

Document Pack

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**TO; THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast on Tuesday, 1st April, 2014 at 6.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Reading of Scriptures
2. Chief Executive to submit Summons convening the Meeting
3. Apologies
4. To take as read and confirm the minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council of 3rd March (Pages 3 - 8)
5. To receive official announcements and memorials, if any.
6. To receive and adopt the minutes of the proceedings of the Committees as follows:
7. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st March (Pages 9 - 122)
 - a) Amendment to Standing Orders

Pursuant to Standing Order 71, to confirm the amendment to Standing Order 55, as agreed at the monthly meeting of the Council on 3rd March, relating to the Effective Management of Agency Workers, to provide that the employment of an agency worker related to an officer or servant of the Council be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
8. Parks and Leisure Committee of 13th March (Pages 123 - 150)
9. Development Committee of 18th March (Pages 151 - 178)
10. Health and Environmental Services Committee of 5th March (Pages 179 - 210)
 - a) Amendments to Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation Orders (Northern Ireland) 2013

To pass a resolution in relation to the Council's Alleygating Scheme to amend the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (East Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 and the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013, to be effective from 1st April, 2014, prohibiting the use by vehicles and pedestrians of those streets in East and South Belfast as set out within the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 5th March, 2014

11. Licensing Committee of 19th March (Pages 211 - 232)
12. Town Planning Committee of 6th March (Pages 233 - 244)
13. Town Planning Committee of 20th March (Pages 245 - 248)
14. Notices of Motion
 - a) Pope Francis (Pages 249 - 250)
 - b) Mr. James Ellis (Pages 251 - 252)
 - c) City Planning (Pages 253 - 254)
 - d) Irish Rugby Squad (Pages 255 - 256)

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

PETER McNANEY

Chief Executive

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd March, 2014
at the hour of 6.00 p.m., pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor
(Councillor Ó Muilleoir) (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman Stalford);
the High Sheriff (Councillor L. Patterson);
Aldermen Browne, M. Campbell, McCoubrey,
R. Patterson, Robinson, Rodgers and Stoker;
Councillors Attwood, Austin, Beattie,
M. E. Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Convery,
Corr, Cunningham, Curran, Garrett, Groves,
Haire, Hanna, Hargey, Hendron, Hussey,
Hutchinson, Jones, Keenan, Kelly, Kennedy,
Kingston, Kyle, Mac Giolla Mhín, Magee, Mallon,
McCabe, McCarthy, McKee, McNamee, McVeigh,
Mullan, A. Newton, Ó Donnghaile, L. Patterson,
Reynolds, Thompson, Verner and Webb.

Reading of Scriptures

In accordance with Standing Order 9, the Lord Mayor read a passage from the Scriptures.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apology

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman Ekin.

Minutes

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor,
Seconded by Alderman Robinson and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 3rd February be taken as read and signed as correct.

Change of Membership on Committees

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from:

- Sinn Féin indicating that it wished Councillor M. E. Campbell to replace Councillor McCabe on the Strategic Policy and

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Resources Committee with Councillor McCabe replacing Councillor M. E. Campbell on the Town Planning Committee; and

- the Democratic Unionist Party advising that it wished Alderman Patterson to replace Councillor Spence on the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The Committee approved the aforementioned changes.

Disclosure of Family Relationship

The Chief Executive informed the Council that, in accordance with Section 30 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, he had been advised by Councillor Hargey that her sister had been appointed to the post of Young People Co-ordinator within the Development Department.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Alderman Robinson,
Seconded by Alderman Stoker,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 7th and 21st February be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Leisure Transformation Programme

Moved by Councillor McVeigh,
Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st February under the heading "Leisure Transformation Programme" be amended to provide that the Council agrees also to set aside a sum of £10,000 to assist the Trades Unions to explore and work up an in-house model alongside the Council exploring the non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO).

On a vote by show of hands twenty-three Members voted for the amendment and twenty-five against and it was declared lost.

Amendment

Moved by Alderman Robinson,
Seconded by Alderman Stoker and

Resolved – That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st February under the heading "Leisure Transformation

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Programme” be amended to provide that the Council agrees also to set aside a sum of £10,000 to assist the Trades Unions to explore and work up an in-house model alongside the Council exploring the non-profit distributing organisation (NPDO), *with that work to be carried out within a six week period.*

Amendment

Capital Programme – Memorabilia Project

Moved by Councillor Kennedy,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 21st February under the heading “Capital Programme – Memorabilia Project” be amended to provide that a report providing a broad outline of the costs and the indicative budget for Stage 2 of the Memorabilia Project be not submitted to the Committee at this stage.

On a vote by show of hands twenty-one Members voted for the amendment and twenty-six against and it was declared lost.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment in relation to the Leisure Transformation Programme, the minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 7th and 21st February were approved and adopted.

Parks and Leisure Committee

Moved by Councillor McKee,
Seconded by Councillor Convery and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 13th February be approved and adopted.

Arising from discussion on the minute under the heading “Loughside Sports Educational Village”, the Chairman, on behalf of the Council, agreed that Seaview Enterprises be requested to establish formal mechanisms in order to undertake community consultations in respect of its proposals for the development of the facility at Loughside.

Development Committee

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 30th January and 18th February be approved and adopted.

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Health and Environmental Services Committee

Moved by Councillor Corr,
Seconded by Councillor Hendron and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 5th February be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor M. E. Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor Ó Donnghaile and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 19th February, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Town Planning Committee

Moved by Alderman M. Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor Hendron and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 6th and 20th February, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Stained Glass Window

In accordance with notice on the Agenda, Councillor McCarthy proposed:

“This Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City Hall to commemorate the sons of our City who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Webb.

In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

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**Centenary of the Death of
Robert James McMordie**

In accordance with notice on the Agenda, Councillor Kingston proposed:

“This Council notes that this month marks the centenary of the death of Robert James McMordie, Lord Mayor of Belfast 1910 – 1914, Freeman of the City, MP for East Belfast in the fifth year of his Mayoralty, which encompassed significant historic events, including the signing of Ulster’s Solemn League and Covenant and the formation of the Young Citizen Volunteers of Ireland and the Ulster Volunteers, whose statue, funded by public subscription, stands in the grounds of the City Hall and whose widow, Julia McMordie, subsequently entered politics and was elected as a Councillor, MP and the first female High Sheriff of Belfast, and agrees that this centenary be marked with a commemorative event in the City Hall.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Haire.

In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Alderman Stalford, in the Chair.)

Mr. David Jeffrey

In accordance with notice on the Agenda, Alderman Patterson proposed:

“This Council wishes to give recognition to the significant contribution made to Irish League Football by Mr. David Jeffrey, in particular his remarkable achievement of winning, to date, 30 trophies over 17 years as Team Manager of Linfield Football Club, including a clean-sweep of domestic trophies in 2005-2006, six league and cup doubles in seven years and a Setanta Sports Cup, as well as the contribution made through his character and his enthusiasm for Irish League football.”

(The Lord Mayor, Councillor Ó Muilleoir, in the Chair.)

The motion was seconded by Alderman Rodgers.

In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Motion was referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Lord Mayor
Chairman

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Friday, 21st March, 2014

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Robinson (Chairman);
Aldermen Browne, Campbell and Patterson;
Councillors Attwood, Carson, Clarke, Corr,
Haire, Hargey, Hendron, Jones, Kennedy,
M. E. Campbell, McCarthy, Mac Giolla Mhín,
McVeigh, Mullan, Newton and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. P. McNaney, Chief Executive;
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mrs. J. Minne, Assistant Chief Executive/
Head of Human Resources;
Mrs. S. Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental
Services;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were declared:

- Councillor Hargey in relation to Item 8a Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership – Good Relations Grants and Summer Intervention Fund in so far as she was employed by the Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership;
- Councillor Mullan, Item 2b Capital Programme Update
- Alderman Robinson, Items 2c and 9g in that he was Special Advisor in the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Investment Programme

Area Working Update – Including the Belfast Investment Fund and the Local Investment Fund

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Members are aware that since their inception the AWGs have played an integral role in recommending investment decisions in terms of LIF and Local Interventions to the SP&R Committee. It was also previously agreed at SP&R in November 2012 that the AWGs would play a central part in recommending decisions related to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) given their knowledge of local areas and to date 19 of these have been recommended to progress to Stage 1 - Feasibility. However the final decisions on what projects to invest in under BIF lies with the SP&R Committee.

2.0 Current status – BIF projects

2.1 Members are aware that BIF was established to enable the Council to take a lead role and work in partnership to deliver key investment projects across the city. An overview of the objectives of BIF has been circulated. Members have previously agreed an approval process for all BIF projects. This process reflects the Stage Approval process that SP&R has previously agreed that all Council capital projects must go through whereby decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R Committee in its role as the Council's investment decision maker. The first stage of this process is the development of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) which will test the four abilities of the projects – that is, feasibility, deliverability, affordability, sustainability.

2.2 Members will recall that they received a detailed report on area working at their meeting last month where it was highlighted that it is key that investment decisions on projects are not taken in isolation and it is important the links and inter-dependencies between projects and different funding streams are taken into consideration. This is particularly important in the case for BIF projects which Members are subject to securing match funding of at least 50% from other sources. Members will appreciate that the investment context is changing as under LGR the Council will become the regeneration authority for the city with a transferring regeneration budget. As a result of LGR Members will be aware that DSD funding will cease to exist in just over a year's time and this will have an impact on the potential match funding requirement. There are a number of projects where DSD are identified as a potential funder and where funding has in principle been profiled however DSD require a commitment to progress these projects in order to ensure that this funding is not lost – this is particularly

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relevant to projects which are in an advanced state of readiness.

- 2.3** Last month the SP&R Committee agreed to prioritise a number of BIF projects in the short-term due to their state of readiness, potential funding being available etc. A number of these projects have now completed their SOC's and Committee is asked to consider if they wish to move them onto the next stage and the completion of an Outline Business Case (OBC). The key components of an OBC have been circulated. It is also recommended that due to the levels of investment under BIF that projects are subject to an independent economic appraisal or if an EA has already been carried out that the Council tests this.
- 2.4** Members are asked to note that the projects listed below are being recommended for progression at this stage because they are more advanced than other BIF projects and they have a source of match funding either in place and/have 'in-principle' funding commitments or are have been prioritised for funding under other funding streams.

Project	Project overview	Overall Cost	BIF funding sought	Match funding
Stranmillis Gateway (part of the Lagan Corridor project)	The Stranmillis Gateway project proposes a number of structural improvements and development works at Stranmillis including the development of a cascade weir, a lock, an iconic footbridge, a commercial facility and high quality landscaping with associated paths which will see the development of a gateway for the Lagan and the Lagan Valley Regional Park.	£3.5m	£1.75m	Ulster Garden Villages DSD (in principle letter of commitment received)
St. Comgall's	The development of a major flagship urban regeneration project on the site of the old St Comgall's school, converting a former	£7m	£3.5m	SIF – not yet approved. EA is currently with economists for review

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Project	Project overview	Overall Cost	BIF funding sought	Match funding
	school, now B2 listed building to provide a community and economic project for the benefit of Belfast. Proposed facilities include a Peace & Reconciliation interpretative centre , housing a series of exhibitions, interactive displays, archives and support services as well as a performing arts area, café and coffee shop, crèche area and a number of office units.			
St. Mary's CBS – Pitch development	Development of a community/school sports training facility including a 3G Pitch with changing pavilion, community gym and training room	£1.4m	£600k	DSD St. Mary's

2.5 Stranmillis Gateway – Members are asked to note that this is part of the wider Lagan Corridor project. The Stranmillis Gateway will become the Council's asset in the longer term as part of the LGR. This project is also closely linked with and will complement a number of other key projects along the Lagan which will help reanimate and develop the wider river frontage including the Mary Peter's Track, the Mountain Bike Trail and the John Luke Bridge which the Council has recently invested in and is close to both the Lockkeepers Cottage and Barge and which will transfer to the Council from Castlereagh under LGR. Ulster Garden Villages have committed £1m to this project and DSD have indicated their willingness to support this project if it is progressed now. It is recommended that an Economic Appraisal is commissioned in relation to this project.

2.6 St. Comgall's – Members are asked to note that the St. Comgall's project has been prioritised as a project for SIF funding under the Belfast West zone. As this project was over £1million, it has been the subject of a full green book economic appraisal by DFP. As outlined in the SIF report which is also on the agenda for discussion today, the EA is

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currently with the economists for review and the project has not yet been approved. It is recommended that instead of commissioning another economic appraisal that the Council test the validity of the EA which has already been carried out. It is also recommended that the Council work with St. Comgall's and OFMDFM to produce a detailed business plan for the facility. It is anticipated that the Council will become the delivery agent for this project if it receives funding. This project is also linked with the Belfast Rapid Transit project.

