As part of the service convergence revenue estimates process, departments submitted proposals for non recurring expenditure arising from the boundary change aspect of local government reform and other corporate priorities. These proposals excluded non-recurring costs associated with transferring functions, as these will be subject to a separate phase of the estimates process. A summary of the non-recurrent expenditure proposal is included in Table 2 below.</p>								
<p>Table 2 Departmental Non Recurrent Revenue Expenditure Proposals</p>									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="582 963 885 996">Category</th> <th data-bbox="885 963 1077 996">Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="582 996 885 1030">Asset Related</td> <td data-bbox="885 996 1077 1030">£2,896,585</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="582 1030 885 1064">Other Costs</td> <td data-bbox="885 1030 1077 1064">£1,000,206</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="582 1064 885 1097">Total</td> <td data-bbox="885 1064 1077 1097">£3,896,804</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category	Amount	Asset Related	£2,896,585	Other Costs	£1,000,206	Total	£3,896,804
Category	Amount								
Asset Related	£2,896,585								
Other Costs	£1,000,206								
Total	£3,896,804								
3.5	<p>Assets Revenue: An analysis of the £2,896,585 of asset related costs has been included as Appendix 2. These comprise of costs associated with transferring assets from Castlereagh and Lisburn, leisure transformation mobilisation costs and one off repairs to existing leisure centres. This category also includes £140,000 of non recurring costs for Girdwood Creative Hub and £12,000 for new street signs.</p>								
3.6	<p>Other Costs: The £1,000,206 of costs in the “Other” category includes non asset related LGR costs such as ICT licences, branding and grant support.</p>								
3.7	<p>In addition to the above, there is also the need to provide one-off funding for expenditure relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the transfer of functions from central government • accommodation and City Hall accommodation works • temporary staffing arrangements, for example, temporary staff employed to deliver Investment Programme projects. 								
3.8	<p>Table 1 illustrates that there is currently only £3,414,500 of in year financing available which could be allocated to meet some of the proposed non recurring revenue expenditure of £3,896,804. It should be noted that if the Committee agree contributions to the funding requests from the Ulster Orchestra, City of Belfast Youth Orchestra and Belfast City Centre Management, then this will further reduce the level of financing available.</p>								

3.9	It is therefore recommended that, subject to the separate funding requests being considered at this Committee, no further in year re-allocations are considered at this stage, but that the non-committed element of the forecast year end under spend of £3,414,500 be earmarked for non recurring expenditure and that specific allocations of this amount be considered at a later stage as part of the rate setting process in order to avoid such non-recurring costs being added to the district rate in 2015/16.
-----	---

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications associated with the report.

5.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of the quarter 2 financial report. • Agree that, subject to the separate funding requests being considered at this Committee, no further in year re-allocations are considered at this stage, but that the non-committed element of the forecast year end under spend of £3,414,500 be earmarked for non recurring expenditure and that specific allocations of this amount be considered at a later stage as part of the rate setting process to avoid such non-recurring costs being added to the district rate in 2015/16.

6.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: QTR2 Performance Report Appendix 2: Analysis of Non Recurring Costs Appendix 3: Q2 Treasury Management Report</p>



Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Quarterly Finance Report

Report Period: Quarter 2, 2014/15

Dashboard

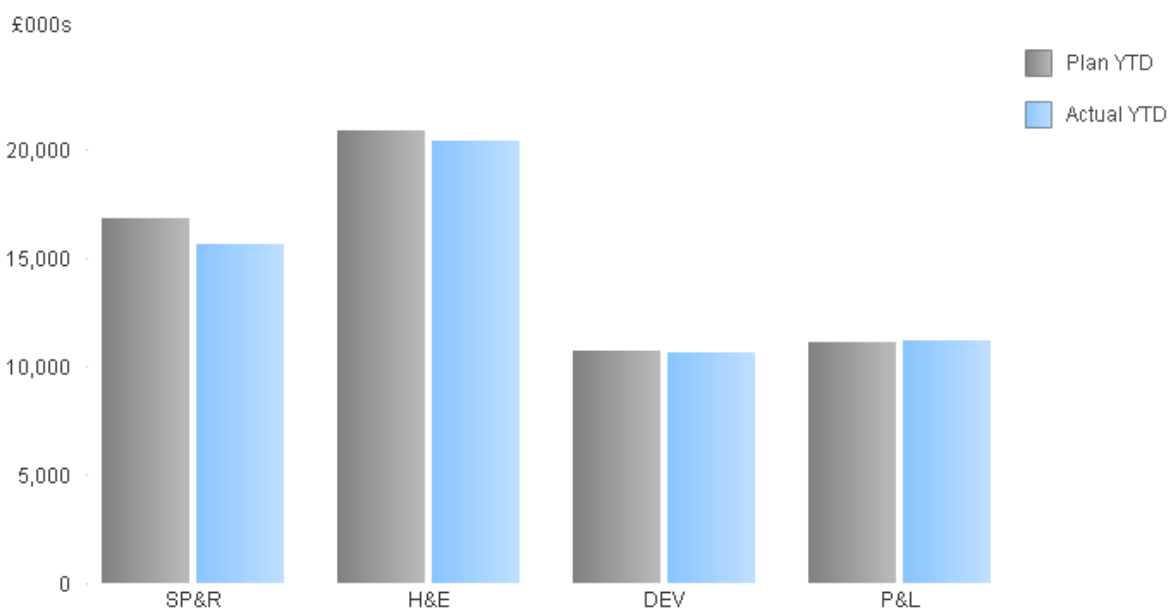
Revenue Section							Page
	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	
Strategic Policy & Resources Committee		(661)	(3.9)%		(863)	(2.5)%	3-5 & 22
Health Environmental Services Committee		(447)	(2.1)%		(555)	(1.4)%	
Development Committee		(95)	(0.9)%		0	0.0%	
Parks & Leisure Committee		44	0.4%		0	0.0%	
Committee Total		(1,160)	(2.0)%		(1,419)	(1.2)%	
Capital Financing					0		6
Rate Income Variance					(2,888)		7
Other movements on Reserves					4,109		8

Investment Programme Section						Page
	3 Year Plan £000s	Committed £000s		Balance Remaining £000s	Delivered £000s	
3 Year Capital Programme	75,000	30,101		44,899	16,687	
Belfast Investment	20,000	0		20,000	0	
Local Investment	5,000	4,751		249	1,047	
	100,000	34,852		65,148	17,734	
Levered Monies	50,000	69,415		(19,415)	50,290	
Total	150,000	104,267		45,733	68,024	
	Annual Plan £000s	Actual Ytd £000s		Forecast for YE £000s	Forecast Var £000s	
Capital Programme	32,233	4,851		20,970	(11,263)	
Non-Recurring Projects	1,352	257		2,041	689	

Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

		Page			Page				
KPI	Actual	Target	KPI	Actual	Target				
Debtors collected within 30 Days	56.4%	60.0%		16	Compliant Purchases	81.7%	90.0%		19
Debt under 90 Days	53.7%	65.0%		17	Timeliness Of Goods On System	70.2%	75.0%		20
Creditors Paid within 28 Days	84.5%	85.0%		18					

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



The Quarter 2 position for net Departmental expenditure is an underspend of £1.16m or 2% of the Council's net Departmental budget.

The **Strategic Policy and Resources Committee** has an underspend of £661k (3.9%) of net budgeted expenditure at the end of Quarter 2. The key drivers to this position include:

- an underspend of £229k in the corporate pensions budget;
- additional income in Digital Services of £142k;
- a delay in implementation of planned changes to the NILGOSC pension scheme from April 2014 to April 2015 resulting in a £263k underspend.

The **Health and Environmental Services Department** is reporting a Quarter 2 underspend of £447k (2.1%) of net budgeted expenditure. The key drivers to this position include:

- Additional income of £299k in the **Building Control** Service due to the receipt of additional inspection fee and building notices income;
- An increase in the level of fixed penalty and SLA income (£124k) and underspend of £126k in staffing, premises, utilities and supplies and services resulting in an underspend of £250k in **Cleansing Services**;
- Unforeseen changes in assumptions made at the time of preparing the 2014/15 estimates (e.g. increased contract prices) and additional expenditure on security at public conveniences have resulted in an overspend of £139k in **Waste Management**.

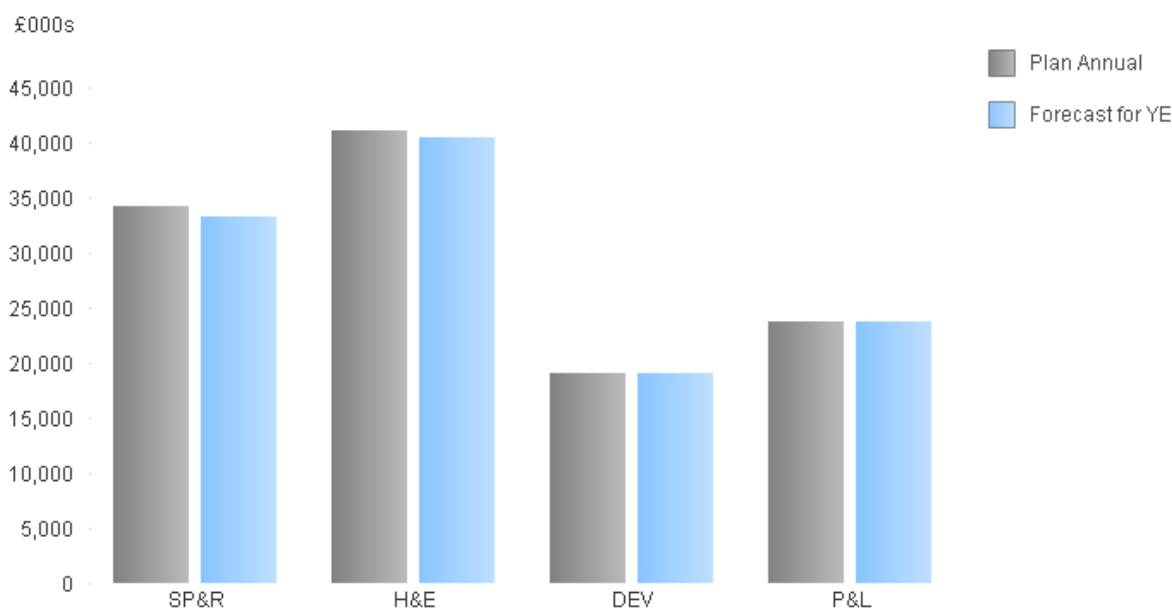
The **Development Department** have a Quarter 2 underspend of £95k (0.9%) of net budgeted expenditure. The key drivers to this position include:

- An underspend of £18k in **Community Services** due to lower than anticipated utility costs;
- Additional grant income of £48k in **Economic Initiatives**;
- Reduced income in City Events and Venues offset by reduced supplies and services and reduced utility costs resulting in an underspend of £32k in the **Waterfront/Events Unit**.

The **Parks and Leisure Department** have a Quarter 2 overspend of £44k (0.4%) of net budgeted expenditure. The key drivers to this position include:

- Unfilled posts in the **Directorate Support Unit** leading to an underspend of £94k;
- An underspend of £214k in the **Neighbourhood and Development Unit** due to in vacant posts (£78k), and underspends in supplies and services (£180k) as programmes of work are being progressed. There is also an underspend of £51k in grant payments which has helped offset additional costs of £112k on playgrounds refurbishment;
- An overspend of £302k in **Parks Operations** due to additional employee costs of £118k in the Zoo, additional supplies and services £224k, additional expenditure on compensation claims (£91k); loss of income from the Zoo £21k and reduced premises costs £130k;
- An overspend of £50k in **Leisure Services** due to the loss of external income (£176k), increases in compensation claims (£66k) and increased auto enrolment costs of £43k. The impact of these cost pressures has been mitigated by decreased utility costs (£158k), and reduced supplies and services costs (£71k) as planned expenditure has been reviewed given the shortfall in income.

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Forecast for Year End



The Quarter 2 forecast for Departmental net revenue expenditure is an underspend of £1.42m or 1.2% of the Council's departmental budget.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is forecasting an underspend of £863k. The main drivers to this forecast position include:

- Additional external income of £220k in the **Digital Services Unit** arising from NIHE projects and the managed service for the Super Connected Voucher Scheme;
- Underspends of £672k in the **Corporate Priorities** budget (arising from delays in the implementation of changes to the NILGOS scheme £512k and slippage in the Invest to Save programme of work £205k);
- Anticipated in year additional income of £30k from rent reviews and reductions in consultancy costs in the Fleet and Procurement will ensure that the **Property and Projects Department** is within budget at the year end.