- 2.7 St. Mary's CBS Pitch Development – DSD are currently in the final stages of completing an Economic Appraisal on this project. Planning permission is already in place and the school has funding of its own to contribute to the project. Members are asked to note that an integral part of this project will be ensuring that there is secured community access to the facility to ensure it is available to local residents. This will be more closely examined if the project is progressed to the next stage together with looking at the wider benefits of the project and the management/governance arrangements.
- 2.8 Members are asked to agree if they wish to move the projects as outlined above to the next stage (Stage 2) and the development of outline business cases. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute a decision to invest in a project and that further detail on these will be brought back to Committee in due course to inform a final investment decision. Any costs associated with the development of OBCs will come from the Feasibility Fund.
- 2.9 Members are asked to note that officers will continue to work with groups to progress the development of the remaining BIF projects to help bring these up to a state of readiness where Members can take informed investment decisions to a later stage.
- 3.0 Area Working Group Updates including LIF and Local Interventions
- 3.1 At the most recent round of AWGs, officers updated Members on the external meetings they have facilitated on the LIF proposals. In accordance with Council procedures, individual Members declared any conflicts of interest and this was noted in the minutes of the AWG. Members also had the opportunity to discuss potential reallocations of LIF monies for projects which are no longer progressing. On the basis of the information presented, the Shankill and North

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AWGs have made the following recommendations for the consideration of the Committee:

SHANKILL AWG - *Local Investment Fund*

- 3.2** The Shankill AWG has made the following recommendation for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their Local Investment Fund money. Members are asked to note that this contribution is a reallocation from :

Project	Ref No.	Up to £	AWG Comments
Springfield Star Blackmountain Highfield/Springmartin pitch	ShLIF009	An additional £10,000	Members are asked to note that this is in addition to the £150,000 which was previously awarded to this project.

NORTH AWG - *Local Investment Fund*

- 3.3** The North AWG has made the recommendations below for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in relation to their Local Investment Fund money. This is from reallocations from projects which are no longer progressing. A number of further projects are under consideration.

Project	Ref No.	Up to £	AWG Comments
Oh Yeah	NLIF058	£47,000	
Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club	NLIF057	£66,000	

NORTH AWG - *Local Investment Fund*

- 3.4** Members will recall that the North AWG agreed in October 2013 to focus their intervention monies on a series of community safety focused initiatives including the installation of alleygates. Subsequently the North AWG has made the following recommendations for the consideration of the SP&R Committee in terms of a number of targeted interventions. Members are asked to note that this is out of the original budget allocation of £100,000

NORTH AWG recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £7,500 towards a study for the Cavehill/Antrim Road - £1,400 to Benview Community Group to address anti-social behaviour in Ballysillan Park

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- £700 to Midland Boxing Club to support a Department of Justice project
- £700 to Basement Youth Club to support a diversionary project
- £1,000 to the Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre for a youth intervention program

Local Investment Fund

3.5 Members are asked to note that the Local Investment Fund received the award for the '*Best Initiative by Councillors*' at the recent NILGA Awards at the end of March. This recognised the role of Councillors in directing investment towards smaller scale local projects which have helped to transform and regenerate neighbourhoods.

4.0 **Equality Implications**

Emerging equality implications to be considered as further details emerge of projects

5.0 **Recommendations**

Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and -

Belfast Investment Fund

- agree if the suggested BIF projects as outlined in 2.4 above (Stanmillis Gateway; St. Comgall's and St. Mary's CBS) are progressed to the next stage and completion of an Outline Business Case due to their state of readiness and potential of match funding. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute a final decision to invest in any BIF project and that further detail on these projects will be brought back to Committee in due course for Members to make the final investment decision
- note that officers are continuing to work with groups to progress the development of the remaining BIF projects to help bring these up to a state of readiness where Members can take informed investment decisions

Local Investment Fund and Local Intervention monies

- agree the Local Investment Fund and Local Intervention recommendations as proposed by the North and Shankill AWGs

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- note the Local Investment Fund was awarded the ‘Best Initiative by Councillors’ at the recent NILGA Awards “

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Capital Programme – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 The Council’s Capital Programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report provides –

- proposed recommendations for movement between the Capital Programme stages
- specific project updates on the Public Bike Share Scheme and Phase 1 of the Leisure Transformation Programme (Olympia and Andersonstown regenerations)

2.0 Relevant Background Information

Capital Programme

2.1 Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Importantly it will also enable Members to focus on delivering the projects which can have maximum benefits and investment return for the city and local areas.

KEY ISSUES

Proposed movements from ‘Stage 2 – Uncommitted’ to ‘Stage 3 – Committed’

2.2 Members are asked to consider if they wish to progress the project as outlined in Table 1 below from ‘Stage 2- Uncommitted’ to ‘Stage 3- Committed under the Capital Programme.

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Project	Project overview	Proposed Stage	Estimated Gross Cost	Estimated Net cost
City Hall works	The development of dedicated exhibition space on the ground floor East wing of the City Hall	Stage 3- Tier 0 (schemes at risk)	Up to a max of £1,300,000	Up to a max of £1,300,000

City Hall Works

- 2.3 Members will be aware an EQIA on Memorabilia in the City Hall was carried out in 2012 with the outcomes reported to Committee in Nov 12. The report set out 14 recommendations in relation to promoting a good and harmonious environment in the City Hall. Following this, an independent consultant was commissioned to undertake work in relation to the next steps for displays, the findings of which were presented to the Joint Diversity Group in March 13. The Joint Diversity Group subsequently requested that the displays & memorabilia element be referred to the SP&R Committee as an Emerging Project as part of the overall City Hall project and that a composite SOC for all elements of the City Hall works be developed. This was agreed by the SP&R Committee in Sept 2013.**
- 2.4 The outcome of the Stage 1 SOC was reported back to Committee last month and Members agreed to advance the City Hall Works project from a ‘Stage 1 – Emerging project’ to ‘Stage 2 – Uncommitted’. It was agreed at this time that further detail on the costs would be brought back to Committee in March. As part of the development for the SOC, the Council commissioned independent consultants to look at the creation of a memorabilia led visitor exhibition within the East Wing. A high level plan and designs were produced as part of this. The findings from this were presented to the Joint Diversity Group on 31st January and Party Group briefings were subsequently held w/c 3rd February.**
- 2.5 Further work has now been carried out on the costs for this project which has estimated the cost at nearly £1.6million. These costs are based upon dividing the ground floor of the East side of the City Hall into a number of zones as previously highlighted to Members during the Party Group briefings and at the Joint Diversity Group. For each zone there are a number of internal building works (painting, electrical, joinery etc required) together with costs for refurbishment and fit-out of the rooms/zones including signage, graphics and IT equipment. A breakdown of the zones and the estimated costs is attached at Appendix A. Members are asked to note however that these costs could be significantly reduced as the internal building works can be carried out by the Council’s Property Maintenance Unit.**

2.6 In reviewing these costs, Members are also asked to consider a number of issues which are outlined below which have an overall impact on this project. Members are therefore asked to recognise that the costs cited are notional and that they will be more robustly challenged at the tender preparation stage and will be reviewed as the project progresses.

- **Content** - Members are asked to note that these are still indicative uses/names for the zones only and that this does not constitute agreement on the final content for each of the zones. It is acknowledged that issues around the content are very sensitive and will require time to develop and agree. All discussions around this will be brought forward via the Joint Diversity Group and will be taken in the context of the recommendations from the EQIA and the subsequently agreed guidelines around the City Hall memorabilia -
 - *Represent*: to represent all the people of Belfast through the prism of the City Hall and its history
 - *Re-present*: to ensure that all the interpretation presented to visitors within City Hall is balanced and inclusive
 - *Reach Out*: to attract new visitors to City Hall, and to re-engage and enthuse existing ones
 - *Re-vitalise*: to take the best of what is currently offered to visitors to City Hall and enhance the overall visitor experience.

Members are asked to note that the estimated budget contains costs for IT equipment, graphics, signage etc. for each zone. These are based upon best practice for equipment etc in similar sized zones/spaces elsewhere. The costs and numbers of IT/audio-visual equipment have been benchmarked against recent technology led-projects including the Welcome Centre

- **City Hall – Usage and accommodation** - Members are also asked to note that this project has a number of major inter-dependencies with other ongoing strategic initiatives including –
 - *Local Government Reform* – increase in the number of Elected Members from 51 to 60 which may impact the number and size of party groups. This may necessitate further space for party rooms within the City Hall which will have

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to be looked at within the context of the emerging proposals. The Council is also assuming increased roles and responsibilities through the transfer of functions and there will be associated governance and organisational structural changes

- *Council accommodation* – a number of the proposed zones in the East Wing are currently used as office accommodation. Members agreed last month that work is progressed on securing a new building and this is currently a Stage 3 project on the Capital Programme
- *Overall use of the City Hall* i.e. should it become more customer facing with a ‘*One Stop Shop*’ approach to all services

Members are asked to note that any in decisions in relation to the East Wing also need to be taken in the context of the City Hall’s Grade ‘A’ listed status and resultant statutory obligations.

- 2.7 As there are a number of factors that may continue to influence the final cost of this project, the Director of Finance & Resources has recommended that a maximum of £1,300,000 be allocated to this project and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. This has been reduced from the *£1.6million notional costs* due to the fact that many of the internal building works can be carried out in-house by the Property Maintenance Team which significantly reduces project costs. It is also recommended that approval is given to engage independent consultants to help further develop proposals around the presentation of items and facilitate the discussions around content at the same time as giving consideration to the physical environment – the costs for the consultant will be met out of the £1.3m budget allocation. Setting a maximum budget will help to give the appointed consultants a parameter within which to work, will help to control the costs and prevent project creep and therefore eliminate the possibility of costs escalating. Importantly, it will also enable the Council to fulfil its equality obligations under Section 75 and implement the recommendations arising from the EQIA report, as agreed by SP&R Committee in November 2012 and ratified by the Council at its meeting in December 2012.
- 2.8 Given all of the above, it is recommended that this project is moved to ‘Stage 3 – Tier 0 (Schemes at risk)’. This will allow designs and specifications to be fully worked up whilst still allowing time for the outcome and impact of LGR to become

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clear and allowing time for more detailed discussions around the content to further inform the designs. Members are asked to note that if this is progressed to 'Stage 3 – Tier 0' that further updates will be provided to Committee as the project progresses including a detailed project plan and that NO construction contracts will be let until all outstanding issues have been resolved. Members are therefore asked to agree if they wish to progress this project to Stage 3 – Committed (Tier 0 – Schemes at risk).

3.0 Updates on capital projects

Public Bike Share Scheme

3.1 Phase 1 of the Public Bike Share scheme aims to create a network of 30 docking stations supporting 300 bikes with associated infrastructure in the city centre. It is anticipated that it will facilitate cheap and accessible transport, as well as benefits such as increased tourism, improved health, and reduced congestion. Bike share schemes have proved very popular in cities across the world including London, Dublin and New York.

3.2 Members agreed last month that an update on this project would be brought back to Committee this month following the outcome of the tender process. As background Members agreed in June 2013 to move the Public Bike Share Scheme from a 'Stage 2 – Uncommitted project' to a 'Stage 3 – Committed Project'. At this stage it was highlighted that external funding of £698,700 had been secured from DRD under the Active Travel Demonstration Projects for the capital costs for this project with all money to be spent by March 2015. However the Scheme was moved to 'Tier 0 – Schemes at risk' as the ongoing revenue implications for this scheme had not been agreed. This meant that the scheme could be advanced to tender stage but that no construction contracts would be let until all outstanding issues were satisfactorily resolved.

3.3 Since June 2013 officers have worked hard on progressing this project. An Invitation to Tender was advertised on the 4th November 2013 with the procurement was divided into two lots:

Lot 1 – Design, supply, maintain and operate the Public Bike Share Scheme and

Lot 2 – Sponsorship of the Public Bike Share Scheme

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The tender assessment is now complete for Lot 1 and a preferred bidder (who submitted the most economically advantageous tender) has been selected. Assessment of the Lot 2 tender for sponsorship is still ongoing. It was agreed that following completion of the procurement process a further report would be brought back to SP&R to inform the Investment Decision on the implementation of the scheme and to seek approval for the contract award.

Capital Costs

- 3.4 Members are asked to note that the submission from the preferred bidder for Lot 1 to Design, Build, Operate and Maintain indicates that the capital cost for Phase 1 will be **£1,140,000**. The current Council grant award is **£698,700** therefore there is a deficit of **£441,300**.
- 3.5 The original Council bid was based on an OBC commissioned by SIB which was completed in July 2011. The estimate for the capital costs at that time was based on comparison with available cost data and was not a precise specification. The differential in the original bid and the result of the procurement is in part due to the fact that the bike share market was relatively young at that time and definitive data on costs were not widely available. The Council recently engaged consultants to review the capital costs provided as part of the tender process against the capital and operating costs projections set out in the 2011 OBC. The findings of the review show that the capital cost proposed by the preferred bidder for the Belfast scheme falls within a range of costs identified for other cities and is lower on a 'per bike' basis than the cost of recent similar schemes, including the proposed expansion of Dublin bikes. The review concludes that the submission from the preferred bidder for the Belfast scheme represents value for money.
- 3.6 A supplementary application has been made to DRD for an increase in grant support to cover the additional capital cost for Phase 1. This will be dependent on the Council ensuring the project is implemented, expenditure incurred and the grant claimed by March 2015. Members are asked to note that DRD have verbally indicated their willingness to consider funding for the full capital costs however the Council will require confirmation of the additional funding in writing.