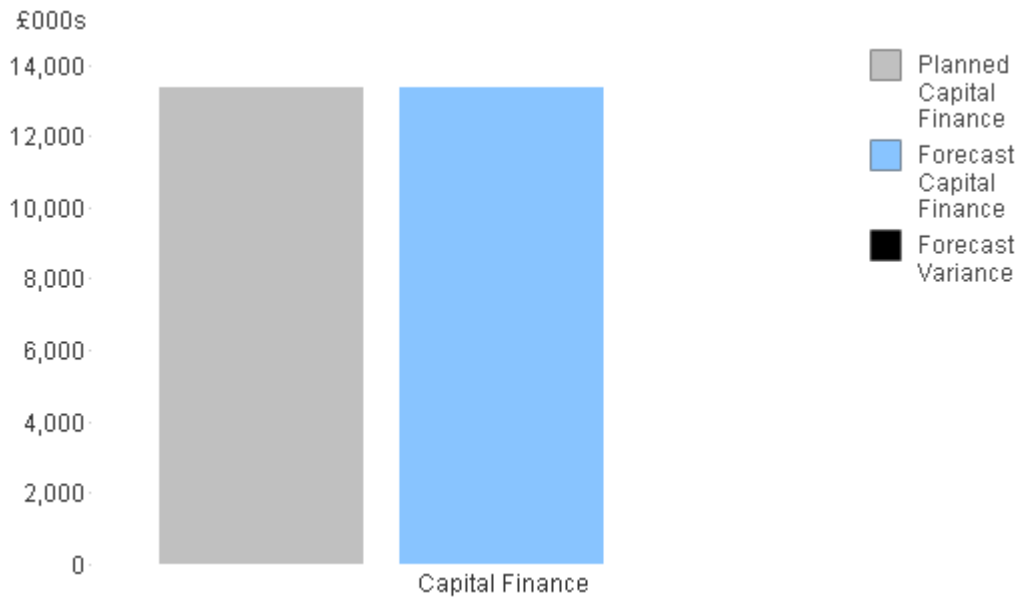
The **Health and Environmental Services Department** is forecasting an underspend of £555k. The key drivers to this forecast position include:

- Additional income in **Building Control** £605k;
- Unfilled posts and additional income in **Cleansing** resulting in an underspend of £204k;
- Unforeseen changes in the assumptions made at the time of preparing the 2014/15 revenue estimates (e.g. increased contract prices) and additional expenditure on security at public conveniences in the city centre will result in a forecasted overspend of £202k by the **Waste Management Service**;
- **Good Relations** is forecast to be £25k above budget, due to expenditure on 'Cities in Transition' which was approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The **Parks and Leisure and Development Departments** are forecasting balanced budgets.

Central Finance: Capital Finance Forecast for Year End

The Capital Finances are the monies required to support the capital expenditure in the current year and previous years.



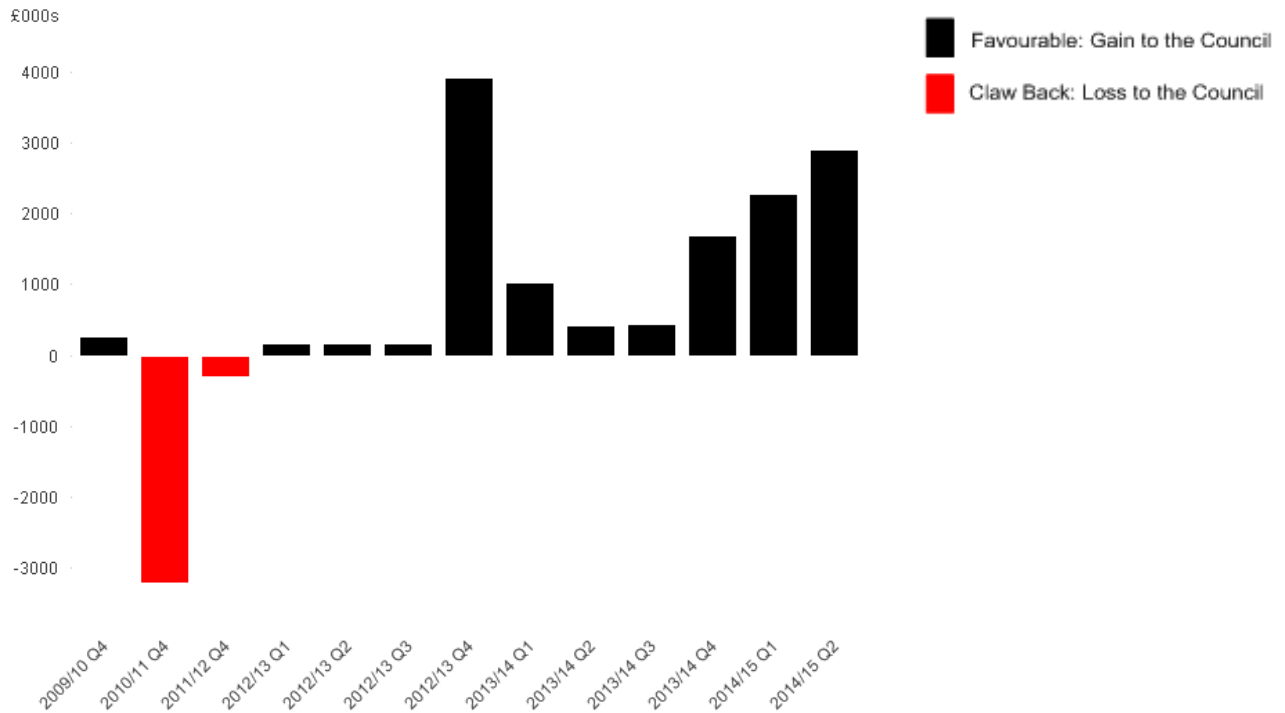
The Capital Financing Budget for 2014/15 has been set at £13.37m to meet the financing cost of the Council's Capital Programme.

The forecast for this budget, as reported previously, is to breakeven, with the monies being used to finance five main areas of expenditure, namely:-

- Recurring financing costs of existing loans
- Financing costs of committed schemes
- Financing costs of uncommitted schemes
- Feasibility work
- Non recurring schemes

District Rate Forecast Variance for Year End

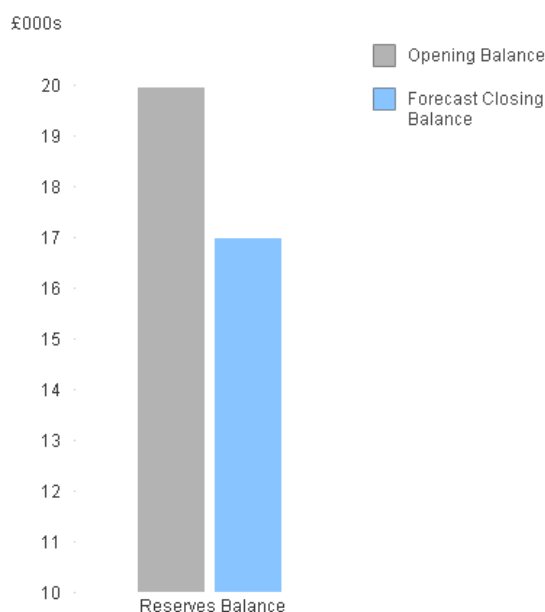
The chart below shows the rate income as received from Land and Property Services (LPS) in previous years and also the forecast for the current year; this forecast is updated each quarter in the current year.



The District Rate year end outturn, as forecast by LPS at Quarter 2, is a favourable outturn of £2.9m.

Members will be aware that officers work closely with LPS to monitor performance. Officers will be meeting with LPS to review income and losses. In particular, significant drivers to the year end forecast such as outstanding appeals and non-domestic vacant rating will be scrutinised.

Movement on Reserves



The Council's total reserves balance at 31/03/2014 was £19.9m This balance also included specified balances of £7.3m.

Anticipated drawdowns of £4.1m against the programmes of work for which the reserves were set aside to fund will result in a forecast closing balance of £3.2m at the year end.

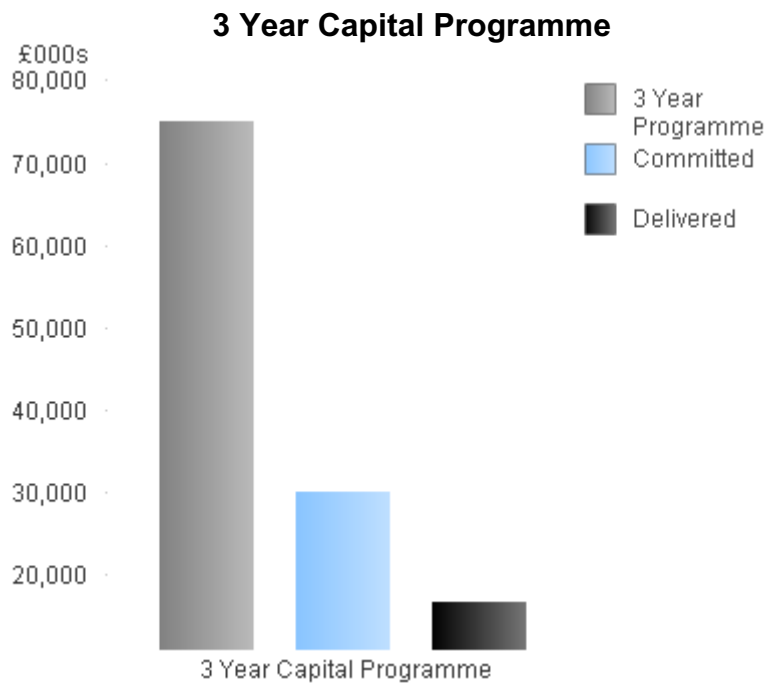
Specified Reserves balances at the end of Quarter 2 are

Boxing Strategy	£495,501
Tall Ships 2015 /16	£1,220,000
Area Pilots	£325,299
Pipe Band Championships	£190,248
Recycling/Health	£71,128
Renewing the Routes	£645,000
Advice Centre	£139,242
LGR Fund	£1,656,271
Leisure Fund	£717,679
LTP - Pensions	<u>£440,728</u>
Total	£5,901,096

A Departmental net revenue underspend of £1.4m is forecast for the year end.

At Quarter 2 LPS are forecasting a favourable rate settlement of £2.9m.

The application of the above balances will result in a forecast general reserves balance of £17m at the year end.



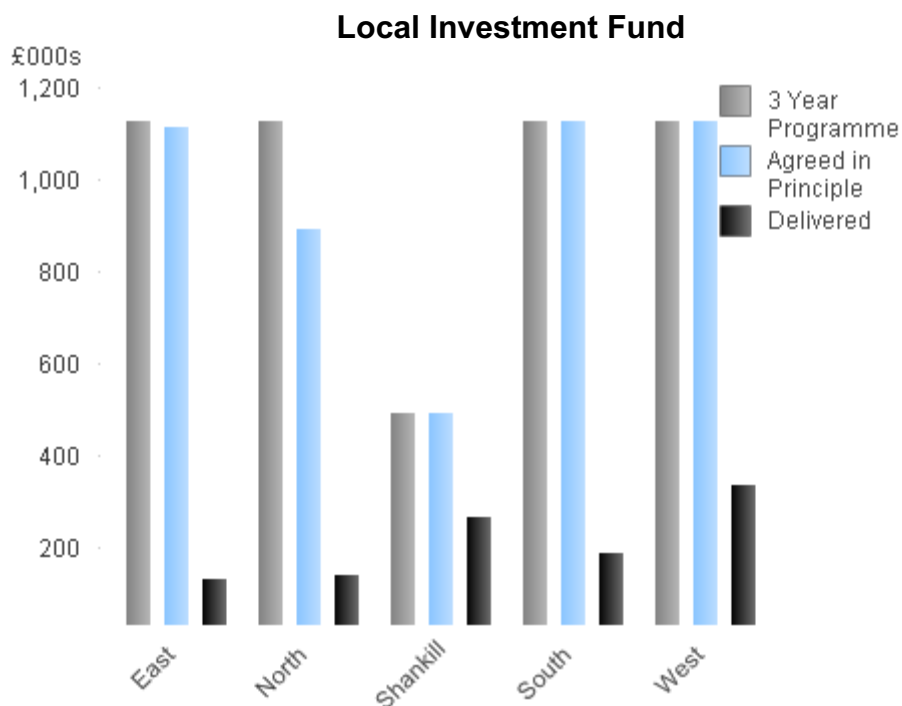
The Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015 outlines plans for net capital investment in Council owned assets of £75m. This level of investment is supported with a capital financing budget of £10.14m.

The revised Capital Programme as at 30 September 2014 outlines a commitment of £30.10m for the period of the Investment Programme 2012-2015.

As per Committee approval on 22 August 2014 the following project has moved to Stage 3 Committed:

- Council Accommodation

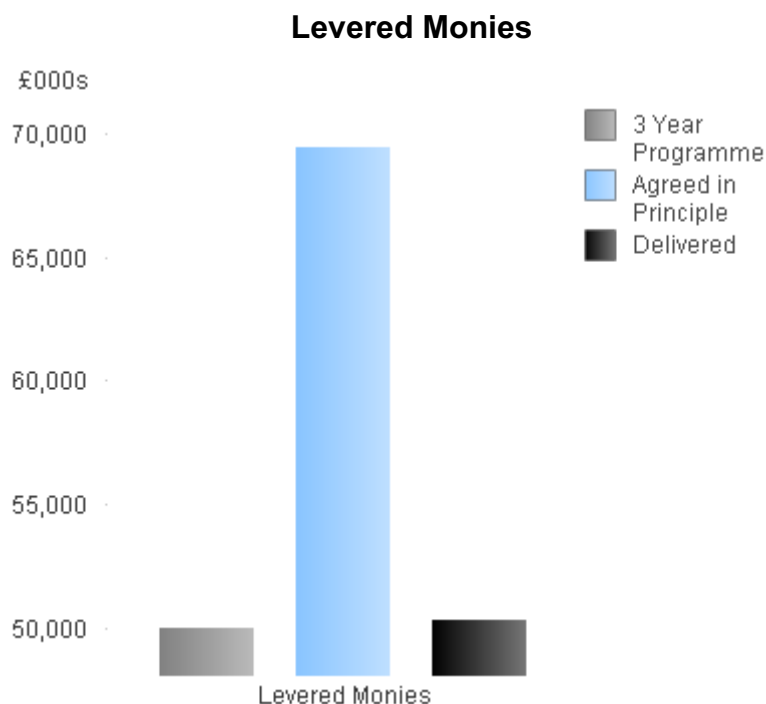
A full update on the Investment Programme is also on the agenda for the SP&R Committee on 21 November which should be read in conjunction with this report.



An integral part of the Investment Programme was the establishment of a £5m Local Investment Fund (LIF) which was designed 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. This is in preparation for their formal role in community planning under the Reform of Local Government.

As at 30 September 2014, 54 projects worth £4.06m have been through the Council's rigorous due-diligence process. Funding worth £1.05m has been paid out to 24 groups across the Council area, including Carrick Hill Residents' Association and Donegall Pass Community Forum.

Due-diligence work is continuing on the other projects which have been approved in principle and officers are working closely with the groups to ensure all necessary information is being forwarded to the Council.



The Council's Investment Programme 2012-2015 set a target of £50m external funding (levered monies) to support the Council's 3-year Capital Programme and the Belfast Investment Programme.

The 2014/15 Capital Programme includes external funding of £69.41m of which £50.29m has been secured by contractual commitments. A list of all schemes where funding has been agreed in principle and/or has been secured is outlined below:

Scheme / Project	Agreed in Principle (£)	Letter of Offer Amount (£)	Comment
Woodvale Park Regeneration	727,135	727,135	Letter of Offer received from DSD
Dunville Park Regeneration	864,810	864,810	Letter of Offer received from DSD
Ardoyne Pitch and Mitch	189,000	189,000	Letter of Offer received from DSD
Marrowbone Pitch	402,371	402,371	Letter of Offer received from Sport NI and DSD
Hammer Pitch	245,000	245,000	Legal agreement with Sport NI and Shankill United FC
Mountain Bike Trail - Barnett's Demesne	350,000	350,000	Letter of Offer received from Sport NI and DARD
Super-Connected Belfast	13,700,000	13,700,000	Letter of Offer received from DCMS
Outdoor gym equipment	80,000	80,000	Letter of Offer received from PHA
Belfast Welcome Centre - Relocation	747,000	747,000	Letter of Offer received from NITB

<i>Scheme / Project</i>	<i>Agreed in Principle (£)</i>	<i>Letter of Offer Amount (£)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Pitches Strategy	1,000,000	1,000,000	Letter of Offer received from GAA
Ballysillan Play Park (BRO)	236,066	236,066	Letter of Offer received from DSD
Public Bike Share Scheme	1,140,003	1,140,003	Additional funding received from DRD
Belfast Zoo - Adventurers Learning Centre	215,000	215,000	Letter of Offer received from NITB
Tropical Ravine Refurbishment	2,232,000	2,232,000	Letter of Offer received from HLF
Girdwood Hub	9,597,249	9,597,249	Letter of Offer received from SEUPB
Belfast Waterfront Exhibition and Conference Centre	18,564,400	18,564,400	Letter of Offer received from NITB
North Foreshore - Green Economy Business Park Infrastructure	6,000,000	0	Schemes at risk
Innovation Centre	6,825,000	0	Schemes at risk
Creative Hub	3,700,000	0	Schemes at risk
Olympia Regeneration	2,600,000	0	Schemes at risk
Total	69,415,034	50,290,034	

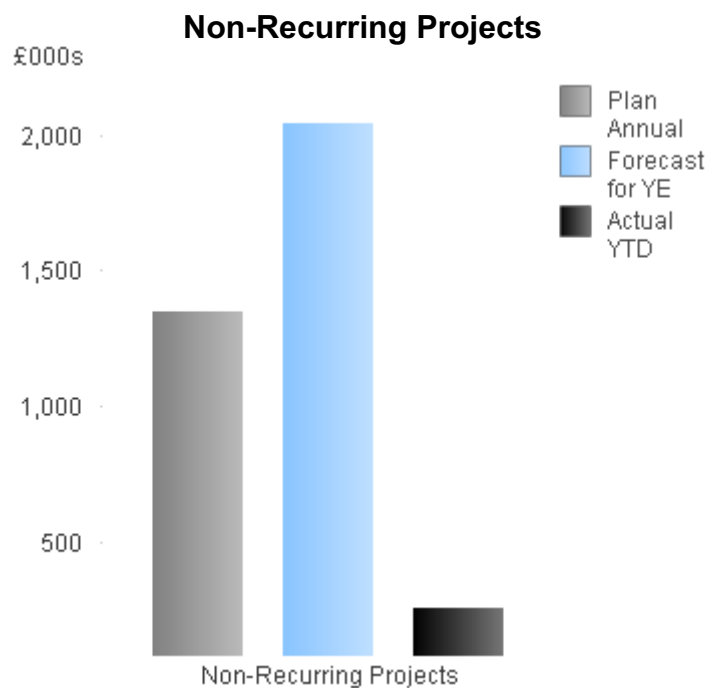
Note:

£25.74m funding has been agreed in principle for the Connswater Community Greenway project. This has been delivered through Letters of Offer received from the BIG Lottery Fund and DSD.

Forecast expenditure for Stage 3 (excluding legacy) committed projects for the year ending 31 March 2015 is £20.36m. It should be noted that £4.12m of this forecast relates to Tier 0 schemes progressing at risk. These are schemes still awaiting letters of offer from funders, but need to be progressed to tender preparation stage in order to meet tight funding deadlines, or schemes with outstanding issues to be resolved.

Stage 2 Projects

The Council has incurred £34k expenditure on uncommitted projects to 30 September 2014. There is a programme of expenditure of £155k for these projects until 31 March 2015. However, these schemes will only move to tender stage upon approval from the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and Council.



A planned programme of works amounting to £1.35m had been agreed for 2014/15.

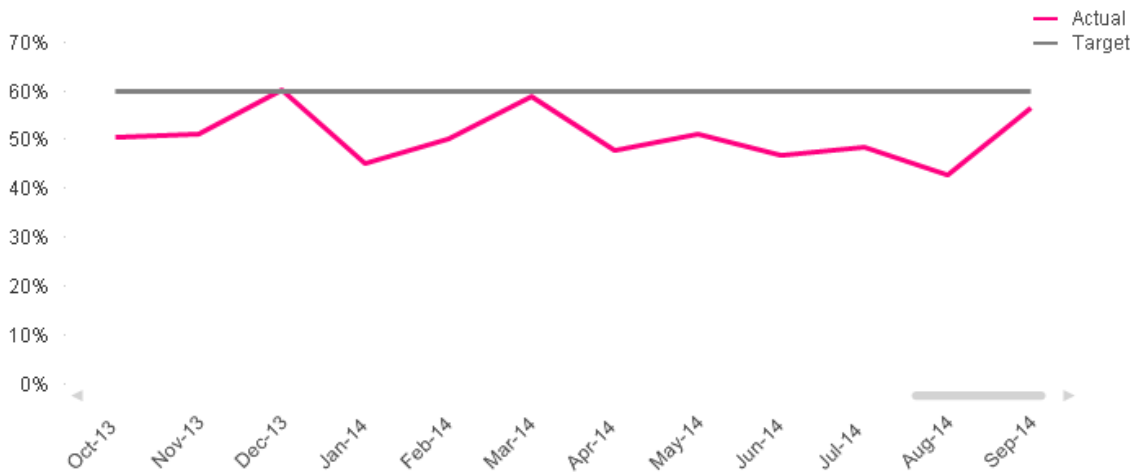
The Council has incurred £257k of expenditure on non-recurring projects as at 30 September 2014. The forecast expenditure for 2014/15 is £2.04m.

The main areas of forecasted expenditure are:

Location	Work needed	£
Waterfront	ICT	450,000
Belfast Zoo	Replacement of HV Installation	350,000
Various Leisure Centres	Replacement of Boilers	165,000
Various Playgrounds	Playground Refurbishment	130,000
Various Pitches	Pitch Drainage	125,000
Ozone/Tennis Centre	Replacement of Tennis Court Surfaces	120,000
Ormeau Park	Fence Replacement	92,000

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Debtors KPI 1

The Percentage of Debtor invoices collected within 30 days:



The percentage of customer invoices being paid within 30 days at the end of quarter 2 is 56.4%. The quarter 1 figure was 46.7%.

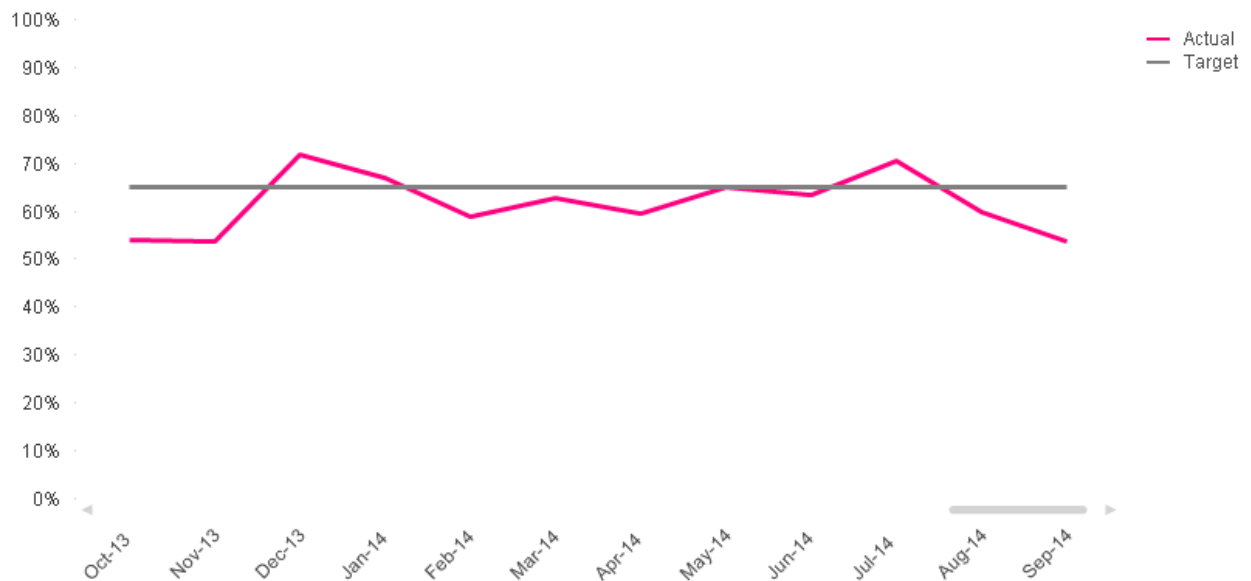
Whilst the Central Transactions Unit has continued to pro-actively pursue customers who exceed their payment terms this has not yet resulted in achieving our target of 60%.

Resources are being reviewed and reallocated to provide a more focused approach.

We will continue to work closely with departments and customers to ensure debt is collected on a timely basis and to provide the information needed to enable customers to pay their invoices first time.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Debtors KPI 2

The Percentage of money (debt) owed to the council which is less than 90 days old:



At the end of quarter 2 the percentage of debt owed to the council which is less than 90 days old was 53.7%. The quarter 2 figure for 2013/14 was 57.3%.

Whilst this is a slight decrease on the same period last year this has been caused by an ongoing contract dispute which has since been resolved and the monies paid to the council.

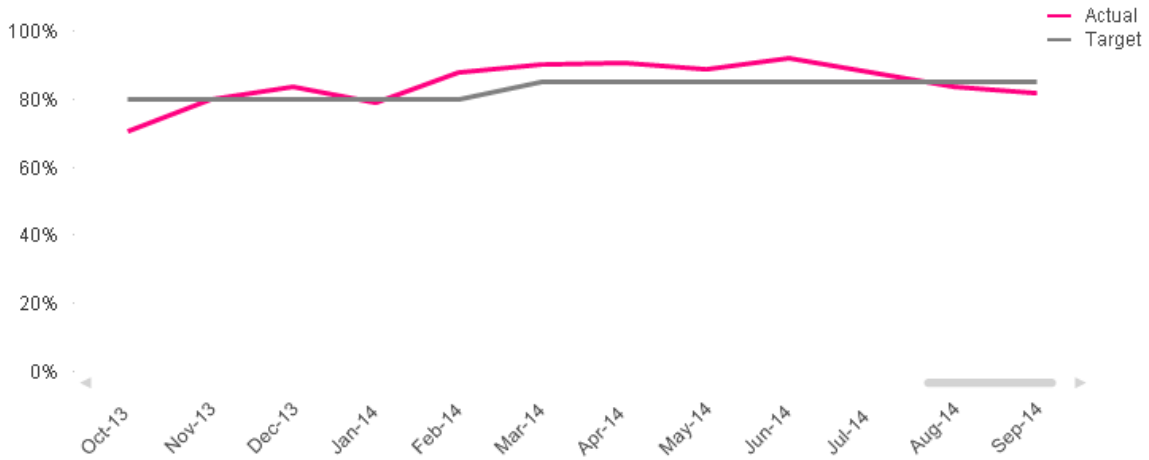
Customer debts will continue to be referred to Legal Services and the Small Claims Court where appropriate to ensure debt is recovered.

With payment plans having been put in place with customers for older debt this inherently means it takes longer for debt over 90 days to reduce. Customer statements are issued on a monthly basis to identify and remind customers of outstanding debt.