Revenue (Operating) Costs

- 3.7 Members are asked to note that most cities fund the operating costs of Bike Share Schemes from a number of sources

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including income from subscriptions/usage and income from sponsorship or advertising revenue. However most schemes do not meet their full operating cost through these alone and some form of public sector subsidy is usually required until the scheme is established. The Council will be liable for meeting these costs as the DRD funding is only for the capital costs of the scheme.

- 3.8 The preferred bidder outlined the costs for the operation and maintenance of the scheme in the form of an annual comprehensive management fee. They state that it will cost £422,780 to operate and maintain the scheme annually. The contract will be for 6 years (with an option to extend) so the total cost for the basic contract duration will be £2,536,680. This will be partly offset by the income through fees and sponsorship as outlined below

- Income through Usage fees - The scale of income generated will depend on the level of fee charged and the number of users who subscribe or use the service. An update to the OBC estimates an initial subscription registration rate of 4% of the city population* (approximately 13,356) could be achieved for the scheme based on a comparison with other cities who have introduced similar schemes. The level for the annual subscription fee has yet to be finalised, however the OBC estimates that an annual fee of £20 would generate annual revenue subscription income of £267,120. This would be supplemented by revenue generated from casual usage such as non-subscription users/ user charges over the free allowance / visitors for which the revised OBC estimates an annual income in the region of £66,000. The Active Travel funding bid stated that the public bike share subscription charges would be affordable to encourage accessibility and usage. A comparison of charges for bike share schemes elsewhere is included in Appendix B. The projected operational income variation based on the percentage subscription take up and based on a £20 fee is set out in Table 2 below.
- Income from sponsorship - The initial results of the ongoing procurement for Lot 2 suggest an income of £100,000 for annual sponsorship and exclusive naming rights of the scheme. However this bid is conditional and would limit the potential for additional income from other sources. If accepted the bid would result in a maximum of £300,000 over the proposed 3

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year sponsorship contract. The Council engaged a consultant to undertake communication activity associated with sponsorship of the scheme and carry out a review of the procurement process for Lot 2 sponsorship. The feedback concluded that the chosen procurement route whilst offering optimal levels of transparency, limited the potential for best communication of the benefit gained from being associated with the scheme to a prospective sponsor. The consultants highlighted that whilst companies were interested, they were unsure of the unique opportunity and the benefits of being linked to the naming rights /sponsorship of the Belfast Public Bike Share scheme. Recent market research from elsewhere indicates that the bid submitted has undervalued the potential naming rights of the Belfast scheme, when benchmarked against other similar scheme sponsorships and has various conditions which would not be beneficial to the Council in the long term. In addition, interest has been shown from a number of organisations for the naming rights of docking stations and there is also potential for advertising revenue from panels on the bike baskets which is common in other bike share schemes in Europe. The opportunity also exists for the Council to use the bikes to advertise their own services or campaigns and make savings on our advertising costs. It is recommended to extend the assessment period of the Lot 2 return to negotiate a change in conditions with the current bidder and investigate other potential interested parties.

Nett Annual Running cost – Impact on the Council

- 3.9 The nett annual running cost to the Council can be calculated using the operating cost minus the income generated from subscriptions and usage of the Bike Share Scheme and the potential naming rights/sponsorship or advertising income as outlined in 3.8 above. It should be noted that depending on outcome of negotiations for Lot 2, this contribution from sponsorship could potentially increase.

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	Income from subscriptions/ usage (@ £20pa)	Potential income from sponsorship/ advertising	Annual Running Cost	Deficit/ surplus per annum
Year 1	£266,340 (based on 3% uptake)	£100,000	£422,780	-£56,440
Year 2	£299,730 (based on 3.5% uptake)	£100,000	£422,780	-£23,050
Year 3	£333,120 (based on 4% uptake)	£100,000	£422,780	+£10,340
Years 4-6	£366,510 (based on 4.5% uptake)	£100,000	£422,780	+£43,730

* Population is based on the NISRA data for Belfast (LGD 2014) of 333,900

Lifetime costs of the Bike Share project		Deficit/ Surplus
The total operating cost over 6 years	£2,536,680	
The total income over 6 years operation	£2,598,720	+£62,040

3.10 Members are asked to note that the final revenue implications will not be known until after the outcome of Lot 2 and discussions around potential sponsorship are finalised however there is currently no provision for any recurring running costs associated with the operation and maintenance of the proposed Bike Share Scheme. This project, which delivers a range of potential benefits, extending from health and leisure to tourism and transportation, would need additional provision to be made within the future Council revenue budgets to support any deficit related to the operation and maintenance, although the projections indicate a deficit in years 1 and 2 with a surplus in following years. It is recommended that this revenue support is met centrally in recognition of the corporate nature of the initiative and the potential cross organisational benefits.

Phase 1 – Leisure Transformation Programme – Olympia and Andersonstown

3.11 Members will be recall that the SPR Committee, at its meeting in June, agreed a £105m capital expenditure affordability limit for the leisure transformation programme. This included £38m towards the Olympia and Andersonstown schemes under Phase 1.

Olympia Regeneration

3.12 The Olympia Regeneration proposal concerns land and assets that are currently owned and/or leased by three parties; the

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Council, Linfield FC and IFA, and is broken down into three phases:

- 1a: A new facility for leisure and community use, as part of the new stadium
- 1b: A new access boulevard plus two pitches and a play park to replace and re-orient existing facilities
- 2: Preparation of two sites on Boucher Road available for new commercial development

In June 2013 Members were made aware that there was a very tight timescale for the delivery of Olympia given the construction programme for the new Windsor stadium. Phase 1a is integral to this development because the project design involves sharing a new roof structure. In October 2013, approval was given to progress the Olympia project from Stage 2 to Stage 3 – Committed however it was highlighted that a number of outstanding issues remained to be resolved (as outlined below) and therefore it was moved to ‘Tier 0 – Scheme at risk’. This means the project can be advanced to the invitation of tenders however no construction contracts are to be let until letters of offer are received and/or other outstanding issues in relation to projects are satisfactorily resolved.

3.13 Members are asked to note that the Council has continued to work closely with DCAL, the IFA and Linfield in order to ensure successful development and delivery of the project in order to meet the tight programme timescale. An update on the outstanding issues is outlined below.

1. *Confirmation in writing from DCAL of its £2.75m contribution to the project* - Correspondence from DCAL in February 2014 confirms that their preferred option is for a Council led development at the new stadium. Several milestones are identified by DCAL that need to be met by 30 May 2014 to precipitate release of the £2.75m. This deadline allows IFA time to revise their project if agreement is not reached. DCAL plans to release a Funding Agreement in advance of this date for Council consideration. Members will be aware that there are no Committee meetings in May, so if the Council is to meet this deadline, a decision to proceed would be necessary now for ratification in April 2014. The majority of the pre-conditions closely reflect the conditions already placed on the project by Members, and include agreement with stakeholders on leasing, land and community benefits arrangements. One of DCAL’s other pre-conditions relates to planning

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permission for the leisure facility. The Council has submitted designs for Phase 1 to Planning Service for approval. Members are asked to note that in order for this condition to be met in time, it would require consideration by the Town Planning Committee in April 2014, and that this is dependent on a decision from Planning Service prior to this date.

2. *Detailed land agreements with Linfield FC being resolved* - Members are reminded that LFC is head landlord of the stadium where the Council proposes to lease a new facility, as well as land owners for Midgley Park which the Council proposes to relocate to allow for a new access boulevard. Heads of Agreement have been prepared in conjunction with Linfield FC based on a land swap between BCC and Linfield, provision of a 3G pitch to replace the existing pitch at Midgley Park, and a sum for LFC to provide a stand and changing facilities. The land swap involves the transfer of a portion of the Midgley Park site currently held by LFC to BCC and a simultaneous transfer of an area of BCC land to LFC. This swap will facilitate the realignment of both the Midgley Park site and the Council's new sport pitches and allow for the development of the central access boulevard. Officers have had the cost benefit analysis of this proposal independently verified and confirmed as fair and equitable by Land & Property Services (LPS). The Board of LFC met on 10 March and it has agreed to put the proposal before an EGM for LFC Members within two weeks to determine if they are in favour of the project.
3. *Maintenance and management agreements with Linfield being formally agreed* - The proposal stipulates that LFC will own and manage the pitch and associated car parking which replaces the existing Midgley Park facility. LFC would also be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the facility. As an additional step to maximise the impact of this investment once the project is up and running, LFC has agreed to develop a Sports Development Plan which would give consideration to non-footballing outcomes for the wider community.
4. *Subleases and licences with the IFA being agreed* -The new leisure facility is to be built adjacent to the west stand of the stadium and within the site curtilage held by IFA from Linfield. The land is to be subleased from

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IFA who, in turn, lease the stadium from Linfield FC. This will be at a nil rental, for a period of 25 years with an option to extend up to 50 years. The appropriate Heads of Agreement have been prepared in conjunction with IFA, and are now being developed further by Legal Services and the IFA's legal representatives. They remain subject to IFA Board ratification. The IFA Board is due to meet on 20th March 2014 and Members will be updated at Committee of the outcome of this meeting. In addition, the SP&R Committee previously agreed in principle (22nd June 2012) for an access for the stadium construction traffic to the side of Olympia Leisure Centre onto Boucher Road subject to terms being brought back to Committee. It is proposed that a construction licence is granted at nil cost, which will continue at nil cost if the new leisure centre development proceeds and the access is shared. In the event that the leisure centre proposal does not proceed, a licence fee of £30,000 per annum would become payable. Other terms including reinstatement will be agreed between the parties.

5. A mutually beneficial community benefits partnership with the IFA being agreed - A mutually beneficial community benefits partnership with the IFA being agreed – Over the last number of months, Council officers have been working with the IFA and DCAL to draft a partnership agreement to create the necessary conditions to deliver sustained city and community benefits. This is to ensure that the stadium, leisure facilities and public realm are shared, safe and welcoming spaces for all. It is proposed that both the Council and IFA would seek to reduce health inequalities in the city by encouraging and enabling more people to be more active, more often, whilst also contributing to government policy objectives, including the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure's mission statement *to promote equality, and to tackle poverty and social exclusion*. The proposed partnership agreement includes draft objectives and priority themes for action which are: community engagement, good relations and local outreach; health and participation; and economic and environmental regeneration. In the first 5 years, the practical outcome sought from the implementation of the agreement is to realise 25,000 participation opportunities in the Belfast area, including at least 2,500 in the immediate (1 mile) vicinity of the stadium. Some of these activities would include:

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- a) Annual programme of stadium and small-sided games area activities (sports, heritage, environmental and arts based activities e.g. midnight soccer, 'try-it' events, schools programmes) to encourage participation in sports
- b) Multi-sport initiatives with IRFU (Ulster Branch) and Ulster GAA including Game of 3 Halves; educational programmes; training events and workshops; and networking opportunities
- c) Youth programme focussed on inter-generational and inter-community relationship building with events on themes related to tolerance, heritage, community safety, contested space, volunteering and citizenship

Detailed scoping on activities and SMART targets will be undertaken in the first 3 months of the agreement, including consultation and engagement with the relevant stakeholders and local communities. The IFA is keen that the proposed partnership has a duration of 25 years, and the agreement itself would remain in effect for 10 years, followed by review in terms of programme delivery and contribution to costs. Subsequent reviews would be undertaken as necessary in five year cycles to coincide with the term of the lease. The IFA has written to the Council seeking a revenue contribution of up to £100k per annum over 10 years, for staff costs and programme costs. Council officers have indicated that this is an ambitious contribution to the partnership agreement and is dependent upon nil rental for leisure facility and match revenue contribution from IFA. Members are asked to determine a realistic financial contribution for the delivery of the community benefits partnership and authorise officers to develop and agree the appropriate delivery and partnership arrangements with the IFA, subject to legal advice. Members are asked to note the update in relation to community benefits with regard to Andersonstown at 3.16

Andersonstown Regeneration

- 3.14 The project at Andersonstown will provide new leisure facilities at the site of the existing Leisure Centre. It will also include regeneration of the wider site for uses such as recreation and commerce. Discussions are also ongoing with other key providers in the area including the health trust to maximise the overall use of site and provide a centre that delivers the best outcomes for the local area. Three proposed

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design schematics have been drawn up and a period of intensive public engagement is now underway, with drop-in sessions organised (see 4.1 below) in order to gain as much feedback as possible on the design for the centre, what should be included etc set within the context of the budget and delivery programme.