The Central Transactions Unit continues to liaise with customers and departments on a monthly basis to reduce the overall amount of debt.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Creditors KPI

The Percentage of Creditors paid within 28 days



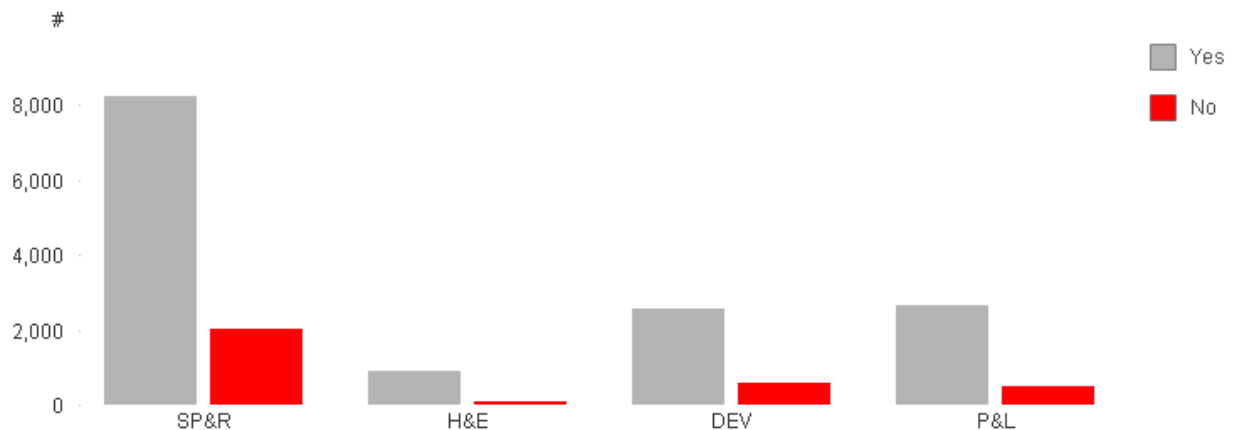
As part of the Investment Programme it was agreed that by the end of 2014/15 that 90% of creditors would be paid within 28 days. In order to achieve this, targets were set for the intervening years, with a target of 75% by 31 March 2013 and 85% by March 2014.

At the end of quarter 2 the average percentage of creditors paid within 28 days was 84.5 against a target for quarter 2 of 85%. An improvement programme has been developed and is currently being implemented, due to go live in December, to ensure the target of 90% is achieved by the end of 2014/15.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Procurement Compliance

Procurement Compliance refers to the purchases that are made in compliance with the standard procure to pay process in BCC. These processes help ensure that our creditors are paid in a timely fashion and our accounts are accurate and up to date. The following indicators are intended to give a flavour of how well we are doing at adhering to the processes.

Indicator 1: Compliant Purchases (Purchase order created on system before ordering goods)



The impact of ordering goods without a purchase order being created on the system are that a) the authorisation for purchasing goods has not gone through the proper channels, b) incomplete records are available and decisions are being made based on information that is not correct and c) suppliers whose invoices do not have purchase orders take longer to pay and this contravenes an objective of the investment programme, negatively affecting supplier relationships with BCC.

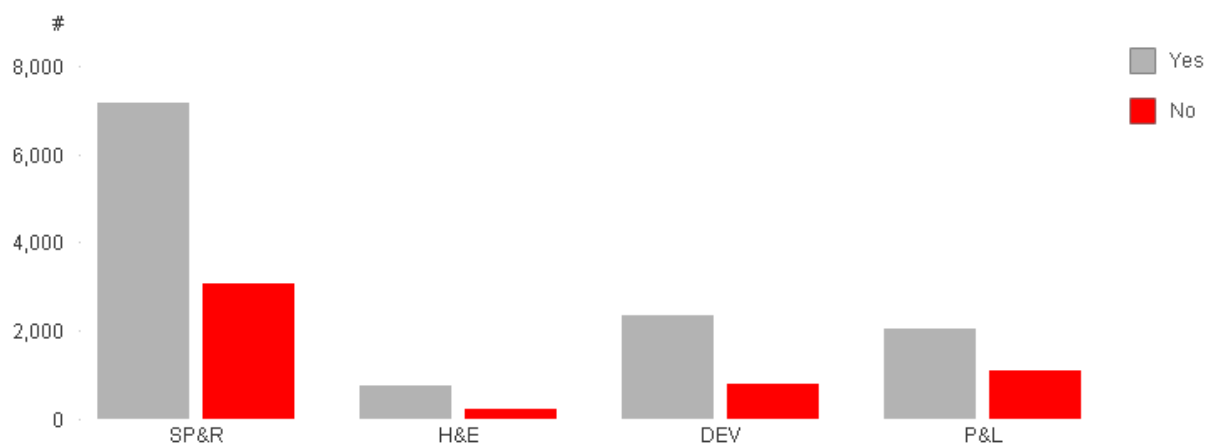
This indicator shows how often goods or services are ordered with a valid purchase order being created prior to the order being placed.

Members have set a target of 90% for the Council. The table below shows how Standing Committees have performed. Overall the level of compliance is 81.7%. All departments are monitoring performance to identify where there is non-compliance. This together with the roll out of SRM (computerised purchase ordering) across departments will ensure continued improvement in this indicator.

	% Compliant
Belfast City Council	81.7
Strategic Policy & Resources Committee	80.3
Health & Environmental Services Committee	89.5
Development Committee	81.6
Parks and Leisure Committee	83.9

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): Procurement Compliance

Indicator 2: Timeliness of Goods on System (Goods received and marked received on system)



The impact of not marking goods as received onto the system is that a) BCC records of goods on site are not up to date and b) there is a risk that a department might overspend its budget as goods have been received but are not showing against the budget and c) it can take longer to pay the suppliers invoices and this contravenes an objective of the investment programme, negatively affecting supplier relationships with BCC

This indicator shows when goods or services are received into the Council whether they have been marked on the system as received (compliant) or whether the officer has waited for the invoice before marking the goods or service as received (non-compliant).

Members have set a target of 75.0% compliance. The table below shows how Standing Committees have performed. Overall the level of compliance is 70.2%. Directors are monitoring performance with monthly reports discussed at Departmental Management Teams and specific actions are being taken to address the operational difficulties of ensuring goods or services are confirmed as received. This together with the roll out of SRM across Departments should ensure significant improvement in this indicator.

	% Compliant
Belfast City Council	70.2
Strategic Policy & Resources Committee	70.0
Health & Environmental Services Committee	75.3
Development Committee	74.3
Parks and Leisure Committee	65.2

Appendix A: Supplementary Information

(This page is intentionally left blank)

Belfast City Council – Committee Summary

Committee	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2014/2015 £000s	Forecast for Y/E at P6 £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	% Variance
Strategic Policy & Resources Committee	16,797	16,136	(661)	(3.9)%	34,236	33,372	(863)	(2.5)%
Health Environmental Services Committee	20,822	20,375	(447)	(2.1)%	41,072	40,517	(555)	(1.4)%
Development Committee	10,687	10,592	(95)	(0.9)%	19,077	19,077	0	0.0%
Parks & Leisure Committee	11,123	11,166	44	0.4%	23,824	23,824	0	0.0%
Total	59,429	58,269	(1,160)	(2.0)%	118,209	116,790	(1,419)	(1.2)%
Capital Financing							0	
Specified Reserves movements							-4,109	
Year End Departmental Forecast							1,418	
Rates Income							2,888	
Forecast Movement on Reserves for current year							197	

Analysis of Forecast Reserves Balance

Opening Balance Reserves	19,943
Movement in Reserves	197
Total Reserves	20,140
Specified Reserves Balance	3,167
Closing Balance General Reserves	16,973

DETAIL	EXPENDITURE
ASSETS	
Property Maintenance - Assets transferring - SC	718,535
Parks & Open Spaces/Tree & Path Surveys	127,307
Pitches Improvement	10,510
Leisure Mobilisation 2014/15	1,171,233
Planned Maintenance	717,000
Signage	Not Known
City Boundary	
Street Signs	12,000
Girdwood	140,000
City Hall:	
Temporary Accommodation	Not Known
City Hall Accommodation Works	Not Known
TOTAL ASSETS	2,896,585
OTHER	
Licences (Digital Services)	100,000
Consultancy (AGRS)	5,000
Branding (Dev - Dir Support)	240,000
Grant & Comm Support (Dev Dir Support)	536,060
Data Transfer (Building Control)	38,753
Cleansing	80,393
TOTAL OTHER	1,000,206
TOTAL	3,896,791

This page is intentionally left blank

Quarter 2 2014-15 Treasury Management Report

The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011, and the supporting Prudential and Treasury Codes introduced a new capital financing system and legislative framework within which the Council may manage its finances.

It is set out in the Councils Treasury Management policy, that the Council will receive reports on its treasury management policies, practices and activities, including, as a minimum, an annual strategy, a mid-year review and an annual report after the close of the financial year.

This report meets the latter requirement and is structured to highlight key changes to the Councils capital activity and the actual and proposed treasury management activity.

1 Prudential Indicators

The Act and CIPFAs Prudential Code require Council to set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators (PIs). The key objective of which is to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the Council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

1.1 Capital Expenditure PI

	Original	Revised
Indicator	£'000	£'000
Estimates of Capital Expenditure 2014/15	39,025	21,158

The original estimate reflects the capital budgets that were approved by Council on 21 February 2014, whilst the revised estimate reflects the capital expenditure that is forecast to be spent by 31 March 2015. The decrease in the forecast for this year is mainly due to the re-profiling of the capital programme. As the overall total has not changed this does not affect the financing of the capital programme.

1.2 Other Prudential Indicators

The following table summarises the other key PIs.

	Original Estimate	Current Estimate
Indicator	£'000	£'000
Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)	71,437	50,541
Borrowing Within CFR	yes	yes

As can be seen above the CFR estimate has reduced. This is due to financing decisions made at the end of the previous financial year and the slippage in the current years capital programme. The council is forecast to remain within the Authorised Borrowing Limit, and the CFR indicates that over the medium term borrowings will only be for a capital purpose.

2 Treasury Management

The Councils Treasury Management Policy and Strategy adopt the key principles of CIPFAs Code of Practice and have taken account of the guidance issued by the Department of The Environment on Local Government Investments.

2.1 Debt Activity

During the first half of 2014/15 the Council has taken advantage of internal borrowing, i.e. cash surpluses, to fund capital expenditure.

In addition, loan principal repayments of £386,010.90 have been made during the same period.

The level of external borrowings at 30 September 2014 is £23,551.40.

2.2 Investment Strategy 2014-15

The objectives of the Council's investment strategy are safeguarding the repayment of the principal and interest of its investments on time – the investment return being a secondary objective. The current investment climate is one of overriding risk consideration, particularly that of counterparty risk. As a result, officers continue to implement an operational investment strategy which maintains investments short term with high quality counterparties.

The Council has earned of £158,494.68 in interest in the period from 1 April to 30 September 2014.

During this period the Council has placed deposits with Bank of Scotland, Santander UK and Barclays. All three institutions meet the council's approval criteria. We are currently in the process of opening a similar facility with HSBC

The Council's limit for total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days is £2,000,000. As at 30 September 2014, the Council has not made any investments which are for periods longer than 364 days.

2.3 Other Treasury Management Indicators

Two other Treasury Management indicators were set at the start of the year as follows: -

- Upper Limits for Fixed and Variable Rate Borrowing
- Limits on the Maturity of Fixed Rate Borrowing

Officers can confirm that the limits set have not been breached and no changes to the current limits are required.

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Ulster Orchestra – Request for Funding
Date:	21 November 2014
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 17 October 2014, the Committee considered a request by the Ulster Orchestra that the Council should enter into a “cash deficiency agreement” with the Ulster Orchestra in which the Council would agree to indemnify the Ulster Orchestra for any deficit up to £500k that it incurs by 31 March 2015.
1.2	The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the request by the Orchestra until the November meeting of the Committee, to allow more information to be provided in relation to funding requests which had been made by the Orchestra to other organisations, the outcome of discussions between the Orchestra and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, the Orchestra’s proposals on its future operating model, legal vires and further details on the rent agreement between the Council and the Orchestra.
1.3	The Committee was also asked by the Orchestra to consider a rent free period for five years for the Waterfront and Ulster Halls. The Committee agreed that this request should be forwarded to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	Professor Sir George Bain accompanied, by other representatives of the Orchestra will be in attendance at the meeting to outline the Orchestra’s proposals on its future operating model. An update on the discussions with other potential funders will be provided by officers at the meeting. However, at this stage, DCAL are still considering the request.

2.2	The Town Solicitor will also update the Committee on the legal position regarding the ability of the Council to enter into a “cash deficiency agreement”.
-----	---

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	Should the Council decide to support the request for funding, then the agreed amount would have to be met from Council reserves.

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	There are no equality and good relations implications associated with the report.

5.0	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The request from the Ulster Orchestra for funding.

6.0	Decision Tracking
The Director of Finance and Resources will implement the decision of the Committee.	

7.0	Documents Attached
Appendix 1: Funding Request Committee Report, 17 October 2014	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Funding Issues – Ulster Orchestra
Date:	17 October 2014
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

1.0	Relevant Background Information
1.1	This paper outlines a request from the Ulster Orchestra for financial support.

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	The Ulster Orchestra has submitted a request for financial assistance in the context of a forecast £400k deficit for 2014/15 caused by cuts in funding by the Arts Council and BBC.
2.2	There are two elements to the UO proposal. The first is that the Council provides a comfort letter agreeing to cover any expenditure incurred by UO not covered by funding up to 31 March 2015 and not exceeding £500k in total. This intervention would serve to secure the UO's financial position in the short term.
2.3	The second element is a request for a rent-free period of five years for the use of the Ulster and Waterfront Halls on the basis that this would make a significant difference to the Orchestra's loss-making position, allowing greater flexibility to develop strategically and further collaboration on special projects with the Council. The request (Appendix One) outlines the benefits of the UO to Belfast and N Ireland along with developments that are planned for over the next six months.
2.4	At present the Council provides £149,283 of annual grant funding to the UO. However, the Council receives income from the UO in the form of hire and leasing charges. In 2013/14 this amounted to £154k.

2.	Members are asked to note that recent announcements regarding cuts for events and arts/culture will also have a considerable impact on the city.
----	--

3.0	Resource Implications
3.1	If the Council decides to support the request to indemnify the Ulster Orchestra for any deficit up to £500k for 2014/15, then this amount would have to be met from Council reserves. This would be a decision for the existing Council.
3.2	The decision to grant a rent free period will need to be considered by the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in the context of the estimates and rate setting process.

4.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	There are no equality and good relations implications associated with the report.

5.0	Recommendations
	<p>Members are asked to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The request from Ulster Orchestra and whether the Council should consider entering into a 'cash deficiency agreement' with the Ulster Orchestra in which the Council would agree to indemnify the Ulster Orchestra for any deficit up to £500k that it incurs by 31 March 2015. <p>Members are also asked to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the request by the Ulster Orchestra for a five year rent free period should be referred to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee so that this may be considered as part of the 2015/16 rate setting process.

6.0	Decision Tracking
	The Director of Finance and Resources will implement the decisions of the Committee.

7.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Ulster Orchestra Letter 6 October 2014</p> <p>Appendix 2: Ulster Orchestra Proposal to Belfast City Council 6 October 2014</p>

Ms Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Hall
Belfast BT1 5GS

6 October 2014

Dear Ms Wylie:

I am writing in my capacity as Executive Chairman of the Ulster Orchestra. As a result of cuts by the ACNI and the BBC to their grants to the Ulster Orchestra, its future is in question. Unlike many other organisations in Northern Ireland that are facing funding cuts at this moment, and which will continue to operate but will have to reduce the scale of their operations, the cuts for the Ulster Orchestra mean that it will cease to be a “going concern”, with the result that it will have to qualify its accounts and stop trading by the end of November. Northern Ireland would then have the dubious distinction of being the only region in these islands that did not have a symphony orchestra.

To help avoid this fate, we are making the attached proposal to Belfast City Council. The proposal begins by outlining the UO’s financial position. To summarise, the ACNI and BBC cuts amount to 28% (£817K in money terms) since March 2011; in real terms, they amount to £925K. We are currently forecasting a deficit of about £400K for 2014/15. This deficit, together with the in-year budget cut of 4% to our ACNI grant, will wipe out our reserves and leave the Board with no option – either financially or legally – but to announce the closure of the Orchestra.

Hence the first aspect of our proposal to BCC is a request that it issues us with a letter of comfort, a “cash-deficiency agreement”, in which the Council agrees to indemnify the Ulster Orchestra for any deficit up to £500K that it incurs by 31 March 2015. This would stabilise the Orchestra’s financial position and should allow the auditors to sign off the annual accounts without qualification. This, together with the second aspect of our proposal, should enable the Orchestra’s Board to sanction continued trading.

The second aspect of our proposal is a request for a rent-free period of five years for the use of the Ulster and Waterfront Halls. The acceptance of this aspect of the proposal would make a significant difference to the Orchestra’s loss-making position, allow it greater flexibility to develop strategically, and further our collaboration on special projects with the management of the Ulster and Waterfront Halls.

We believe the two aspects of our proposal are justified by the enormous cultural, economic and social contribution that the Ulster Orchestra makes to Belfast and Northern Ireland more generally. The cultural benefits are well known and include the Orchestra’s world-class music making, its cultural partnerships with other arts organisations, and the performance opportunities it creates for Northern Irish composers and musicians.

The economic benefits include a multiplier effect of £2.62 for every £1 pound provided by the ACNI, which implies a cash-flow value to the local economy of £50m over twenty-five years; and the way in which the Ulster Orchestra enhances NI’s geographical reach and world standing and, in doing so, supports and

promotes its efforts to attract foreign direct investment, its cultural tourism product, and its growing music, TV, and movie industries.

The social benefits include the Orchestra's educational activities, which last year reached a total of 25,000 participants, and its work in using music to mitigate the negative effects of multiple social deprivation in working-class communities.

If BCC were to accept our proposal, it would not only save the Ulster Orchestra from going into administration in November, it would also enable the Orchestra to take advantage of the following developments that will occur over the next six months:

- Discussions with DCAL to provide financial support for an early retirement scheme for the Orchestra's players.
- Discussions with the Department of Education to provide a more strategic, cohesive and synergistic programme of musical education in schools.
- Discussions with private trusts and foundations to support educational and other social projects.
- Discussions with the BBC that will hopefully lead to a different structural relationship between it and the Ulster Orchestra and to larger fees for its services.
- Work that Trevor Green, a highly experienced orchestral consultant, and we are engaged on to re-design the operating model of the UO, including: the Musicians' Union contract, the structure of performance and outreach, and the cost-revenue basis. If BCC's letter of comfort and the rent-free period are to be effective, they have to be accompanied by a long-term plan that will ensure the Orchestra has a sustainable future.

We are grateful to Belfast City Council for providing funding to the Ulster Orchestra over many years, and we hope that, at this time of financial crisis, it will be able to provide further support that will enable us to continue to serve Belfast, and Northern Ireland more generally, in the future.

Yours sincerely

George Bain
Executive Chairman

ULSTER ORCHESTRA PROPOSAL TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

UO's Financial Position

- The UO's grant from the ACNI has been cut by 14.4% (£317K) since March 2013. It has been told to expect a further in-year cut of 4% in 2014/15 and a cut of 10-12% in 2015/16. All these cuts will amount to a 28% (£609K) reduction in ACNI funding since March 2013.
- The UO's payment from Radio 3 has been cut by 23.5% (£126K) since March 2011. Radio 3 is proposing a further reduction (£82K) in its payment in 2016/17. If this cut is implemented, it will amount to a 27% (£208K) reduction in BBC funding since March 2011.
- Taking the ACNI and BBC cuts together, they amount to 28% (£817K) since March 2011. The total increase in the RPI since 2011 is 13.2%. To maintain our 2011 position in real terms, therefore, would require not £817K but £925K.
- 2013/14 yielded an operating deficit of approximately £562K, leaving cash reserves of about £513K. Even without the in-year cut in the ACNI grant, it will be most difficult to produce a break-even budget for 2014/15. We are currently forecasting a deficit of about £400K, which will reduce our reserves to an estimated £100K by 31 March 2015; taking into account the 4% in-year cut in the ACNI grant, the reserves will be wiped out.
- Cuts of the above magnitude – to an orchestra that is already underfunded and understaffed – are unsustainable; we would be bankrupt and have to go into administration. Indeed, we have delayed this year's AGM – at which the annual accounts are presented – to the last possible moment (December); if we had submitted them in September, as we usually do, our auditors would have had "to qualify" them to indicate that the UO was no longer a "going concern", with the result that we would have had to cease trading. Northern Ireland would then have the dubious distinction of being the only region in these islands that did not have a symphony orchestra.

Letter of Comfort

- In view of the above financial situation, the Board has concluded that the cuts being proposed by the ACNI are such that, unless we can get further financial support by November 2014, it will have no option – either financially or legally – but to announce the closure of the UO. And if the Orchestra were to close, its closure would be permanent not temporary: staff, particularly the professional players, would quickly drift away to find work in GB, the ROI, and elsewhere.
- Hence we are approaching Belfast City Council for support. The first aspect of our approach to Belfast City Council is a request for a letter of comfort.
- As can be seen from the above figures, the Ulster Orchestra's reserves are likely to be wiped out by March 2015. If the Ulster Orchestra is not to have its accounts "qualified" in

November and to continue as a “going concern”, it requires about £500K to cover the projected deficit of £400K as well as the 4% (£75K) cut to its 2014/15 ACNI grant. This would stabilise the Orchestra’s financial position and should allow the auditors to sign off the accounts without qualification. This, together with the second aspect of our proposal below, should enable the Board to sanction continued trading.

- Hence our first request to Belfast City Council is for a letter of comfort, a “cash-deficiency agreement”, in which the Council agrees to indemnify the Ulster Orchestra for any deficit up to £500K that it incurs by 31 March 2015.
- Our second request is for a rent-free period for the use of the Ulster and Waterfront Halls.

Rent-free Period

- As a result of the ACNI and BBC funding cuts, in 2013 the Ulster Orchestra reduced the number of offices it rented in the Ulster Hall. We are now operating in cramped conditions with insufficient space for staff, meetings and storage. The annual rent and service charge equates to c. £30K on a monthly, rolling-lease basis.
- Although we have reduced the number of concerts we hold in the Waterfront Hall because of its higher charges, the annual rental for rehearsals and concerts still amounts to c. £120K, with the need for marginally more rehearsal time at a cost of an additional £20K.
- Thus our total rental rate (offices, rehearsals, and concerts) is c. £170K, which means that the annual grant the UO receives from Belfast City Council (£149,283) and more is paid back to the Council to cover the rent.
- When the Ulster Hall was refurbished in 2006, DCAL and the ACNI contributed 31.3% (£2.7m) of the total cost on condition that the Hall would be the permanent home of the Ulster Orchestra, with DCAL saying that this permanent home should be provided on a rent-free basis. In addition, as the “anchor tenant” of the Ulster Hall, the Ulster Orchestra’s accommodation requirements were to take priority, with the needs of other users of the Hall being fitted around those of the Orchestra.
- Hence we request that Belfast City Council allows us (a) to reclaim all our original office space in the Ulster Hall and (b) receive a rent-free period of five years for both the offices and the two halls while still receiving the £149K grant annually.
- The acceptance of this proposal would make a significant difference to the Orchestra’s loss-making position, allow it greater flexibility to develop strategically, and further our collaboration on special projects with the management of the Ulster and Waterfront Halls: on for example, film nights, the opening of the conference centre at the Waterfront Hall, the 50th Anniversary of the Ulster Orchestra in 2016, a potential conference in 2017 of the Association of British Orchestras, and the use of the Ulster Orchestra for other civic events.

Advantages to the Ulster Orchestra

- If BCC were to accept the above two aspects of our proposal, it would not only save the Ulster Orchestra from going into administration in November, it would also enable the Orchestra to take advantage of the following developments that will occur over the next six months:
 - Discussions with DCAL to provide financial support for an early retirement scheme for the Orchestra's players.
 - Discussions with the Department of Education to provide a more strategic, cohesive and synergistic programme of musical education in schools.
 - Discussions with private trusts and foundations to support education and other social projects.
 - Discussions with the BBC that will hopefully lead to a different structural relationship between it and the Ulster Orchestra and to larger fees for its services.
 - Work that Trevor Green, a highly experienced orchestral consultant, and we are engaged on to redesign the operating model of the Ulster Orchestra, including: the Musicians' Union contract, the structure of performance and outreach, and the cost-revenue basis. If BCC's letter of comfort and the rent-free period are to be effective, they have to be accompanied by a long-term plan that will ensure the Ulster Orchestra has a sustainable future.
- Accepting the Ulster Orchestra's proposal would also have cultural, economic, and social benefits for Belfast City Council.

Cultural Benefits of the Ulster Orchestra

- Our auditors – not the most artistically sensitive of people – think “it is inconceivable that there would be no symphony orchestra in Northern Ireland”. And given the enormous cultural, economic and social contribution that the Ulster Orchestra makes to Belfast and Northern Ireland more generally, it is inconceivable that the Orchestra should close, especially on the eve of its 50th Anniversary.
- To start with the cultural benefits, the Ulster Orchestra is NI's main cultural flagship, enhancing the quality of life by providing opportunities for audiences in NI and elsewhere to experience world-class conductors, soloists and music-making.
- The Ulster Orchestra is the musical pulse of Northern Ireland, with its weekly concerts in Belfast; performances across the region; participation in the Belfast Festival at Queen's; its community concerts; and its extensive education and outreach work.

- The Ulster Orchestra is an important cultural partner, collaborating with educational institutions, other arts organisations (e.g. NI Opera, the Belfast Philharmonic Choir), local authorities, and broadcasting institutions.
- The Ulster Orchestra offers performance opportunities for the creative output of Northern Irish composers and for Northern Irish musicians, which would otherwise not exist and which are essential to their career development.

Economic Benefits of the Ulster Orchestra

- **Multiplier Effect**
 - The majority of the Ulster Orchestra's £4m spend occurs within the local economy, largely in Belfast. This direct spend, together with the induced spend (that incurred, for example, by patrons attending the Orchestra's events, the employment of external artists, and additional programming costs incurred by orchestral sponsors and funders in staging events), currently generates a total spend of £2.62 for every £1 provided by the ACNI grant.
 - This multiplier yields an annual cash flow, excluding the ACNI grant, of £3m. When capitalised at a real discount rate of 3%, it implies a cash-flow value to the local economy of £50m over twenty-five years and of a £100m in perpetuity.
 - The above multiplier is narrowly defined, and hence the economic benefit calculated by it is significantly underestimated, because it takes no account of the way in which NI's geographical reach and world standing are enhanced by the Ulster Orchestra.
- **NI's Geographical Reach & World Standing**
 - The Ulster Orchestra's live performances reach audiences in NI of over 70,000 each year. Significant as these audiences are, the Orchestra's relationship with the BBC greatly increases its geographical reach, both nationally and internationally: through broadcasts on BBC2, Radio Ulster, Radio 3, the European Broadcasting Union, NPR in the US, and online streaming worldwide.
 - The Ulster Orchestra has produced more than 70 commercial recordings for Chandos, Naxos, BMG, Hyperion, and Priory & Toccata.
 - Through the Orchestra's collaboration with NI Screen, it has begun to record soundtracks for films. The first was for the Irish Film "A Nightingale Falling", which was released in cinemas in September of this year. The soundtrack will also be released digitally, and the music score by Graeme Stewart will be published, on the Ulster Orchestra's recommendation, by the international publishing house of Faber. The Orchestra also recorded in 2014 the soundtrack for the children's TV series "Puffin Rock". This series is being produced by the Derry/Londonderry animation

firm Dog Ears, is being narrated by Chris O'Dowd, and will be broadcast by Nickolodeon Junior in the UK and RTE Junior in Ireland.

- The Ulster Orchestra is competing against Hull in a bid for the 2017 conference of the Association of British Orchestras and, if successful, the conference will be held in the new conference centre at the Waterfront Hall. As an important element in NI's cultural infrastructure, the Orchestra also adds value to NI's "cultural tourism product" in other ways. And it could be used more extensively to assist politicians in promoting NI overseas as a vibrant place to invest, work, and live.
- In short, the Ulster Orchestra increases NI's geographical reach and world standing, and, in doing so, supports and promotes NI's efforts to attract foreign direct investment, its cultural tourism product, and its growing music, TV and movie industries.