- 3.15 The West Area Working Group recently took part in a workshop on site issues such as planning, as well as a thorough exploration of comparative projects elsewhere. A number of key points were agreed including the need to ensure the full potential of the project is delivered while minimising the impact on residents where possible; that the new facility should have a frontage along the Andersonstown Road; the potential for a commercial element to the project and a desire for a family centre, retaining the community feel of the existing centre. As part of this it was agreed that a series of best practice visits by Members (up to 2 Members per party group) would be undertaken to leisure facilities elsewhere to help inform the design development. Options for site visits are being investigated and could include visits to similar centres in Northern Ireland (Magherafelt), the Republic of Ireland (Drogheda) and Scotland (Glasgow) or a combination of these.
- 3.16 Members are asked to note that the correspondence received from DCLA (Feb 2014) has highlighted that the Department is keen to explore further opportunities in and around the Casement Park site in conjunction with the Council but highlights that arrangements between DCAL and the Council with regard to the wider investment in community facilities around Casement Park will need to be similar to those progressed for Windsor. The pressing programme timeframe for Windsor required the Council to progress these discussions in advance however this will now be taken forward with DCAL and Members will be kept up to date in this regard.
- 3.17 Members are asked to note that the input received through the consultation process and any learning from best practice visits will be gathered and fed into the brief for the appointment of a design team in Spring 2014. Further engagement with Members and the public will then take place on the concept design in Summer 2014, with an indicative date for the new site opening in 2017.

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4.0 Capital Programmes – Communications and Events updates

4.1 Members are asked to note that a number of key events in relation to schemes under the Capital Programme are being held over the coming weeks. Further details on these are in Appendix C.

- *Girdwood Hub* – ‘Cutting the sod’ ceremony marking the start of construction of the Hub, to which all Members will be invited, is planned for Thursday 10th April.
- *Connswater Community Greenway/East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme* – Official opening of the Sam Thompson Bridge in Victoria Park is scheduled for Friday 4th April.
- *Andersonstown Regeneration* – 5 information sessions/ drop-in sessions being held between 20th March – 12th April in Andersonstown Leisure Centre, Kennedy Centre and at CastleCourt
- *Annadale New MUGA*–information session on Monday 31st March in the Ormeau Park Bowling Pavilion (Park Avenue entrance) from 1.00pm-7.00pm
- *Pitches Investment* – event planned to mark the investment in pitches (Pitches strategy and other pitches projects) provisionally scheduled for end of March however date to be confirmed. Members will be updated on this.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report and

Movements

- **City Hall Works** - agree if the proposed City Hall Works project is progressed from ‘Stage 2 – Uncommitted’ to ‘Stage 3 – Committed’ and agree that this projects is advanced to the invitation of tenders, to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver. It is proposed that this is moved to ‘Tier 0- Schemes at Risk’ as there are a number of outstanding issues to be resolved. Members are asked to note that the Director of Finance & Resources has recommended that up to £1.3million is the maximum amount available to this project given that some of the internal building works can be delivered in-house through the Property Maintenance Unit. It is also recommended that an

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independent consultant is engaged for this work. Members are asked to note that no construction contracts for this project will be let until all outstanding project issues have been resolved.

Project Updates

Public Bike Share Scheme

- agree to proceed to awarding the contract for Lot 1 of the Public Bike Share scheme, subject to the additional resources required for the capital construction being secured from DRD to allow the project to be implemented by March 2015**
- note the continuation of negotiations for the sponsorship with interested parties with a view to securing the optimal outcome and further approve the award of a sponsorship to the party(ies) who offer(s) the most economically advantageous sponsorship proposals**
- support the provision of revenue funding from central corporate budgets to meet the running cost deficits associated with the operation and maintenance of the Bike Share Scheme**

Phase 1 – Leisure Transformation Programme – Olympia and Andersonstown

Olympia Regeneration - Land and licence issues

- approve the Council entering into a leasing arrangement with IFA in respect of the site of the proposed leisure facility, on the basis of a 25 year lease (with an option on the part of the Council to extend on the same terms for a period(s) up to a further 25 years) at nil rent subject to detailed terms being agreed by Estates Management and Legal Services.**
- Approve any associated legal agreements as required in relation to access arrangements for the boulevard**
- approve the grant of a construction access licence to IFA or their contractor at nil cost, which will continue at nil cost if the leisure centre proceeds and the access is shared. In the event that the leisure centre proposal does not proceed, a licence fee of £30,000 per annum would become payable. Other terms including reinstatement will be agreed between the parties.**

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- approve the land swap between Council/Linfield whereby a portion of the Midgley Parks land will be transferred to BCC at nil cost and simultaneously an area of adjoining BCC land will be transferred to LFC at nil cost
- approve the provision by the Council of a 3G pitch and associated parking to replace the existing Midgley Park pitch and a sum of £250,000 to provide a stand and changing facilities
- any additional agreements as required between BCC, LFC and IFA to facilitate the construction and occupation of the leisure facility within the wider Olympia/Windsor Sports Village.

Olympia Regeneration and Andersonstown - Community benefit

- determine a realistic financial contribution for the delivery of the community benefits partnership and authorise officers to develop and agree the appropriate delivery and partnership arrangements with the IFA, subject to legal advice
- note that the correspondence received from DCAL has highlighted that the Department is keen to explore a range of opportunities in and around the Casement Park site but highlights that any wider investment in community facilities around Casement Park would need to be similar to those drawn up for Windsor. Members are asked to agree that officers progress discussions in relation to this with DCAL

Communication and Engagement – Capital Programme projects

- Note the events updates in relation to the ‘cutting the sod’ ceremony at Girdwood Hub and the official opening of the Sam Thompson Bridge as part of the Connswater Community Greenway and the details for the information/drop-in sessions for Andersonstown regeneration and the Annadale new MUGA

5.0 Decision Tracking

The Director of Property and Projects and the Director of Finance and Resources will oversee the implementation of the recommendations within this report.

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6.0 Equality

City Hall Works - it complies with the recommendations contained within the report entitled ***Equality Impact Assessment on Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment***.

Public Bike Share Scheme - Equality screening was carried out and there are no specific equality or good relations implications

Phase 1 – Leisure Transformation Programme - A high level EQIA is currently being prepared for the LTP. This will include capital investments and will be presented to SP&R in due course for its consideration.”

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Campbell,

That the Committee does not agree to progress the City Hall Works Project from Stage 2 – Uncommitted to Stage 3 – Committed in the Capital Programme.

On a vote by show of hands eight Members voted for the proposal and ten against and it was accordingly declared lost.

The Committee accordingly agreed that the City Hall Works Project be progressed to Stage 3 on the terms as set out in paragraph 5.1

The Committee adopted the remaining recommendations contained within the report, with the exception of that in relation to the Community benefit aspects of the Olympia Regeneration and Andersonstown Schemes to enable a deputation from the Committee to meet with representatives of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to discuss the matter further.

(Councillor Hargey in the Chair.)

Social Investment Fund Update – Capital Projects

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Members with an update on the Social Investment Fund and the implications and emerging resource requirements for the Council in terms of delivery of capital projects. It should be noted that this paper focuses on capital projects – however there are also a range of revenue

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projects which are being funded which the Council will need to consider in the context of other programming taking place across the city.

2.0 Relevant Background Information

- 2.1** Members will be aware the Council was informed before Christmas that Belfast had been allocated £37million out of the £80million Social Investment Fund broken down as below. When the draft area plans were submitted each zones was asked to rank their ten projects in terms of priority. This was used as the basis for determining which projects will receive funding.

Zone	Overall all	Priority projects to be funded
Belfast North Zone	£9million	2 capital projects (including 2 clusters) and 2 revenue projects
Belfast South Zone	£8million	4 capital projects (including 1 cluster) and 1 revenue project
Belfast East Zone	£8million	3 capital projects (including 2 clusters) and 2 revenue projects
Belfast West Zone	£12million	4 capital projects and 3 revenue projects

- 2.2** The first announcements in relation to approved SIF projects were made at the start of February. This included 9 projects in the Belfast area (4 capital and 5 revenue projects).
- 2.3** Members will recall that they noted last month that Chief Officers have now been formally nominated onto the SIF Steering Delivery Groups as below

North – G.Millar South – A.Hassard West – S.Wylie
East - J.McGrillen

Update on current position

- 2.4** Members will know that it was proposed that the Council would be the delivery agent for a number of the capital projects. A management fee of between 15%/20% has been built into project costs. However there has been no confirmation on the number of these and no agreement had been reached with OFMDFM over how the management fee for these would be allocated to the Council. Members are also asked to note that CPD are involved and OFMDFM are using part of the management fee to pay for their services.
- 2.5** A planning day for all Steering Group members and lead partners for SIF projects was held on Monday 10 March. This was attended by the Director of Property & Projects. This session was focused on was the delivery of projects and one of key issues emerging from the day was how much support and guidance some delivery agents were going to require in

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terms of project delivery (both on the capital and revenue sides).

- 2.6 The role of the Council as a civic leader and successful delivery agent of physical projects was recognised and highlighted at the session. The Council is playing a key and increasing role in the city in terms of regeneration and the emerging community planning and area planning roles through the AWGs. The Council is also already working closely with OFMDFM on a number of other key strategic city initiatives including TBUC and the Interface Strategy. In recognition of this role it is now proposed that the Council become the delivery agent for the capital projects outlined below.

**BELFAST ZONES – CAPITAL PROJECTS – COUNCIL
PROPOSED DELIVERY AGENT**

	Project Name	Cost	Status	Lead organisation
North	Cluster – Increasing community services (new builds)	£2,684,087	Not approved - Economists signed off on 13/2. Case currently with the Consultants to address some o/s Finance issues	Various
	Cluster – Increasing community services (refurbishments) (10 projects across both)	£433,815	Not approved - Currently with the Consultants following the first review.	Various
South	Market Tunnels at Lanyon	£1,431,813	Not approved - Council currently undertaking a site contamination survey.	Markets Development Agency
	Capital cluster – Increasing community services (10 projects)	£1,749,886	Not approved - Appraisal being written by SIB Consultant.	Various
	Taughmonagh Healthy Business Centre	£933,500	APPROVED **	Taughmonagh Community Forum
	Sandy Row Resource Centre	£797,292	APPROVED**	Belfast South Community Resource
East	Capital cluster – Increasing community services (17 projects)	£1,588,490	Not approved - Appraisal being undertaken by SIB. SIB addressing the Economist and Finance comments from first review.	Various
West	St. Comgall's	£3,544,090	Not approved -EA issued for review to Finance and Economists on 14/2	Falls Community Council
TOTAL		£13,162,973	** the Council was previously not proposed to be the delivery agent for these but the Groups at the SIF day on 10 March expressed their willingness for the Council to be the delivery agent	
Number of projects (including cluster projects)		41		

Issues to consider

- 2.7 The Council is therefore currently proposed to be the delivery agent for over 40 projects worth over £13 million (this is including the two capital projects in the South at Taughmonagh and Sandy Row). It should be noted that many of these projects are also subject to and/or receiving funding from other sources including LIF/BIF from the Council, DSD funding so the real value of the projects is significantly higher than this.
- 2.8 A breakdown of the capital cluster projects for North, South and East has been circulated. It should be noted that these range in value from around £10,000 to nearly £1,000,000 so are vastly different in scope and scale (figures for individual projects are being checked with OFMDFM). It should also be noted that some of the projects in the East/South zones are currently outside the Council boundary
- 2.9 Members are asked to note that a number of these projects have already been approved and/or are nearing final approval and therefore there is pressure to now begin to move forward with delivery.
- 2.10 There are obviously associated resource implications and resources costs in delivering projects and the impact of delivering these also needs to be taken in the context of the Council's other project delivery commitments under the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation, LIF and projects which may emerge through BIF. The Property & Projects Department currently do not have the resource capacity to deliver the SIF projects on top of its existing workload and therefore it will be necessary to recruit additional resources to deliver these. There is a lead-in time for recruitment and so this will have to start to be progressed now. The exact resource requirements will need to be quantified but it is envisaged it will require at least 1 project manager, 1 or 2 assistant project managers and a couple of project sponsors (given the range and scale of projects under the clusters). Members are asked to note that there are also a range of support and indirect resources that will be required internally to help support project delivery including finance, legal, estates and procurement. This will also have to be factored in against existing workload commitments including the LGR.
- 2.11 As outlined above a 15/20% management fee has been built into each project which includes project delivery costs. However as noted OFMDFM also has to pay for CPD costs

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out of this management fee so not all of this will be available to the Council. Further discussions need to be held with OFMDFM regarding how this money will be allocated to the Council and what proportion the Council can expect. At one stage OFMDFM were proposing a MOU to cover all the projects however this approach was then changed to a letter of offer on a project by project basis and the final model of allocation will need to be agreed.

2.12 Members are asked to note that there are also a number of inherent risks associated with the Council taking on a project delivery role for external projects, particularly in the case where a third party has put together costs/plans for a project, including –

- potential lack of robustness in project costs which the Council have been unable to verify/ quality assure,
- lack of contingency built into budgets
- unrealistic project plans resulting in construction overruns etc.
- unforeseen issues including contamination, land issues etc
- the lack of capacity of the groups involved

Discussions also need to be progressed with OFMDFM in relation to the above and what happens if project construction/costs overrun etc. These discussions will be progressed with Legal Services.