Social Benefits of the Ulster Orchestra

- **Vision & Values**

- The Ulster Orchestra's vision is to be at the heart of Northern Ireland, a major contributor to its quality of life and an ambassador for the region abroad, delivering music to diverse audiences here and around the world.
- A key value of the orchestra is to enrich the lives of people in Northern Ireland as a resource that celebrates our full creative potential, impacts positively on health, education and social inclusion, and enhances the region's reputation as a vibrant cultural force.
- Overcoming barriers to participation within areas of high deprivation and marginalised communities is a priority for the Orchestra as we seek more opportunities to serve the communities in which we are based.
- The Ulster Orchestra believes that its relevance transcends artistic performance to include active participation in music, social inclusion, and the development of a sense of self-worth and regional pride.

- **Current Provision & Building for the Future**

- The Ulster Orchestra has been active for over three decades in bringing engagement and education activities to all areas across Northern Ireland, and has been particularly active working in areas of social and economic deprivation over the past ten years.
- We provide concerts, workshops, seminars, projects, master-classes, regional performances and special ticket schemes, all of which are designed to increase opportunities for a wide cross-section of people in Northern Ireland to explore the world of music.

- In our last full season (2013/14), a total of 25,000 participants were involved in our education and outreach programmes in addition to over 70,000 audience members who attend our concerts in Belfast.
- One project of particular note is the Paper Orchestra Project. In January 2014, with support from a small grant provided by DCAL, we launched the project, working in some of Belfast's most deprived working-class areas.
- The project was created in partnership with the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and the Good Shepherd Primary School in Poleglass, and with the Greater Shankill Area Partnership and Malvern P.S and Wheatfield P.S. in the Greater Shankill Area.
- The schools involved are in areas of high deprivation. The Wheatfield School is in an area that is in the top 2% in terms of overall deprivation, The Malvern School is in an area with the lowest education and skills attainment in Northern Ireland, and is in the top 1% in terms of overall deprivation. The Good Shepherd School is in the Poleglass area, where 25.9% of people have a long-term health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities, only 8.7% have a degree or higher qualification, and 55.9% have no or low qualifications; it is in the top 6% of the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland.



- The areas targeted have a challenging historical legacy from the Troubles, with a very high proportion of fatalities occurring within a two-mile radius of each postcode area.
- The aim of the Paper Orchestra NI Project is to familiarise children with the instruments involved in an orchestra and how to take care of them, to allow them to experience the excitement of performing in front of family and friends as part of an orchestra, and to instil an interest in music and learning to play an instrument.

- The project worked with 81 primary school children who used cardboard templates to create their own “paper instruments”, which they then individually painted and decorated. The children engaged in music tuition workshops led by Orchestra players, all of whom have many years’ experience in teaching young children.
- Phase One of the project culminated in two free performances of “Peter and the Wolf” by the Ulster Orchestra playing alongside the paper orchestra within the communities targeted (at the Dairy Farm Shopping Centre on the Stewartstown Road and the Boys’ Model School in West Belfast on 13 and 14 March 2014).
- Local news reader Paul Clarke was enlisted to read “Peter and the Wolf”. The project was also the first engagement of our new Chief Conductor, Venezuelan Rafael Payare. Maestro Payare is a former participant in the world famous “El Sistema” programme, which brings immersive classical music to some of the poorest areas of Venezuela and which has been replicated in areas of deprivation throughout the world.
- Beyond the timeframe of the original funded project, the Ulster Orchestra continued to provide tuition to the children until June 2014, culminating in two further community performances, this time with the children using actual instruments (supplied by DCAL) to entertain their teachers, peers and parents.
- We plan to build on the initial work in these communities to create a long-term presence that involves the schools and community organisations in implementing a suitable programme of musical tuition. The key aims of this continuation project are to create opportunities for these children to build confidence and promote positive self-esteem as well as to pursue music as an educational and/or vocational pathway.
- The project also provides an opportunity for the families of these children and the wider community to be involved in classical and orchestral music, and for both communities to come together through the medium of music in a fun and accessible way.
- If we are successful in attracting funding for the next phase of the project, it will be assessed after six months; and the next step will be to investigate ways to expand the project into other parts of Belfast, which will require significant funding from stakeholders across the city.
- The following appendix provides further examples of the work that the Ulster Orchestra does on a regular basis, and gives an outline of what we have planned for the coming year to provide a service that is inclusive and accessible to all.

APPENDIX**Educational Workshops: Schools**

The Ulster Orchestra offers interactive educational workshops for nursery, primary and special educational settings as follows:

All About Rhythm Animal Magic Around the Word The Beach Party Beauty and the Beast Big Bad Bass Cartoon Capers Disney Favourites French Matinee Jingle all the Way Movie Magic Music, Moods and Movies Music Through the Seasons	Nellie the Elephant The Pied Piper Pirates Ahoy! Simply Samba Sketches of Spain Sound Works String-Tastic Viva Violas The Water Cycle The Snowman Live Time Travel Come and Play
---	---

Between March 2012 and March 2013, we visited 125 schools in six counties. In the 2013/14 season, 25% of all schools visited were in the bottom 20% in terms of measures of multiple deprivation. A specific example of this work was the project created around Britten's 100th Anniversary, "Giving Britten a Voice", which worked with 200 children from Millennium Integrated P.S. in Saintfield, Botanic P.S., and St Kieran's P.S. in Poleglass.

Education Workshops: Post-primary and Adults with Special Educational Needs

The Ulster Orchestra provides a variety of activities and workshops for post-primary and adults with special educational needs (SEN). As well as bespoke activities, which are sometimes necessary when working within an SEN environment, we offer the following set programmes:

Adopt a Player Ensemble Concerts Introducing the Instruments of the Orchestra Open Rehearsals All About Rhythm Music Tuition Pre-concert talks Student Standby Scheme Thank you for the Music Master-classes – piano, violin, horn, clarinet A day with Ulster Orchestra Players Good Vibrations GCSE Elements School Orchestra Workshops
--

The Orchestra's strategic engagement plan, which will be rolled out in 2014/15, will actively target specific post-primary and SEN schools located in social and economic disadvantaged areas, and will focus on five-six core education and outreach projects. We will continue to provide workshops and other activities alongside these projects.

Educational Workshops: Adults

Ulster Orchestra players have been actively developing over many years a set of schools and adult education centres where they work on a regular basis. A renewed focus on targeting specific areas of social and economic deprivation will be in place for the 2014/15 season, with community groups consulted on needs, and with the emphasis on creating bespoke workshops for community organisations and adult education centres. Some examples of what we are already doing are outlined below.

Move to the Music

The Move-to-the-Music Programme targets isolation and loneliness among older people, specifically targeting rural communities. Part-funded by corporate supporter JTI, it supports people aged 70 plus. The programme provides door-to-door transport, free tickets for an Ulster Orchestra concert, and refreshments for residents from three geographic areas: Down (covering rural Ards, Castlereagh and Down Districts), Co Antrim (focused on Ballymena) and Co. Armagh.

To ensure we help the most vulnerable and isolated elderly people in each locality, the Orchestra works with Age NI and the Open Door Club, and also with the Community Transport Network that offers a door-to-door service to participants for six concerts per season. The initial three-year pilot has been so successful that the Ulster Orchestra will expand the scheme to cover the Newry, Dungannon and Moyle Districts in the 2014/15 season, and increase the concerts offered from six to eight. This will provide free access to our concerts for 3,360 vulnerable, elderly people from across Northern Ireland over the next season, which compares with 1,260 people from the 2013/14 season.

Hear Our Voice

The Hear-Our-Voice Programme actively encourages participation in classical music activities by a number of targeted community groups working with the elderly and adults with special educational needs in areas of social and economic disadvantage. It brings members of these communities together to participate in interactive workshops throughout a one-year period. These groups then come together for a final event (in 2013 it was a special Christmas concert in Ballymena).

This cross-partnership initiative works with Lisnafillan Community Care (Alternative Angles), North Belfast Senior Citizen Forum, Harryville Partnership Initiative, Women's Aid, and Age NI. A recent evaluation of the project indicated that it is delivering on its objectives, and we are planning to expand the project to include other groups in the areas targeted, for example the "Men's Sheds" project in North Belfast.

This cross-partnership approach ensures that we are: maximising the social impact of our work across a number of areas of specific need; helping to bring people together who would not otherwise have the opportunity; and making the world of classical music more accessible and fun.

Pricing Policies to Encourage Access and Participation

The Ulster Orchestra's policy is to price all its concerts affordably in an attempt to reach out to all members of the community. Tickets range in price from £6.00 to £22.00 (Ulster Hall) and £8.00 to £28.00 (Waterfront Hall), and for the 2014/15 season all tickets to our season concerts for students, children and the unwaged will be priced at £5.00. We will also continue to offer a reduced Christmas Community Concert at the rate of £3.00 in the Ulster Hall, which is open to all community and

charitable organisations. We also offer a group discount that provides a free ticket for every ten tickets booked and further discounts for booking over thirty tickets.

It is also part of the Orchestra's sponsorship policy that when securing contracts with corporate sponsors and supporters, we designate up to fifty tickets per concert to be allocated to community groups from across Northern Ireland. For example, from next season fifty tickets for every lunchtime concert (8 concerts in total) will be allocated to groups working with the homeless, elderly, and people with special educational needs. We have also been proactive in targeting community groups in working-class areas: for example, allocating 352 complimentary tickets to twelve community groups from working-class areas since October 2013, and providing reduced-price tickets to approximately 1,000 people from various community groups and charities in the 2013/14 season.

Accessibility: Challenges and Barriers

The Ulster Orchestra is Northern Ireland's symphony orchestra and is a resource for all sectors of the community, including working-class and marginalised groups. A number of factors affect the accessibility of arts organisations, including the Ulster Orchestra, to working-class communities and include:

- A lack of general interest from within communities in particular forms of artistic expression, including classical and orchestral music.
- Prohibitive costs, including those of tickets and transport.
- A lack of targeted educational provision for the development of musicality within many schools in working-class areas, and a lack support within the home and community for classical and orchestral music.

Hence there is a need for artistic institutions, including the Ulster Orchestra:

- to communicate the value of the arts to working class communities;
- to change perceptions towards institutions such as the Ulster Orchestra, which are sometimes viewed as elitist or "out of reach"; and
- to strengthen the links between already successful engagement work in working-class communities and the Orchestra's artistic output as a whole.

And the Ulster Orchestra is engaging in these activities as it collaborates with key stakeholders to develop new projects in working-class communities.



Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Belfast City Centre Management – Request for Additional Funding
Date:	21 November 2014
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470
Contact Officers:	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	At a meeting of the Development Committee on 17 June 2014, members of the Committee considered a request for additional funding from Belfast City Centre Management. The request consisted of two elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) £45,000 towards the cost of the Business Improvement District within Belfast City Centre over an 18 month period ii) £15,000 towards a shortfall of £30k in salary costs for 2014/15 following a salary review by the BCCM Board
1.2	Following consideration of the request, Members agreed to make a contribution of £45,000 towards the cost of progressing the Business Improvement District but did not accede to the request for £15,000 towards salary costs.
1.3	The Council at its meeting of 1 July 2014 acceded to a request from Alderman Rodgers that the decision above be taken back to the Development Committee for reconsideration at its meeting on 16 September 2014.

2	Key Issues
2.1	At its meeting on 16 September 2014, the Development Committee received a presentation from the Chairman of BCCM and the City Centre Manager, Mr Andrew Irvine, during which they informed the Committee that staff members had not received a pay increase for several years due to the fact that they were employed on single point pay scales and had no cost of living increases for 5 years. Mr Irvine asked that Members consider bringing the salaries of BCCM into line with similar posts in Belfast City Council, the cost of which would be £27,818 – 50% of which DSD had agreed to meet subject to match funding being provided by Belfast City Council.
2.2	Following discussion, the Committee agreed to rescind its decision of 17 June and to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that it considers contributing £13,909 to Belfast City Centre Management towards additional salary costs from any underspend in the 2014/15 budgets.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p>If Members favourably consider the request from BCCM, a contribution of £13,909 would be required from any in-year underspend.</p> <p>This report needs to be read in conjunction with the Quarter 2 Finance Report so that Members are aware of the overall financial position before making a decision in this regard.</p>
4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report.
5	Recommendations
5.1	Members are asked to consider the recommendation by the Development Committee to allocate £13,909 of any in-year underspend to BCCM.
6	Decision Tracking
<p>The Director of Development will implement any decision taken by the Strategic Policy & Resource Committee.</p> <p>Reporting Officer: John McGrillen, Director of Development</p>	
7	Key to Abbreviations
BCCM – Belfast City Centre Management	



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Tenancy agreement – Botanic Gatehouse
Date:	21 November 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure Ext.3400
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager, Parks and Leisure Ext. 3403

1	Relevant Background Information
----------	--

A number of houses are currently let to staff within Parks & Leisure Department.

The rents on these dwellings have been based on equivalent Housing Executive Rents for houses with equivalent facilities and have been adjusted by the Estate Management Unit to take into account the following factors.

1. Location of the dwelling.
2. Condition of the dwelling
3. Dwellings are only offered to Council employees under agreements which can be terminated at short notice or when the employee leaves the employment of the Council.
4. Some of the Tenancy Agreements call on the occupier to take certain security duties in relation to adjoining Council property. Where this is the case an allowance has been made.

A number of criteria are applied to allocate the houses including: that the individual must be permanently employed by Belfast City Council and has to be bound by a tenancy agreement which was linked to their continuing employment. The tenancy agreement requires the individual to take on certain responsibilities specific to the property but in general they pertain to opening and closing gates, reporting incidents of ASB to the police and some minor maintenance of the gardens.