Other Capital Projects – SIF

2.13 Members are asked to note that there are a number of other capital projects have been approved and/or have been identified as priority projects in the Belfast area which at this stage are due to be delivered by other bodies including

AREA	PROJECT	COST	STATUS	PROPOSED LEAD ORGANISATION
West	Argyle Extension	£1,100,000	Not approved	Argyle Business Centre
	Impact Training – New build	£1,200,000	Not approved	Impact Training
	Iontaobhas na Gaelscolaiochta – new build	£1,000,000	Not approved	InaG
East	Ballymac Friendship Centre	£1,265,000	Not approved	Ballymac Friendship Trust
	Bryson Street Surgery	£1,000,000	APPROVED	Landmark East
North	Childcare & Family Support cluster (Ashton Centre and Wishing Well)	£1,920,000	APPROVED	Ashton Centre

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2.14 There are a number of issues where organisations are currently listed as the delivery agent however there are concerns over whether they have the capacity to deliver/also number of occasions where the delivery agent was also going to be the operator. OFMDFM are currently looking at this and Chief Officers are asked to note that there is a possibility that the Council may end up being the delivery agent for some of the projects above.

3.0 Next steps

3.1 The Director of Property & Projects and the Director of Finance & Resources have meet with OFMDFM officials to begin to agree the delivery process, the arrangements for management fee etc. These discussions will continue to be progressed over the coming weeks.

4.0 Recommendations

In terms of SIF capital projects, Members are asked note the contents of this report and

- note that a key issue emerging from the SIF planning day was the level of support and guidance that some organisations are going to require in terms of project delivery (both in terms of capital projects and revenue programmes). However the Council's key civic leadership role and successful role in delivering capital projects was recognised at this session – resulting in additional groups expressing their willingness for the Council to become the delivery agents for their projects. This is a sign of confidence in the Council and recognition of the Council's increasing role in terms of regeneration and emerging community planning role
- agree if the Council should act as the delivery agent for the proposed projects as outlined in 2.6 above and notes that the implications of SIF are still somewhat emerging and that the Council may end up becoming the delivery agent and/or involved in the delivery of some of the other capital projects
- note the associated resource implications in the context of other the Council's physical delivery requirements including the capital programme, leisure transformation programme, LIF and emerging BIF

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- note that the Property & Projects Department currently does not have the resource capacity to deliver the proposed SIF projects as it is already over-stretched by existing workload
- note the inherent risks associated with the Council becoming the delivery agent for the proposed capital projects and the need to minimise the risk to the Council
- agree that the Director of Property & Projects, in conjunction with Legal Services, continues to progress discussions with OFMDFM to clarify governance, delivery and management fee arrangements
- agree that the Director of Property & Projects quantifies the resources required to deliver the above projects and progresses the recruitment of the necessary resources in conjunction with HR. These posts will be funded via the management fee associated with the projects and will be of no cost to the council.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

(The Chairman, Alderman Robinson, in the Chair.)

Departmental Plans

**Chief Executive's; Finance and Resources;
and Property and Projects**

The Committee approved the Departmental Plans for the Chief Executive's; Finance and Resources and Property and Projects Departments. A copy of the key actions as detailed in the Plans for each of the Departments is set out hereunder:

Chief Executive's

“2.0 Key actions for 2014/ 15

The activities and performance indicators outlined in the following two sections demonstrate what the Department will do to implement its value creation map and therefore how it will contribute to the Council's corporate value creation map.

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Updates on project milestones and on performance indicators (Section 3) are reported to DMT on a quarterly basis and are used to inform Committee reports.

	2014-15 Action	LGR or Investment Programme
	City Leadership	
1	<p>Support the delivery of the Investment Programme</p> <p>We will support the year 3 delivery of the Council's 2012 – 2015 Investment Programme, providing information on the achievements of the first two years of the programme and what is being undertaken in year 3. This will include the provision of communications, HR, policy, legal and administrative support as required.</p>	IP
2	<p>Leisure Transformation Programme</p> <p>Lead on the development and implementation of the communications, HR and legal elements of the leisure transformation programme.</p>	IP
3	<p>Belfast Investment Fund</p> <p>Provide ongoing legal advice on large city wide projects, for example Royal Exchange, University of Ulster campus, Sprucefield, Girdwood Community Hub and Waterfront Hall extension.</p>	IP
4	<p>Capital Programme</p> <p>Provide appropriate legal advice to ensure the successful delivery of the capital programme.</p>	IP
5	<p>Transfer of Functions</p> <p>Oversee the Council's preparation for the transfer and integration of new central government functions, including legal, HR and policy</p>	LGR

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6	<p>Governance</p> <p>Support the work of the Statutory Transition Committee (until June 2014) and shadow council (from June 2014) in preparing the organisation for the implementation of local government reforms. Some of the main strands of work are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for and administer the local elections to the Shadow Council in May 2014 • Support and administer the Shadow Council and committees during the shadow period from June 2014 – March 2015 	LGR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to review council governance arrangements, including a review of committee system, standing orders and the constitution during the shadow council year from June 2014. 	
7	<p>Community Planning</p> <p>Prepare the council for the new duty of community planning to enable the council to have commenced the community planning process by April 2015. Key strands of this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic policy and planning support to the creation of a city- wide community planning framework • Provide policy support as required (through NILGA or other regional structures) on the development of the statutory guidance for community planning. • Research and commence the development of a shared data hub that will allow the key partners in the community planning partnership to share data relevant to the development and monitoring of a community plan. 	LGR
8	<p>Members' Capacity</p> <p>Prepare the members through a capacity building programme to enable effective decision making in the new Council. This includes the agreement and implementation of the capacity building plan for members in preparation for the return of additional areas and functions (for example regeneration and spatial planning) to the Council under LGR.</p>	LGR

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9	<p>Legislative Working Group (Regional)</p> <p>Shape and inform the regional primary and subordinate legislative programme, ensuring that the best interests of local government and Belfast City Council are pursued.</p>	LGR
10	<p>Regional HR Advice</p> <p>Engage and provide strategic advice and support to the Local Government Reform Joint Forum and regional HR Working Group.</p>	LGR
11	<p>Strategic Planning</p> <p>Develop an approach to creating a strategic framework (as part of the Council's organisational development strategy and in the context of creating a new corporate plan and community plan for Belfast) showing the way in which the processes of community planning; corporate planning; policy development; communications and engagement; and organisation development and design will be better integrated to support effective strategic management of the council and the city.</p> <p>This approach will seek to ensure alignment to/inclusion of departmental work on international marketing, anchor institutions, the review of the brand narrative, the review of marketing and identify short-term improvements.</p>	LGR

	Economy	
12	<p>As part of the investment programme commitment to provide 200 employment opportunities at no additional cost to the ratepayer, the department will work with other departments to create the final number of job opportunities required to reach this target.</p>	IP
13	<p>As part of the investment programme commitment to provide 400 work placement, internships and apprenticeship opportunities within BCC with a focus on graduates and young long-term unemployed and disabled people, the department will work with other departments to ensure the target of 400 opportunities is reached at the end of this year.</p>	IP

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14	Giro d'Italia 2014 In partnership with the NI Tourist Board, promote, market and provide legal advice for the city hosting the first 3 stages of the Giro d'Italia 2014.	
15	Tall Ships 2015 Develop and agree in-house communications, marketing and legal advice for the Tall Ships Challenge 2015.	
Improving Our Services		
16	Local Government Reform – Service Convergence Prepare the Department for LGR service convergence to reflect the changes required by boundary extension.	LGR
17	Efficiency Reviews Review organisation design and employee costs (overtime, agency and working arrangements) to support the delivery of corporate objectives; enhanced service delivery and the achievement of efficiency savings.	IP
18	Marketing Support the review of the strategic approach to marketing in the Council and help to implement the findings.	

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	Financial Management	
19	<p>Local Government Reform</p> <p>Undertake the financial requirements of local government reform to ensure the successful transition to the new council in 2015. For the Chief Executive's Department, this includes the implementation of the severance scheme for members.</p>	LGR
	Human Resource Management	
20	<p>Local Government Reform</p> <p>Undertake the HR and OD requirements of local government reform to ensure the successful transition to the new council in 2015.</p>	LGR
21	<p>Organisational Development Strategy</p> <p>Continue to implement the OD programme of work associated with the organisation development strategy, focussing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation (service delivery models; governance; and organisation structure) • Leadership (capacity building; diversity; managing change; managing performance; effective communications and engagement) • Management (building managers' capacity to ensure value for money service delivery; customer focus; meeting efficiency targets; and effective management of staff) • Skills (build skills in relation to new powers, changing needs and priority areas such as community planning, regeneration, planning, commercial focus, managing programmes and projects) 	

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22	<p>Departmental Review</p> <p>Undertake a review of the department to ensure it has fit for purpose capacity, organisation structures, working practices and skills in the right place at the right time and that it is managing all resources effectively and efficiently. This review will have to be conducted within the context of strategic planning and organisation development priorities, new governance arrangements, organisation redesign and the efficiency programme.</p>	LGR
23	<p>Lord Mayor's Unit</p> <p>Undertake, implement and review a fit for purpose review of the Lord Mayor's Unit to ensure it is capable of fulfilling the requirements needed to support the responsibilities of the Lord Mayor.</p>	
Information Management		
24	<p>Website - online transactions</p> <p>Continue to develop our online transactions to improve the service availability to our customers</p>	
25	<p>Social Media</p> <p>Enhance our social media service, including the introduction of using social media for formal consultation and engagement</p>	
26	<p>Reduce paper usage</p> <p>Continue to look at ways of reducing the use of paper in the Council through improving the use of technology in the Chief Executive's Department.</p>	

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27	<p>Corporate HR Payroll System</p> <p>Contribute to the development of the new corporate HR Payroll/ IT system as part of the ICT Strategy (<i>Purchase of system led by Finance and Resources</i>).</p>	
Policy, Planning & Performance		
28	<p>Local Government Reform</p> <p>Undertake the policy and planning requirements to ensure the successful delivery of local government reform. This will include:</p>	LGR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a timeframe for public, councillor and staff consultation exercises that takes into consideration the imminent changes to the organisation • Develop a corporate plan for the shadow council and prepare a corporate plan for the new council. • Review of approach to planning in organisation to incorporate organisational changes and new powers. • Under take an audit of current council policies that will be relevant to agreements around service convergence and transfer of functions, including the transfer of staff 	
Communications		
29	<p>Local Government Reform</p> <p>Oversee the communications plan for local government reform, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updates through interlink, BCC web site, Intercom, City Matters and other channels • Extend City Matters into new areas • Full range of communications activity following election of new council • A-Z of council services for new residents 	LGR

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	Asset Management	
30	<p>Local Government Reform</p> <p>Agree and implement service convergence, staff transfer and functional transfer arrangements, in relation to HR, policy, legal and communications activity. Some of the key strands of work here include:</p> <p>Undertake due diligence on contractual arrangements and the transfer of assets.</p>	
	Assurance, Governance & Risk	
31	<p>Local Government Reform Legislative Programme (Internal)</p> <p>Provide internal legal advice and guidance in preparation for local government reform.</p>	
32	<p>Information Governance</p> <p>Provide strategic support for the development of a corporate information management strategy and for the creation of a central intelligence repository.</p>	

3.0 Key performance indicators for 2014/15

3.1 Environment

Performance Indicator Target	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% volume of colour print	30%	30%
% volume of duplex print	40%	40%

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3.2 Economy

Annual Target	Annual Target 2013/ 14	Annual Target 2014/ 15
Number of employment opportunities created	60	30 (final year of a 3 year target of 200)
Number of work placement, apprenticeship and internship opportunities created	170	170 (final year of a 3 year target of 400)

3.3 Improving our Services

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013/ 14	Annual Target 2014/ 15
Overall satisfaction with Council services	78%	TBC
% complaints that met response target - departmental	100%	100%
Number of complaints received	0	0

3.4 Human Resources (Corporate)

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013/ 14	Annual Target 2014/ 15
Average number of working days per employee lost due to absence – Corporate target	10	10
Average number of working days per employee lost due to absence – departmental target	8.28	8.28
% Members with PDPs (corporate)	70%	70%
% staff across the department with a current PDP	90%	90%

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3.5 Governance & Risk

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013/ 14	Annual Target 2014/ 15
Percentage of prosecutions successfully prosecuted	85%	85%
% health & safety recommendations implemented	80%	80%

3.6 Financial Planning

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013/ 14	Annual Target 2014/ 15
% revenue between actual net revenue expenditure and budgeted net revenue expenditure	+1 / -2%	+1 / -2%
% variance between forecast net expenditure and actual net revenue expenditure	+0.5 / -2%	+0.5 / -2%
% variance between forecast capital expenditure and actual expenditure	+ / - 10%	+ / - 10%
% compliance of purchase orders raised on time	90%	90%
% compliance for GRN against the supplier invoice	75%	75%

3.7 Policy, Planning & Performance

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013/ 14	Annual Target 2014/ 15
% PIs with valid data collected and reported upon	85%	85%
% PIs on target	70%	70%

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3.8 Communications

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013/14	Annual Target 2014/15
Visits to Council website	1.5 million PA	135,000 pcm
Number of Followers of Council's Twitter site	20,000	30,000
Number of fans of Council's Facebook site	15,000	20,000
Revenue from advertising in City Matters	£14,000	£14,000 ⁴
Society Of IT Managers (SOCITM) website ranking	3	4
Opening rate of email marketing material	New PI	20%
Twitter online influence score (Klout Score)	New PI	60%

Finance and Resources**2.0 Key actions for 2014/15**

The activities and performance indicators outlined in the following two sections demonstrate what the Department will do to implement its value creation map and therefore how it will contribute to the Council's corporate value creation map.

Updates on project milestones and on performance indicators (Section 3) are reported to DMT on a quarterly basis and are used to inform Committee reports.

	2014-15 Action	LGR or Investment Programme
	City Leadership	
1	Lead on the organisational change programme attached to the reform of local government.	LGR
2	Engage and provide strategic advice and technical support to the local government reform regional implementation structures (including the Regional Transition Committee, Regional Operational Board and technical implementation groups)	LGR
3	Establish and oversee implementation of the work plan for the regional Financial Planning Sub-Group and regional Financial Guidance and Audit Sub-Group	LGR
4	Support the Council's engagement and input to the work of the Regional Systems Convergence Working Group	LGR

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	2014-15 Action	LGR or Investment Programme
6	Oversee the process of detailed due diligence and baseline verification of the resources (budget and staffing) and assets and liabilities attached to the functions and powers transferring from central to local government	LGR
5	Provide technical support and advice in relation to regional preparations for systems convergence linked to the transfer of functions and powers	LGR
7	Oversee the Council's preparation for the transfer and integration of new central government functions	LGR
8	Ensure that an integrated approach is taken to addressing the key organisational support issues and planning requirements for local government reform	LGR
9	Support the Council's performance and programme management infrastructure and prepare for the performance management of transferring functions (to include planning, regeneration, service standards)	LGR
10	Prepare for emerging legislative and governance changes including the review of BCC governance and political management arrangements (and review Audit Panel role/Committee arrangements in light of new governance arrangements)	LGR
	Economy	
11	Implement the non capital elements of the Super Connected Belfast project	IP
12	Sustain and enhance the rates base and manage the rate setting process including developing a programme of work on ongoing debt and vacant property	IP
13	Improve payment systems to ensure we pay 90% of our creditors within 28 days to support the local economy	IP
	Improving Our Services	
14	Prepare the Department for the LGR boundary extension by designing and delivering a budget and transition plan for services and resources merging across the new council area on 1st April	LGR

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	2014-15 Action	LGR or Investment Programme
	2015.	
15	Deliver the corporate Efficiency Programme in order to maintain the district rate increase at, or below, the rate of inflation	IP
	Financial Planning	
16	Manage financial planning for local government reform (to include the capital financing strategy and financial planning for new Council)	LGR
17	Prepare for the 2015/16 rate setting process (to include guidance to departments, medium term financial plan, funding allocation model for transfer of functions)	LGR
18	Develop a reporting framework for financial reporting to the Shadow Council in 2014/15	LGR
19	Develop a financial governance framework for the new Council (to include financial regulations and Account Manual)	LGR
20	Provide support and guidance on the finance stream of the Leisure Transformation Programme	
21	Implement the financial management arrangements for the Capital Programme including the Belfast Investment Fund and the Local Investment Fund	
22	Implement the City Financing Strategy	
23	Implement a financial improvement programme in relation to debtors	
	Information Management	
24	Undertake the necessary ICT preparations linked to the transfer of new functions and the extension to the Council boundary	LGR
25	Continue to improve information management processes in the Department	
26	Develop an ICT Strategy and Plan to support the delivery of the Council's priorities	

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	2014-15 Action	LGR or Investment Programme
27	Develop a mobile and online programme of work in line with new ICT strategy	
28	Implement actions from the Information Governance Group	
29	Continue to integrate systems with the corporate common address database and Gazetteer	
30	Develop an approach and specification for the purchase of a replacement HR/Payroll system and implement the system	
31	Procure a corporate property information system	
	Planning & Performance	
32	Further enhance the performance and accountability framework in the Council in the context of community planning	LGR
	Communication and Engagement	
33	Improve internal communications across the department	
	Governance & Risk	
34	Plan for the implications of the transfer of functions and boundary changes on the Audit, Governance and Risk Management Service (including the Health and Safety Unit)	LGR
35	Provide assurance on the Council's approach to preparing for the transfer of new functions and powers and the extension to the Council boundary	LGR
36	Include provision for new functional areas and integrated reporting within the action tracking, risk management and audit management system	LGR
37	Provide support and guidance on the audit, assurance and risk requirements of the Leisure Transformation Programme	
38	Implement recommendations arising from the external review of the Council's Health and Safety service	

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3.0 Key performance indicators for 2014/15**3.1 Environment**

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% Volume of Colour Print – Corporate Total	30%	30%
% Volume of Duplex Print – Corporate Total	40%	40%
% Volume of Colour Print – Dept Total	30%	30%
% Volume of Duplex Print – Dept Total	40%	40%

3.2 Improving our Services

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Number of complaints received - All Corporate Total	0	0
% Complaints that met response target– All Corporate Total	100%	100%
Number of complaints received – Departmental	0	0
% Complaints that met response target – Departmental total	100%	100%
Value of efficiency savings captured as part of the estimating process	£2m	£2m
Variance between actual efficiencies against target	100%	100%
Number of transactional based activities which are enabled	No Target	TBA

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3.3 Human Resources

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Average number of working days lost due to absence – Dept Total	7.44 days	7.44 days
% staff across the department with an up to date PDP - Part 1 Process	90%	90%

3.4 Financial Planning

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% Compliance of GRN's after invoicing – Corp Total	75%	75%
% Compliance of GRN's after invoicing – Dept Total	75%	75%
% Compliance of PO's raised on time – Corp Total	90%	90%
% Compliance of PO's raised on time – Dept Total	90%	90%
% Debt less than 90 days old	65%	65%
% Increase in the District Rate	0%	At or below inflation
% variance between actual net revenue expenditure and budgeted net revenue expenditure (in year) [Qlikview] (Corporate)	-2.00% to +1.00%	-2.00% to +1.00%
% variance between forecast net revenue expenditure and actual net revenue expenditure (in year) [Qlikview] (Corporate)	-2.00% to +1.00%	-2.00% to +1.00%

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% creditors paid within 28 days [Qlikview] (Corporate	90%	90%
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3.5 Information Management

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% Time Key Systems available (Uptime)	100%	100%
Number of systems aligned to the Gazetteer	No Target	TBA

3.6 Policy, Planning and Performance

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% PIs updated – Corporate total	85%	85%
% PIs updated – Departmental total	85%	85%
% PIs on target – Corporate total	70%	70%
% PIs on target – Departmental total	70%	70%

3.7 Governance & Risk

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% AGRS Plan completed annually	70%	70%
Number of RIDDOR accidents	48	Monitoring Indicator
% H&S recommendations fully implemented – Corporate Total	80%	80%
% H&S recommendations fully implemented – Department Total	80%	80%
% H&S Plan completed annually	75%	75%
Number of workplace accidents	380	Monitoring Indicator
% Workplace Health & Safety inspections	80%	80%

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Property and Projects

“2.0 Key actions for 2014/ 15

The activities and performance indicators outlined in the following two sections demonstrate what the Department will do to implement its value creation map and therefore how it will contribute to the Council’s corporate value creation map.

Updates on project milestones and on performance indicators (Section 3) are reported to DMT on a quarterly basis and are used to inform Committee reports.

	2014-15 Action	LGR or Investment Programme
	City Leadership	
1	The Department will take the lead in driving the physical portfolio of the Investment Programme across the city working closely with Departments from across Council to ensure successful delivery of this portfolio. Over the coming year this will include progressing the projects under the funding streams as detailed in para.1.7. The Department provides an overview of progress, risks, issues and benefits of the programme. The Director of the department is responsible for the risk management of the programme as a whole.	IP
2	Ensure all Capital Programme projects follow the Stage Approval process for physical projects as agreed by SP&R Committee in March 2013 to enable member to take informed decisions and enable them to focus on delivering the projects which can have maximum benefits and investment return for the City and local areas - Stage 3 – Committed Projects – projects which have completed a Full Business Case (FBC) and where approval has been obtained by SP&R to proceed to tender - Stage 2 – Uncommitted Projects – project where an Outline Business Case (OBC) is being developed. If approved these progress to Stage 3 - Stage 1 – Emerging proposals – proposals which require completion of a Strategic Outline Case (SOC) before they could be considered further by SP&R Committee. If approved these progress to Stage 2.	IP
3	Ensure the successful delivery of projects under the Council’s Capital Programme including ensuring the monitoring and reporting of progress, risks and issues.	IP

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	<p><i>Stage 3 – Tier 2 – Schemes currently underway (6 projects worth over £40million as at Feb 2014)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connswater Connswater Greenway • Alleygates - Phase 3 • Fleet Replacement Programme • Marrowbone Pitch • Community Gardens • ICT Programme <p><i>Stage 3 – Tier 1 – Schemes at tender preparation stage (22 projects worth over £33million as at Feb 2014)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitches Strategy - 10 projects including 5 new pitches and pavilions and • 5 new pavilions at sites across the city • MUGA Programme – 3 new builds – Annadale, Clarendon and • Springfield Site A • Super-Connected Belfast • Roselawn - Site Development Section Z • Vehicle GPS • Route Optimisation • Suffolk Playing Fields - New Pavilion • Half Moon Lake • Drumglass Park • Belfast Zoo - Adventures Learning Centre • Commercial Waste Bin Weighing System <p><i>Stage 3 – Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk (9 projects worth nearly £90million as at Feb 2014)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Bike Share Scheme • Belfast Waterfront Exhibition and Conference Centre • Girdwood Hub • North Foreshore - Green Economy Business Park Infrastructure • Innovation Centre • Creative Hub • Tropical Ravine refurbishment • Leisure Transformation Programme - Olympia Regeneration • Whiterock Community Corridor 	
4	<p>Complete and progress, in conjunction with client departments as appropriate, Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for projects which are at Stage 2 on the Capital Programme (8 projects as at Feb 2014) including the Andersonstown Regeneration</p>	

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5	Complete and progress, in conjunction with client departments as appropriate, Strategic Outlines Cases (SOCs) for projects which are at Stage 1 on the Capital Programme (20 projects as at Feb 2014)																												
6	Ensure from April 2014 that any new capital projects complete a project proposal form before being considered by SP&R Committee to be added to the Capital Programme																												
7	<p>Ensure ERDF and other externally funded projects are administered correctly to guarantee successful grant compliance and drawdown. This includes key projects as outlined in the table below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Scheme / Project</i></th> <th><i>External Funding</i></th> <th><i>Source</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Connswater Community Greenway/East Belfast Flood Alleviation</td> <td></td> <td>DSD Big Lottery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belfast Waterfront Exhibition and Conference Centre</td> <td>18,500,000</td> <td>ERDF NITB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tropical Ravine Refurbishment</td> <td>2,232,000</td> <td>HLF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Girdwood Hub</td> <td>10,000,000</td> <td>Peace III</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North Foreshore - Green Economy Business Park Infrastructure</td> <td>6,000,000</td> <td>ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Innovation Centre</td> <td>6,825,000</td> <td>ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Creative Hub</td> <td>3,700,000</td> <td>ERDF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Olympia Regeneration</td> <td>2,600,000</td> <td>DCAL</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Scheme / Project</i>	<i>External Funding</i>	<i>Source</i>	Connswater Community Greenway/East Belfast Flood Alleviation		DSD Big Lottery	Belfast Waterfront Exhibition and Conference Centre	18,500,000	ERDF NITB	Tropical Ravine Refurbishment	2,232,000	HLF	Girdwood Hub	10,000,000	Peace III	North Foreshore - Green Economy Business Park Infrastructure	6,000,000	ERDF	Innovation Centre	6,825,000	ERDF	Creative Hub	3,700,000	ERDF	Olympia Regeneration	2,600,000	DCAL	IP
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8	<p>Support the progression of the 19 emerging Belfast Investment Fund proposals through the Stage Approval process to enable Members to take informed decisions.</p> <p>Work, through project sponsors, with groups who are under consideration for BIF funding to help progress the development of business cases etc...identifying other funding sources.</p>	IP																											
9	<p>Work to ensure the successful delivery of the Local Investment Fund (LIF) projects which have been agreed by SP&R Committee</p> <p>Continue to lead on the due diligence process in relation to LIF.</p> <p>Work with Area Working Groups (AWGs) on the potential reallocation of LIF funding as necessary.</p>	IP																											
10	<p>Manage the feasibility fund to enable work to be undertaken on proposed physical projects (either under the Capital Programme and/or BIF) to bring them to a point where Members can make informed investment decisions.</p>																												
11	<p>Support the assets/estates and construction related aspect in the review of Phase 1 projects of the Leisure Transformation</p>	IP																											

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	Programme, including the redevelopments of Andersonstown (£19m) and Olympia leisure centres (£19m) and the construction of the Girdwood Community Hub (£9m). Work closely with Parks & Leisure on progressing the asset related strands of emerging Phases 2 and 3 of the Programme.	
12	Carry out planned maintenance in accordance with the maintenance plan	
13	Carry out the non-recurrent underspend programme as agreed by SP&R Committee.	
14	Manage the delivery of a number of physical projects which are being funded under OFMDFM's Social Investment Fund (SIF) as agreed by SP&R Committee. Manage the delivery of a range of economic appraisals and feasibility studies on behalf of DSD.	IP
	Environment	
9	Continue to capture landfill gas and convert to electricity and manage the ERDF grant application of the Eco Resource Recovery Park at the North Foreshore.	
10	Complete phase 2/ 3 of the policy position on contaminated land	
11	Complete the Energy Strategy for the Belfast City Council.	
	Economy	
12	Increase the amount of council expenditure with Belfast based suppliers through the quotation process and increased supplier information events.	IP
13	Support job creation within the city through the delivery of the Council physical projects and via the Council's Investment property portfolio at Gasworks, Balmoral and Duncrue Estates.	IP
14	Participate on externally led project boards (e.g. Ballysillan Masterplan, New Town Centre for Colin, Shaftesbury Square Development Framework, Royal Exchange, Streets Ahead 2, Student Accommodation etc...etc...	
15	Work in conjunction with contractors, to secure social and community benefit clauses in Council contracts where relevant and achievable.	
16	Help support the strategic development, in conjunction with relevant partners and internal departments, of major regeneration schemes across the city including University of Ulster, Student Housing and Belfast Rapid Transit.	