2	Key Issues
	<p>The property at the Botanic gate lodge is currently occupied by a member of Leisure Services. As her employment is transferring to the new strategic operating partner under TUPE legislation, this will have a direct impact on her current tenancy agreement.</p> <p>Therefore the department have been liaising with the individual and legal services and a new tenancy agreement has been drafted. This accommodates the Tenant's continued occupation in the property, as she will continue to be employed by the Council's Strategic Operating Partner (SOP) who is employed to give effect to the Council's objectives in terms of Leisure Provision. The proposed tenancy is predicated upon a caretaking arrangement and the tenant remaining in employment with any agent of the council responsible for the delivery of leisure services.</p> <p>The department is seeking Committee approval for the Tenant to remain in occupation in the circumstances outlined above.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>A weekly rent of £62 per week plus rates has been set by SP&R in March 2014 and will be reviewed regularly.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>No additional human resources required.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Occupation of the houses secures the asset and allows a presence on the site to provide a resource to open and close the site and report any incidents including those regarding anti social behaviour.</p>

4	Recommendations
	<p>Committee is asked to agree to the amended tenancy agreement which allows the individual, who will become an employee of the strategic operating partner delivering Leisure Provision in 2015, to remain in occupation as outlined above.</p>

5	Decision Tracking
	<p>Tenancy agreements to be drawn up and signed, legal services and Business Manager.</p>

6	Key to Abbreviations
	<p>None</p>

7	Documents Attached
	<p>None</p>

Agenda Item 6b

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Corporate Management Team
Subject:	FUTURE USE & MANAGEMENT OF CITY HALL
Date:	21 November 2014
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management, Ext. 5206/6232

1.	Relevant Background Information
1.1	Members may recall that reports were presented to the Committee on 4 th February 2011, the 9 th September 2011 and again on 4 th November 2011 in respect of various aspects of the future use and management of the City Hall building.
1.2	These reports highlighted the fact that the City Hall hosts in excess of 500 functions annually in the 3 prestige function rooms, and that in virtually all cases the use of the building is provided to approved function organisers at no cost, with the associated security, cleaning, supervision, cloak-room and bar staffing costs being absorbed by the council. In some cases drinks receptions are also provided if approved by Committee. In addition, there are no charges for public or private tours of the building which would help offset the increasing staffing costs associated with providing the tours.
1.3	Members will also be aware that representations have been received from local businesses, pointing out that the free provision of prestigious venues such as the Great Hall or Banqueting Hall are having an adverse impact on their ability to let their own facilities at competitive market rates. Further representations of this type continue to be made and the most recent letter from Titanic Belfast is appended to this report.
1.4	The first of the three reports referred to above was considered but deferred by the Committee in February 2011, in order to allow time for detailed party briefings to take place. These briefings were subsequently completed and a further report was tabled on 9 th September 2011. After some discussion, the Committee agreed at this time that, in principle, the council should:-
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seek to introduce a scale of charges for the hiring of rooms within the City Hall and the use of its grounds on the principle of 'not for profit / not for loss'; • ensure that community, voluntary and charitable organisations should not be affected adversely by the adoption of such a policy and that the needs of the aforementioned sectors should be addressed sympathetically in any scale of charges submitted for consideration; <i>and</i> • ensure that there are no charges for tours of the City Hall within normal opening hours. However, it should reserve the right to recover costs on a 'not for profit / not for loss' basis for those booked outside of normal opening hours and/or on behalf of cruise ship operators.
1.6	A financial charging model was developed by officers on foot of the above decision, and the matter was tabled again in November 2011.

1.7	At that time, the Committee agreed to again defer consideration of the report on the review of future use and management of the City Hall to enable it to be considered in more detail by the political parties on the Council. It was also agreed that further work would be needed in respect of the criteria and processes governing access to the City Hall for functions, in liaison with the Democratic Services Section. No further agreement has yet been achieved.
1.8	Given that the council continues to receive representations from local commercial outlets suggesting that the free availability of the prestige function rooms is damaging to their businesses as well as potentially damaging the commercial return to the Waterfront Hall and also in view of the time which has elapsed since this matter was last discussed, the view of the current Committee on any next steps in this regard is therefore now sought.
1.9	A further issue is that those booking City Hall also book their own catering companies who inevitably leave a lot of work for Council staff in cleaning up kitchens. There is an opportunity to let the catering option out for a fixed period with any functions then being required to use the official caterer.
<u>Additional City Hall-related issues</u>	
1.10	Members may also be aware that the City Hall grounds are increasingly being used for events. Many are large scale and involve significant periods for setting up and de-rigging in addition to the actual time period for the events itself.
1.11	To ensure more coordination of the use of the lawns and that damage/re-growth etc is managed well, it is suggested that all requests for use of the grounds should go through SP&R rather than individual Committees.
1.12	This could, for example, be achieved by requiring all internal requests for use of the grounds to be addressed to the Director of Property & Projects rather than individual Committees, using the same approach of delegated authority supplemented by the ability to table requests for the larger events at Committee for specific approval as is used for external requests. This would ensure that all events in the grounds are managed consistently, using the same basic mechanism.
1.13	Lastly, the use of the City Hall continues to evolve in a number of ways. In recent weeks, the front gates of the City Hall have been kept open during the daytime on a trial basis.
1.14	This was to improve openness and the reduction in any perceived ‘chill factor’ for the public in terms of accessing City Hall, and indeed the reputational impact and optics of the closed-gate approach. Security staff requested a report from the Security by Design expert in PSNI which highlighted concerns if vehicle access was not properly controlled. However, it is considered that this can be managed effectively in other ways. It would be useful to have the Committee’s guidance in terms of the preferred approach in the future.

2.	Key Issues
2.1	<p>The key issue is whether or not the Committee is minded to re-consider any/all of the issues set out in the various previous reports at this time, namely:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the potential to introduce charging for functions taking place in the 3 prestige function rooms subject to appropriate protections for charities and the not-for-profit sector; • the potential to introduce charging for some categories of tours; • To reconsider the catering approach to functions as described earlier; • the criteria & processes governing access to the function facilities in the City Hall building;

- the criteria & processes for granting permission to host events in the City Hall grounds; and
- the position with respect to the opening of the main gates.

If it is the Committee's decision that any/all of these matters ought to be pursued a further report will be tabled as soon as possible, setting out proposed alternative processes, viable costed options and associated potential savings and/or additional costs.

3.	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>As previously notified, the application of market-oriented charges to external functions taking place in the City Hall function rooms could, on present usage trends, generate up to £35,000 annually in hire charges. In addition, the application of a charge for private City Hall tours offered as part of externally organized commercial package tours could generate further additional income. Should a decision be taken to keep the City Hall main gates open routinely, some significant additional expenditure will be needed in respect of the upgrading of the existing bollards on the cobbled area.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no direct HR implications in respect of this report.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Assets</u></p> <p>The rationalisation of approaches to the use of the City Hall grounds could lead to reduced damage to the lawns and surrounding areas. While the council is indemnified against the costs of making good such damage there are still impacts on public availability and the associated reputational damage, given the public usage which the lawns traditionally attract.</p>

4.	Decision(s) required
4.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not to commission further work by officers in terms of applying a commercial charge to some external functions; whether or not to approve the development of revised criteria governing access to the prestige function rooms in the City Hall; to provide an analysis of a new approach to function catering; whether or not to consider the application of a charge to some private tours; whether or not to amend the processes governing access to the grounds of the City Hall for special events by extending the remit of the authority currently delegated to the Director of Property & Projects in this regard; whether or not to change the position with regard to the main gates (i.e. to routinely have the gates open as opposed to closed during working hours).

5.	Equality and Good Relations Screening
5.1	There are no direct equality or good relations issues arising from this report.

6.	Decision Tracking

Key to Abbreviations
None.

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Letter from Titanic Belfast

Restricted



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds by ArtsEkta for a Hindu Festival of Navratri event
Date:	21 st November 2014
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects, Ext: 6217
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management Ext: 5206

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	A request has been received by ArtEkta to have a cultural event celebrating the Hindu festival of Navratri (meaning nine nights) in the grounds of the City Hall on the 24th October 2015 .
1.2	Members will be aware that the Committee has delegated authority for routine requests for the use of the City Hall grounds to the Director of Property & Projects on the basis of an agreed set of criteria. However it was recognised that there would still be occasions when the nature, scale and/or scope of the request means that it is appropriate to place the matter directly before the Committee. This request from ArtEkta below falls into this category, and the direction of the Committee is therefore sought.
1.3	Navratri is the principal cultural festival celebrated by the Indian community at home and abroad. The proposed event in the City Hall grounds will involve up to 800 cross community participants from around Northern Ireland. It is being held in Belfast for the first time and will be the only Navratri festival taking place in Europe during 2015. Up to 14,000 people are expected to attend the event with visitors coming from all parts of the United Kingdom and further afield.
1.4	In February 2014, the Development Committee awarded ArtsEkta funding of £95,000 through the Council's Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund. When making their application for support for the Navratri festival, ArtsEkta indicated the City Hall grounds would be the preferred location for the event.
1.5	The stated purpose of the Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund is 'to challenge social exclusion by providing everyone in Belfast with the opportunity to experience bold, ambitious, high-quality arts and heritage'. Projects must be cross-community, cross-city, delivered in partnership between cultural and community organisations and benefit hard-to-reach areas and communities.

1.5	The event at the City Hall takes place in the evening and follows a torchlight procession from Custom House Square. The procession will include music performers, dancers and large puppet structures. Although the overall event itself on the day will only last an hour at the City Hall there is a significant lead in time required for set ups, dress rehearsals etc.
1.6	The set-ups for the event, which involves a couple of large structural lighting towers and a catwalk stretching the length of the City Hall's front façade, will need to be built a few days prior to the event. Access to the public, although restricted, will still be available during the set up and de-rigging periods.
1.7	The main event will take place on the catwalk and involves a number of performers. Colour is a big part of the festival and special illuminations on the façade of the City Hall will be augmented by additional lighting. It is proposed that the performance will conclude with a pyrotechnic show, although the organisers are aware this has to be low level in nature.
1.8	The event which is free to the public is being organised by Walk the Plank, a professional outdoor arts event management company. The usual indemnities, insurances and obligations would be required from the organisers, supplemented by a detailed event management plan including full risk assessments for the entire event.
	Although the event is taking place in the grounds the organisers have asked for use of a couple of areas within the City Hall for changing. They have also asked for permission to use one of the function rooms in the event of a reception being organised for invited guests including Members.

2	Key Issues
2.1	The event in the City Hall grounds which follows a torchlight procession from Custom House Square will take place between 7.30pm and 8.30pm on the 24 th October 2015. Due to the catwalk and lighting tower requirements, set ups will commence up to 5 days before the event itself although public access to the grounds and the City Hall will still be maintained.
2.2	Dress rehearsals will be required before the event however disruptions involving sound checks etc. will be kept to a minimum and will not impinge on other events taking place inside the City Hall.
2.3	The pyrotechnic show at the end of the catwalk show will be discussed in detail and the organisers are aware of the limitations which are in place with regard to the type of fireworks etc. which can be used.
2.4	It is anticipated up to 14,000 will attend the free event. In addition to the grounds spectators will also be allowed to view the event by the use of large screens placed in Donegal Square North.
2.5	The event will be planned and arranged by Walk the Plank. They have successfully delivered a number of large events including the Belfast Mela in Botanic Gardens, Diwali, Samhain, the Festival of Colours and the Lord Mayor's Parade in 2011.
2.6	A robust and detailed event management plan will be in place including the provision of risk assessments and health and safety, crisis and continuity plans etc. Full consultation will take place with Belfast City Council's Health & Safety and Building Control and Licensing staff. Discussions will also take place and the necessary permissions will be in place from the PSNI, and the Parades Commission.

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u> There will be no direct financial implications, other than allowing connection to the building's electrical infrastructure and the associated utility costs (which would be minimal). There will be no Security-related costs as the organisers will be providing all security/stewarding staff needed in the grounds.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u> The organisers will be providing all of their own catwalk builds and other infrastructures using their own contractors and there will therefore be no HR implications.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Assets</u> Given the scale & scope of the event and the potential for damage to statues etc in the grounds, a detailed event management plan will be required. However it is not anticipated that any significant risk to BCC assets is posed by this event. Full Public Liability insurance will also be provided prior to the event.</p> <p>Furthermore while every effort will be made to accommodate this event in terms of City Hall rooms the organisers will be made aware that potential availability of a particular room may be subject to change as other projects and decanting exercises get underway in 2015/16.</p>
4	Equality and Good Relations Implications
4.1	<p>The Creative and Cultural Belfast Fund is a project under the Council's Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012–15, which is the subject of a full Equality Impact Assessment.</p>
5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the request to have a cultural event celebrating the Hindu festival of Navratri in the City Hall grounds on the 24th October 2015 (with set up and take down for a number of days on either side) and to have use of one of a number of rooms in the City Hall during the event.</p>
6	Decision Tracking
Not applicable	
7	Key to Abbreviations
None	
8	Documents Attached
N/A	

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7a

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**MONDAY, 10th NOVEMBER, 2014****MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);
Alderman Stoker and Councillors Attwood,
Kyle and Mac Giolla Mhín.

External Members: Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. S. Brennan, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;
Dr. C. Hughes, Department for Social Development;
Ms. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management; and
Mr. U. Tok, Northern Ireland Inter-Faith Forum.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/Head of
Environmental Health;
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;
Mr. I. May, PEACE III Programme Manager;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mr. R. Galway and Mr. P. Scott.