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	People & Communities	
17	Work with local councillors, communities and end user groups to ensure sustainability of capital investment and benefits realisation	IP
18	Work with the Development Department in assisting the delivery of Renewing the Routes programme.	IP
	Improving Our Services	
19	Assets and Liabilities – Lead on the detailed due diligence process required on the transfer of assets & liabilities, contracts and projects from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisburn City Council – 16 assets transferring • Castlereagh Borough Council – 33 assets transferring • DSD – over 275 assets, projects and contracts transferring • DRD – approx. 35 assets transferring Work is evolving on this as more detail is collected. Further actions will be required over the coming months.	LGR
20	Develop and implement a programme of work for the transfer of assets and liabilities, projects and contracts from Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and central government departments specifically DSD and DRD off street car parking	LGR
21	Ensure links are made from a programming perspective in relation to the transfer of assets, projects and contracts with the other strands of work under the LGR via the Infrastructure Group.	
22	Undertake the work required to ensure the successful completion of the service convergence element of local government reform specifically assets and liabilities, contracts and projects.	LGR
23	Deliver collaborative opportunities which maximises value for money through participation in the local government led ICE Programme.	LGR
24	Implement the Procurement Improvement Plan	
25	Implement the security policy of the council	
	Human Resource Management	
26	Support the delivery of the Core Skills management development programme.	
	Financial Planning	
27	Work with Financial Services to help build a robust Capital Strategy in line with Local Government Reform	

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28	Undertake Capital Assets valuation of the Council's property portfolio	
29	Carry out capital programme forecasting and costing	
30	Deliver efficient and effective procurement through directing and supporting procurement activities across the Council.	
	Information Management	
31	Agree and develop a corporate property information system.	
32	Further roll out the e-contract management information system.	
	Policy, Planning & Performance	
33	Carry out programme planning, monitoring of the department's portfolio, and reporting on performance in line with departmental and corporate timetables.	
	Asset Management	
34	Ensure appropriate consideration of Due Diligence of any transfer of assets and liabilities from Central Government into the control of the new council in 2015.	LGR
35	Ensure appropriate consideration of Due Diligence of any transfer of assets and liabilities from Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council into the control of the new council in 2015.	LGR
36	Ensure the internal changes are undertaken to ready the Council for the transfer of assets and additional associated responsibilities	LGR
37	Assist in the development of a Community Transfer Framework.	
38	Proactively manage leases and rent reviews of the Council's Investment property portfolio at the Gasworks, Balmoral and Duncrue and other properties (including market shop units) to maximise the financial return to the Council	
39	Manage the acquisition of land and property assets to facilitate delivery of the Council's investment Programme or for other strategic purposes. Manage the disposal of surplus land and property within the Council's portfolio. Continue to manage the corporate landbank	
40	Implement the long term Office Accommodation Strategy for the provision of office accommodation on a cost effective basis	LGR
41	Implement the out workings of the council review of fleet management.	
	Assurance, Governance & Risk	
42	Undertake the requirements of the review of governance to ensure the new governance arrangements are ready for April 2015.	LGR

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3.0 Key performance indicators for 2014/15

City Leadership

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Amount of money leveraged through physical investment in the City from external funders	£45m	TBA
Amount of money contributed to Belfast Investment Fund through BCC rate	£6m	£2.75
Amount of monies available for investment through BIF by 2015/16	£20m	£20m
Construction capital programme spend against forecasted spend	£11,574,359	TBA
% Committed construction projects progressing in line with project milestones	85%	85%
Amount of monies committed through the BIF		TBA
Amount of monies paid / spent through BIF		TBA
% of Planned Maintenance project delivered on time		TBA

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Environment

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Income from sale of Electricity from land fill gas	£1m	£0.75m
Total tonnage of carbon dioxide emissions from Council premises		TBA
% volume colour print	30%	30%
% volume duplex print	40%	40%

Economy

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% BCC spend with local suppliers in last complete financial year		

Improving our Services

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Number of complaints received – Departmental		
% Complaints that met response target – Departmental Total		

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Organisation fit to lead and serve

Human Resource Management	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Average number of working days per employee lost due to absence	10	TBA
% staff across the department with an up to date PDP – Part 1 Process		

Financial Planning

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% variance between actual net revenue expenditure and budgeted net revenue expenditure (in year)	-2/+1	-2/+1
% variance between forecast net expenditure and actual net revenue expenditure y/e	/ -2%/+0.5	-2%/+0.5
% variance between forecast capital expenditure and actual expenditure y/e	+/- 10%	+/- 10%
% Non compliance of Goods Received Notes after invoicing	90%	90%
% Non compliance of Purchase Orders raised on time	70%	75%

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Planning & Performance

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% PIs with valid data	85%	85%
% PIs on target	70%	70%

Assets

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
Rental from BCC estates	£5.5m	£7m

Corporate Governance and Risk

Performance Indicator	Annual Target 2013-14	Annual Target 2014-15
% agreed H&S recommendations implemented – Dept total	80%	80%

Democratic Services and Governance

Request for the Use of the Council Chamber

The Committee was advised that a request for the use of the Council Chamber had been received from the Development Department in connection with an event as part of the Council's Spring into Easter Festival. The event was a projection entitled "A Boy and his Box" which would tell the story about a boy and his imagination. The Chamber would be required on Easter Monday and Tuesday and host an audience of approximately 40 persons.

The Committee was advised that the use of the Council Chamber for events other than the monthly Council meetings required the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Committee approved the use of the Council Chamber for the event as outlined.

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

The Committee was advised that the undernoted requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality had been received:

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Appendix 1

Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
University of Ulster	ICE/IEEE Conference Dinner 23rd June, 2015 Approximately 200 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates at this Conference will be arriving from around the world and will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the Conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Association of Breast Surgery	Association of Breast Surgery Conference Dinner 15th May, 2017 Approximately 400 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates at this Conference will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the Conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better Support for people and communities.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Newington Credit Union	Young People's Awards 12th May, 2014 Approximately 350 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	This event will highlight the achievement of many young people from all communities in the City despite facing hardships in their daily lives. Recipients of the awards will range from individual awards to groups such as Clic Sargent.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500

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			<p>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 addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	
<p>Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Volunteer Services</p>	<p>Belfast Trust Volunteer Awards</p> <p>6th June, 2011</p> <p>Approximately 100 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>	<p>The Belfast Trust has approximately 300 volunteers who support existing services in a variety of roles.</p> <p>This event seeks to recognise the contribution made by the volunteers in supporting service delivery in both acute and community settings.</p> <p>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'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>
<p>Parenting Northern Ireland</p>	<p>Launch of Leaflet for Supporting Parents in Northern Ireland</p> <p>5th June, 2014</p> <p>Approximately</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception</p>	<p>This event aims to celebrate the contribution parents make in the lives of their children while providing understanding of the behaviour of</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>

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	100 attending		<p>teenagers.</p> <p>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 addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	
North Belfast Family Nurse Partnership	<p>North Belfast Family Nurse Partnership Awards</p> <p>24th June, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 150 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	<p>This event will celebrate the achievements of both parents and children. It is hoped to raise the profile of Family Nurse Partnerships and acknowledge the importance of early intervention in improving outcomes for vulnerable children and their families</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of Tea, Coffee and Biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £375</p>
Belfast Healthy Cities	<p>Shaping Healthier Neighbourhoods</p> <p>16th June, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 350 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.	<p>This event will bring together children from schools across the city and will showcase the work carried out by them and their ideas for making Belfast a better place to live in.</p> <p>Belfast City Council has been</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.</p> <p>Approximate cost £875</p>

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			<p>a partner of Belfast Healthy Cities since its inception in 1988.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better opportunities for success across the City', 'Better care for Belfast's environment' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	
Rotary International	<p>Frugal Lunch</p> <p>10th April, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 400 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall	<p>As part of the Rotary International Conference a frugal lunch is organised to which delegates are invited to attend. It should be noted that Rotary International have been granted use of the City Hall and civic hospitality for this conference on the evening of 10th April.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	The use of the City Hall
National Police Memorial Day	<p>National Police Memorial Day Reception</p> <p>27th September, 2014</p> <p>Approximately</p>	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	<p>This event is held once a year, rotating in a four yearly basis. This event will seek to remember Police Officers who have been killed or</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>

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	500 attending		<p>died in duty, demonstrate to relatives, friends and colleagues that their sacrifice is not forgotten and recognise the dedication and courage displayed by officers.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	
Downtown Radio/Cool FM Cash for Kids	<p>Carols in the City</p> <p>21st December, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 600 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	<p>This event will aim to bring together choirs and musical organisations from all areas of Belfast and will incorporate contributors from socially deprived communities in the City.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £1,500</p>

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Additional Request – Raise Your Voice: Launch of Advocacy in the 3rd Sector Best Practice and Learning Guide

The Committee was advised that a request for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality had been submitted by the University of Ulster for the above-mentioned event. The event would be taking place on 1st May and would involve organisations such as Mencap, Include Youth, Positive Futures, the RNIB, the Linenhall Library, Brook NI, Age NI and the East Belfast Mission. The event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'Better Support for people and Communities'.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request and to the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits.

Proposed Hustings Event(s) in the City Hall

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Council has received a proposal from DCP Strategic Communication Ltd about the possibility of the Council hosting a hustings event or a series of such events in the run up to the Local Elections in May.

2 Key Issues

2.1 A hustings event is one where election candidates or parties debate politics and answer questions from an audience.

2.2 DCP organised a similar event in South Antrim in 2010 where it was very well received. The proposal is outlined in the attached Appendix and is for the holding of 4 events on a North, South, East and West Belfast split during the period from 5th till 16th May. The audience, of approximately 150-200 at each event, would be drawn from Schools and Further Education Colleges and would consist of young people who will be first-time voters at the elections in May. The stated aim of the events would be to encourage first-time voters to participate in the democratic process. The proposed dates of the events would fall within the exam period for students and DCP has indicated that there might be difficulty in securing the numbers to attend. If that were to prove to be the case, then it might be that only one event would be held to cover the whole of the City.

2.3 Members will be aware that the use of the City Hall for political events is generally not permitted under the existing policy but such an event where the aim is to raise voter participation is specifically permitted under the policy.

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- 2.4 In discussion with DCP it has been stressed that, should the organisation of such an event or events be approved by the Council, there would have to be an understanding that each political party which has a candidate or candidates in the DEAs concerned would have to be invited to have a representative on the panel and that any independent candidates would also have to be invited. In this way the proposed events would not be in breach of the Electoral Commission's guidance on hustings events.
- 2.5 DCP has indicated that the cost, on a non-profit making basis, for them to organise the 4 events, including event management, administration, photography and PR would be approximately £1,500 each or £6,000 in total. If there were to be only one larger event then these costs would be reduced to approximately £2,500. The Council would not be able to pay an amount over £3,000 to DCP for the events as to do so would breach the procurement policy. If costs were to be greater than £3,000 then the Council would be obliged to ask for quotations from a few companies for the organisation of the events.
- 2.6 DCP are actively seeking sponsorship for the events and it might well be that the cost to the Council would be much less than that estimated currently. Both the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland and the Electoral Commission have been approached about sponsorship but have declined. The Council would also be asked to grant the use of the City Hall for the event(s) and to provide some tea, coffee and soft drinks hospitality.
- 2.7 At this point, the Committee is requested to consider whether it would wish to grant authority in principle for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality on the understanding that:
- The direct costs to the Council would not exceed the quotation limit of £3,000;
 - All political parties and independent candidates at the local elections would be invited to participate on the appropriate panel(s); and
 - That efforts would continue to be made to seek sponsorship for the event(s) so as to reduce the Council's costs as far as possible.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 Not to exceed £3,000 direct costs and the costs of providing hospitality for the event(s). These costs can be met from within existing budgets.