Welcome

It was reported that Mr. Ken Gibson had replaced Archdeacon Barry Dodds as the Church of Ireland's representative on the Partnership. The Chairman, on behalf of the Members, welcomed Mr. Gibson to his first meeting and thanked Archdeacon Dodds for the contribution which he had made during his time on the Partnership.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th October were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Gibson declared an interest in respect of agenda item 3, viz., St. Patrick's Day Grants Scheme, in that one of the organisations, namely, Willowfield Parish Caring Association, which had been recommended for funding under the scheme, was located within the Church of Ireland parish of Willowfield and took no part in the discussion.

Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014

PEACE III – Implementation Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 As the Partnership will be aware, the Youth Engagement Programme and the Interfaces Programme under the theme of Transforming Contested Space were granted extensions to allow for completion of activity. All other projects in the Phase II Plan have now completed. Work is continuing on collation of final project reports and project closure in line with SEUPB guidance.

2 Key Issues

Youth Engagement Project (034054)

2.1 The Youth Engagement Project has now completed all project activity and has submitted a final claim for expenditure. The Project evaluation conducted by Gauge NI is in draft form and the final version will be available shortly for the Partnership’s consideration.

2.2 There were 3 Networking meetings over the last quarter with attendance from both statutory and community sector organisations involved in the delivery of YEP.

2.3 Over the summer period, a total of 50 young people (25 from Inner East and 25 from Ardoyne/Woodvale) have engaged in an 8-16 week intensive mentoring programme. All 50 young people engaging have completed personalised action plans with measurable outcomes, including measuring attitude change. The results of the attitudinal survey will be included in the final project report.

2.4 Under the Training and Capacity building strand of the programme there were 136 OCN accredited qualifications including Understanding Equal Opportunities; Assertiveness and Decision Making and Employability skills. In addition eighteen participants achieved other accreditation including Level 1 in IFA Coaching and beauty/ make-up skills. A Celebration Event was held on 18th September on the SS Nomadic where the participants were presented with their certificates.

Interfaces Programme (037807)

2.5 The project requested additional time for delivery of activity to 31st October 2014 to allow for completion of public artworks complementary to the Environmental Improvement schemes

Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014

delivered over the quarter. Agreement to further extend project activity on the Programme to 31st October 2014 was granted by SEUPB on 10th October. The extension was required due to a number of factors outside the direct control of Belfast City Council and has allowed for completion of the public artwork elements.

- 2.6 Environmental Improvement Schemes have now been completed along with the development public artworks at Townsend Street; Roden Street, Flax Street, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagain and White City. SEUPB has approved a final wrap up claim relating to expenditure on the installation of artworks to be submitted by 7th November. In consultation with local communities and statutory partners and other funders, appropriate communications and publicity activities will be undertaken to highlight the work undertaken.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

- 3.1 The April 2014 claim of approximately £483,000 has been verified by SEUPB. 0.35% of the claim was deemed ineligible resulting from procurement penalties and non-attendance at project events. Remittance was received from SEUPB on 7th October, 2014.
- 3.2 The July 2014 claim of approximately £138,000 has been verified by SEUPB and all expenditure has been deemed eligible, with remittances having been received on 28th October, 2014.
- 3.3 The last major claim for project expenditure was submitted on 30th October for approximately £361,000. This claim will be inspected by SEUPB in November/ December.
- 3.4 SEUPB has informed the PEACE III Programme Manager that the Department of Finance and Personnel's Audit Authority will be conducting an Article 16 review on the Migrant and Minority Ethnic Project commencing 3rd November 2014.

- 3.5 Human Resources – n/a

- 3.6 Asset and Other Implications - n/a

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Partnership is requested to note the contents of this report.”

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014**

St. Patrick's Day Grants Scheme

The Partnership was advised that a call for applications for funding under the St. Patrick's Day Fund for activities taking place in 2015 had closed on 2nd July. The Good Relations Manager reported that, by that date, a total of sixty-nine applications had been received, requesting in total £56,695.00. The applications had been assessed, using pre-agreed criteria, by Good Relations Officers, following which a sample of submissions had been reviewed by an independent panel, comprising the Good Relations Manager and three officers from outside the Good Relations Unit. As a result, sixty-one submissions had been recommended for funding, totalling £27,154.00. She pointed out that 75% of the expenditure would be recouped from the Office of the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister under the District Councils' Good Relations Programme.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Partnership agree that funding of £27,154.00 be awarded under the delegated authority of the Interim Strategic Director of Health and Environmental Services to the following organisations:

No.	Organisation	Amount Recommended
1	East Belfast Historical and Cultural Society	£670.00
2	St John Vianney Youth Centre	£750.00
3	Willowfield Parish Community Association	£700.00
4	Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	£500.00
5	Inverary Community Centre Committee	£535.00
6	Walkway Community Association	£500.00
7	Lagan Village Youth & Community Group	£550.00
8	Ligoniel Improvement Association	£500.00
9	Whitecity Community Development Association	£461.00
10	An Droichead	£520.00
11	Avoniel Over 50's Club	£530.00
12	The HUBB Community Resource Centre	£585.00
13	The Tuesday Club	£650.00
14	Lower Shankill Community Association	£551.00
15	Southcity Resource and Development Centre	£635.00
16	Markets Development Association	£585.00
17	Ballymacarrett Arts & Cultural Society	£500.00
18	Belles of Belmont Ladies	£440.00
19	Donegall Pass Community Forum	£535.00
20	Short Strand Women's Group	£520.00
21	St James Forum	£520.00
22	Whitecity Over 50's Group	£280.00
23	Young at Heart Seniors Group	£583.00
24	Chinese Welfare Association	£520.00
25	Silver Threads	£494.00
26	Short Strand Community Forum	£450.00
27	Lower Andersonstown Mothers Support Group	£340.00

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014**

28	Midland Senior Citizens Club	£360.00
29	Wheelworks	£515.00
30	Féile an Phobail	£500.00
31	Brookvale Seniors Group	£550.00
32	Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum	£400.00
33	Hannahstown Heritage and Cultural Society	£530.00
34	Manor Street/Cliftonville Community Group	£535.00
35	West 50+ Forum	£400.00
36	Glencolin Residents Association	£450.00
37	Russian Speaking Community NI	£480.00
38	City Church, Belfast	£330.00
39	Inner East Youth	£455.00
40	St. Oliver Plunkett Parish	£455.00
41	Knocknagoney Community Centre Management Committee	£390.00
42	Parkgate Community Association	£260.00
43	Patch Group	£220.00
44	Ballysillan Community Forum	£400.00
45	Clarawood Community Association	£485.00
46	Glen Community Parent Youth Group	£425.00
47	Indian Senior Citizens Club	£540.00
48	Harbour Lights Senior Women's	£360.00
49	Divis Tower Gardening Association	£400.00
50	Royal Scottish Country Dance Society- Belfast Branch	£250.00
51	Friends of Chestnut Grove	£318.00
52	Belfast Branch NI Retired Police Officers Association	£260.00
53	Concerned Residents of Upper Ardoyne	£325.00
54	Norman Whiteside Sports Facility	£325.00
55	Royal Irish Rangers	£286.00
56	Colin Glen Trust	£300.00
57	Cregagh Wanderers	£325.00
58	Sandy Row Residents Association	£260.00
59	The Link Community Association	£150.00
60	174 Older People's Group	£234.00
61	Ligoniel Family Centre	£277.00

£27,154.00

The Partnership adopted the recommendation.

Bonfire Management Programme 2014

The Programme Manager submitted for the Partnership's consideration a report providing an update on the Council's Bonfire Management Programme for 2014. He informed the members that, of the forty-six groups which had participated in this year's Programme, thirty-three had either received their final payment or would receive it in the near future and seven were in the process of having their documentation verified in readiness for payment. The remaining six groups had, in line with the Partnership's decision of 13th October, had their final payment withheld, on the grounds that they had failed to use best endeavours to comply with the criteria governing the Programme.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014**

He pointed out that the total cost of delivering this year's Programme had been £131,521, £25,000 of which had been allocated directly by the Council as part of its contribution to the Good Relations Action Plan.

He reminded the Partnership that, at its meeting on 11th August, it had agreed that, in relation to this year's bonfires, information be sought from the relevant agencies on the number of assaults, incidences of hate crime, theft of materials, damage to roads and properties, their impact upon service delivery, including healthcare, and on air quality.

In terms of information which had been obtained, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service had confirmed that crews had attended twenty-four and four bonfires over the July and August bonfire periods, respectively. In addition, the estimated costs incurred to date by the Council and other agencies around the removal of tyres and other materials from bonfire sites and in clearing up following bonfires had amounted to £48,893. That figure related to bonfires which had taken place in July and August, including those which were outside the Council's Bonfire Management Programme. He added that officers would continue to liaise with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Transport NI, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service/Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the Council's Environmental Protection Unit, with a view to obtaining, where available, the information which had been sought by the Partnership.

The Programme Manager explained that an exercise was underway currently to appoint a consultant to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the 2014 Bonfire Management Programme. It was envisaged that the process, which would include consultation with the Good Relations Partnership, would be completed by mid-January, following which a report setting out a range of potential options for the delivery of next year's initiative would be submitted to the Partnership for its consideration. In addition, officers would be working with their counterparts in Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council regarding those bonfire sites which would in 2015 be situated within the Council's boundary.

During discussion, the point was made that the Bonfire Management Programme had improved significantly over the years in terms of, for example, the burning of tyres, and that communities benefitted particularly from the educational programme which had been delivered as part of the initiative. However, the Partnership recognised, amongst other things, that greater community consultation was required around the current and future Programme.

After further discussion, the Partnership noted the information which had been provided and commended those officers who had contributed to the success of this year's Programme.

Good Relations Priorities and Action Plan 2015/2016

The Partnership was reminded that, at its meeting on 13th October, it had agreed, in view of the potential implications arising from the implementation of Local Government Reform, that consideration be given to the future role and direction of the Partnership.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014**

The Good Relations Manager explained that the imminent introduction of Local Government Reform and of the PEACE IV Programme offered an opportunity for the Partnership to explore issues of relevance to the good relations agenda and how those could be prioritised. She suggested that, as part of that exercise, the Partnership could identify key good relations priorities for inclusion within the Council's Good Relations Action Plan for 2015/2016. The Plan was developed annually under the framework of the Together: Building a United Community Strategy and addressed four priority themes, namely, Our Children and Young People, Our Shared Community, Our Safe Community and Our Cultural Expression.

She reminded the Partnership that an independent audit which had been undertaken in 2013 by Blueprint consultants had identified a number of key issues around, for example, the enhancement of intervention work and the need for political and community leadership and to develop the ethnic diversity of the City. She suggested that it would be beneficial to consider those issues as part of the process around the formulation of this year's Good Relations Action Plan. She added that discussions were taking place with officers in Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council in relation to the future delivery of the good relations agenda in those areas which would, under Local Government Reform, be transferring to Belfast.

During discussion, the Partnership highlighted the need to ensure that good relations and equality were embedded within all aspects of the Council's future work and made a number of suggestions for inclusion in next year's Good Relations Action Plan. Those included the need for collaborative working with organisations such as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and to make reference to the unacceptability of intolerance in any form. It was suggested that a workshop take place in order to facilitate detailed discussion around the future role of the Partnership and to inform the content of the Good Relations Action Plan for 2015/2016.

The Partnership approved the hosting of the workshop.

Good Relations Grant-Aid Fund/Summer Intervention Fund

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that it was anticipated that the next call for applications under the above-mentioned Funds, relating to activities being delivered between April and September, 2015, would open later in November. Information would be forwarded to groups directing them to the relevant part of the Council's website and briefings would be delivered across the City, with a view to maximising applications to the Funds. She added that, given the reduction in budgets being experienced within the current financial year, any allocations would be made on the basis of sufficient funding being available.

Noted.

Irish Churches Peace Project

The Partnership agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation from the Director of the Irish Churches Peace Project on the work of that organisation.

**Good Relations Partnership,
Monday, 10th November, 2014**

Decade of Centenaries Programme

The Partnership noted that the first event in this year's Decade of Centenaries Programme, namely, 'An Unlikely Union', which would mark the lives of Winifred Carney, a Suffragist and member of Cumann na mBan and the Irish Citizens Army, and George McBride, a Trades Unionist who had fought with the Ulster Volunteers in World War I, would take place in the City Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th November.

Chairman



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
Subject:	Naming of Streets
Date:	21 st November, 2014
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Martin, Head of Service Ext 2450
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager Ext 2435

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

2	Key Issues						
2.1	<p>To consider the following application for the naming of an existing but un-named street in the City.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Proposed Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Applicant</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bells Theorem Crescent Or Bells Theorem Way</td> <td>Off Queens Road, BT3</td> <td>Mr Michael Graham Titanic Quarter Ltd</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to either of the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council's Streets Register and do not duplicate existing approved street names in the City.</p> <p>The applicant has advised that the reason for the proposed names is to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of Bell's Theorem by Belfast man John Bell who was a former student of what is now Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC). The applicant is satisfied that either version of the names contained within the application is approved</p>	Proposed Name	Location	Applicant	Bells Theorem Crescent Or Bells Theorem Way	Off Queens Road, BT3	Mr Michael Graham Titanic Quarter Ltd
Proposed Name	Location	Applicant					
Bells Theorem Crescent Or Bells Theorem Way	Off Queens Road, BT3	Mr Michael Graham Titanic Quarter Ltd					

--	--

3	Resource Implications
3.1	There are no Financial, Human Resources or Assets and other Implications in this report.

4	Equality Implications
4.1	There are no direct Equality implications.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant either name on the application, or • Refuse the names on the application and request the applicant to submit another name for consideration.

6	Decision Tracking
<p>If the decision is to refuse an application, then a letter will be sent to the applicant within 5 days of the Council decision, requesting that they submit an alternative name.</p> <p>If the decision is to grant an application, then the applicant and all relevant organizations are advised within 14 days of the Council decision.</p> <p>The person responsible for the actions above is Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control</p>	