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4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 There are not any equality or good relations considerations connected with this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is requested to consider the proposal and to decide if it wishes to proceed on the basis set out at point 2.7 above.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Notice of Motion – Robert James McMordie

The Committee was reminded that the Council had, at its meeting on 3rd April, referred the undernoted Notice of Motion, which had been moved by Councillor Kingston and seconded by Councillor Haire, to it for consideration:

“This Council notes that this month marks the centenary of the death of Robert James McMordie, Lord Mayor of Belfast 1910 – 1914, Freeman of the City, MP for East Belfast in the fifth year of his Mayoralty, which encompassed significant historic events, including the signing of Ulster’s Solemn League and Covenant and the formation of the Young Citizen Volunteers of Ireland and the Ulster Volunteers, whose statue, funded by public subscription, stands in the grounds of the City Hall and whose widow, Julia McMordie, subsequently entered politics and was elected as a Councillor, MP and the first female High Sheriff of Belfast, and agrees that this centenary be marked with a commemorative event in the City Hall.”

The Committee was advised that the contribution to the political life of Belfast which had been made by Robert McMordie (1849 till 1914) was significant and his achievements were well-documented within the Notice of Motion. Robert McMordie died on 25th March, 1914, during his fifth Mayoralty; his statue was located at the Donegall Square West entrance to the City Hall grounds, opposite to the gates of the Cenotaph. The Committee was advised that the actual centenary of his death would be on Tuesday, 25th March, therefore, time constraints would preclude the holding of an event on that date. Given that Robert James McMordie had served as Lord Mayor of Belfast from 1910 until 1914, the Committee was requested to consider if it was appropriate to recommend that the Lord Mayor (or the incoming Lord Mayor) consider hosting an appropriate reception to mark the centenary of his death.

The Committee agreed that the Lord Mayor (or the incoming Lord Mayor), be requested to host an appropriate reception and that the event include also a talk/lecture prior to the reception.

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Notice of Motion – Mr. David Jeffrey

The Committee was reminded that the Council had, at its meeting on 3rd April, referred the undernoted Notice of Motion, which had been moved by Alderman Patterson and seconded by Alderman Rodgers, for its consideration:

“This Council wishes to give recognition to the significant contribution made to Irish League Football by Mr. David Jeffrey, in particular his remarkable achievement of winning, to date, 30 trophies over 17 years as Team Manager of Linfield Football Club, including a clean-sweep of domestic trophies in 2005-2006, six league and cup doubles in seven years and a Setanta Sports Cup, as well as the contribution made through his character and his enthusiasm for Irish League football.”

The Committee was reminded that the Council had considered a similar motion in 2010 to honour the former Linfield Captain, Noel Bailie, on his retirement. That matter had been referred to the Committee when it had recommended that the Lord Mayor be requested to host an appropriate reception for Mr. Bailie. The Democratic Services Manager suggested that a similar course of action might be appropriate for Mr. Jeffrey. He pointed out that, given the proximity of the Local Government Elections, together with the fact that Mr. Jeffrey would not be retiring until the end of the Irish League season in May, it was likely that the event would not take place until after the Local Elections at the end of May and could fall within the term of office of the new Lord Mayor commencing on 2nd June.

The Committee agreed that the Lord Mayor (or the incoming Lord Mayor) be requested to host a reception to mark the achievements of Mr. David Jeffrey.

Finance/Value-for-Money

Minutes of Meeting of Audit Panel

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

Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 14th March.

Fuel Stamps Scheme

The Director of Health and Environmental Services reported that, following a successful pilot of the Fuel Stamps Scheme, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 8th May, 2009, had agreed to the roll-out of the Scheme across the Belfast City Council area. Since then the Committee had approved contributions to the Scheme under the provisions of Section 115 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, now known as Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

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She explained that a significant number of households in Belfast were currently in fuel poverty and as such the Scheme helped people, particularly older people, budget for expensive winter oil bills by way of purchasing £5 savings stamps from local shops, garages, credit unions and some local Council facilities. At the end of January, 2014, the number of stamps sold to the public through the Fuel Stamps Scheme was 207,362 which totalled £1,036,810.

The annual cost of the Scheme for 2013/14 and 2014/15 was £7,600 which included administration, printing and promotion costs. The cost of the Scheme could be met from the Environmental Health Services budget, however, given the nature of the expenditure it required approval from the Committee under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to incur the expenditure.

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to grant approval under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 to incur the annual cost of £7,600 for the Fuel Stamps Scheme, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and would be of direct benefit to, the District and the inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefit so accrued would be commensurate with the payment to be made.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of Health and Environmental Services explained that the Scheme was being reviewed currently and other methods of purchasing the stamps, such as smart/top-up cards were being investigated.

Future Efficiency Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approved the engagement of iESE to support the Council in the development of a 3-4 year transformation and efficiency programme which will identify the major areas of change; the approach to delivery and the business case for change.**
- 1.2 iESE have conducted a review of the current efficiency programme and approach to provide a baseline of findings and identify areas of improvement for development of the new programme.**
- 1.3 A workshop with the Budget Panel on 5 March 2014 explored the efficiency programme deliverables to date and considered the future drivers for change. The objective of the session was to develop a sense of direction for future opportunities for**

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organisation wide transformation and further efficiencies. This paper reflects the decisions taken at the workshop.

2.0 Key Issues

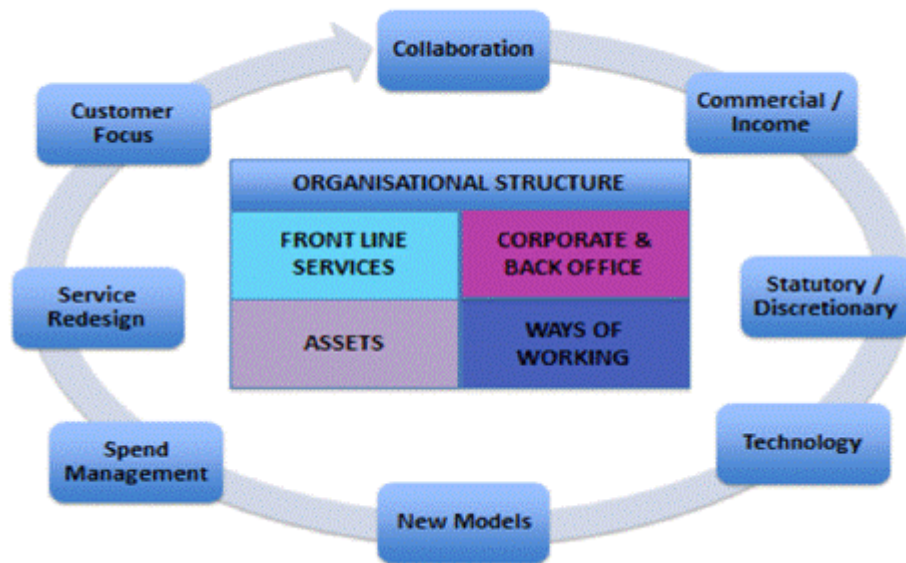
- 2.1** The efficiency programme 2010 to 2015 set a target of £20m savings by 2015/16 and has delivered £18m up to the 2014/15 rate-setting period as demonstrated in the table below.
- 2.2** As at March 2014, there remains £2m efficiencies to identify and deliver to achieve the £20m target, plus £2m from the new rates base and £2m for leisure transformation, the totality of which will be directed towards the leisure investment programme. All of this is to be achieved within the context of extending services to the new boundaries; the investment programme and keeping rates increases below inflation.
- 2.3** The quick wins have already been earmarked during the first 4 years of the programme focussing on the more transactional activities within departments.

Therefore to achieve these additional targets will be challenging and will require more radical thinking about the future shape of the organisation and how services should be delivered. This will mean a move away from transactional departmental efficiencies to an organisation wide approach to improving the way the council does business today and making more fundamental changes.

2.4 Approach

It is proposed that the Council develop a new 3-4 year efficiency programme aligned to the medium term financial plan which will set efficiency targets for 2015-16 and new targets for a further 3 years from 2016 onwards.

In line with the direction from the Budget Panel, the Council will work with iESE in reviewing corporate and operational activities to analyse and test the opportunities for efficiencies and improvement across all services.



The review will be based on the above model and will test the organisation and services against an agreed set of principles and criteria.

This will include

- Income and expenditure analysis by service area
- Identifying the range of options and scale of the opportunity for services
- Benefits and efficiencies, baselined against comparative data
- Risks and challenges to delivery of the outcomes
- Resources required and the timeline to deliver the change

The programme will operate within the rate setting programme and will be aligned to the service convergence and transfer of functions programmes to ensure cohesion and clarity of purpose. Members should note that in-depth opportunity assessments in the areas of Waste; Cleansing and Parks have been scoped.

The approach will involve engagement through workshops and discussion with the Budget Panel, Directors and staff.

iESE will work with team members from the Council to ensure the transfer of skills and knowledge to build sustainable capacity for the longer term programme

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The outcome from this stage of work will be a draft programme of work, which will be delivered to the Committee at the end of June 2014. However early findings and scenarios will be tested with the Budget Panel during the process.

3.0 Resource Implications

3.1 None

4.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None

5.0 Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and

(i) To agree the proposal and approach as set out in 2.4 above.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Value-for-Money Review of Security

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update in relation to the value-for-money review of security.

ICT Strategy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 **Relevant Background Information**

1.1 Digital Services has recently worked with Deloitte on a new ICT Strategy for Belfast City Council to assist with the delivery of the Council’s strategic goals. The attached strategy provides a new vision for ICT services outlining the key capabilities that will be required for the future.

2 **Key Issues**

2.1 **Purpose of the Strategy**

The ICT Strategy provides a framework, under the remit of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to oversee the development of the Council’s ICT platforms and systems over a period of 3 years, based on the Council’s key business priorities.

2.2 Immediate Priorities

Local Government Reform (LGR)

Delivering the ICT requirements for LGR will be the main priority for Digital Services over the coming year. There will be major ICT implications that must be addressed to ensure secure access to systems, technology and information relating to the delivery of new functions, dealing with an extended Council boundary and preparing for changes to our governance and political management arrangements. Digital Services will also play a lead role in addressing the opportunities that may exist from a regional approach to the delivery of ICT services.

2.3 Super-connected Belfast

Over the coming year Digital Services will administer, procure and oversee the delivery of the 3 key strands of the Super-connected Belfast Project that will realise our plans to develop a city-wide digital infrastructure. This will see us administer the Belfast and Derry City Council voucher schemes, procure and implement the Metro Wireless strand and roll out public Wi-Fi across the public sector.

2.5 GPS and Route Optimisation

Another significant project will be the installation of GPS and route optimisation software on all Belfast City Council vehicles to maximise current fleet utilisation and minimise fuel cost.

2.4 Online and Mobile Transactions

The corporate plan includes a number of ICT-related objectives relating to the use of mobile computing, social media and online transactions, which act as enablers for service improvement and the delivery efficiencies. Where possible Digital Services will continue to make progress in these areas.

2.2 Key Challenges to be addressed

ICT is recognised as playing a key role in the delivery of the Council's Corporate plan, and will be required to enable each of its strategic themes. The strategy sets out a vision for a digital council and provides recommendations around the role of ICT and the key capabilities and projects that will be required to deliver a successful strategy.

2.4 The 2 diagrams below taken from the strategy provide:

1. a summary of the six digital capabilities that the council must develop, and
2. key projects mapped to the council's strategic themes.

Figure 1. Digital Capabilities

The Council's vision for ICT is one of a digital council which is equipped to take advantage of the latest technology developments to enable it to meet its business goals. The vision is based on the development of these six key digital capabilities.



Digital Information Management

Digital Information Management is the capability to design, build and maintain systems and policies that minimise duplication, protect the quality of the Council's data, help ensure compliance with relevant legislation and facilitate efficient case management.

Digital Insight

Digital Insight will be vital for councillors to support decision-making at both city wide and local levels. Better use of

information will promote a more direct and connected form of representation, which will require members to continue to maximise the use of new technologies.

Digital Insight is the capability to conduct detailed analysis of a range of data including any of: organisational data (e.g. vehicle locations, leisure centre usage), sentiment data (e.g. public reaction to Council events expressed on social media), environmental data (e.g. footfall on shopping streets) and community data (e.g. metrics relating to citizen wellbeing) to measure the performance of the business, assist with decision making and inform community planning.

Digital citizen services

Digital Citizen Services is the capability to deliver day-to-day Council services (e.g. venue bookings, reporting missed bin collections) to citizens and local businesses through digital channels such as web or mobile apps, improving customer experience and generating internal efficiencies.

Digital field service delivery

Digital field service delivery is the capability to use mobile, location based and remote access technologies to increase the productivity of Council staff who are based outside of a main site Council site.

Digital partner engagement

Digital partner engagement is the capability to work with external parties in a collaborative and/or integrated manner to deliver outcomes for customers or for the wider city.

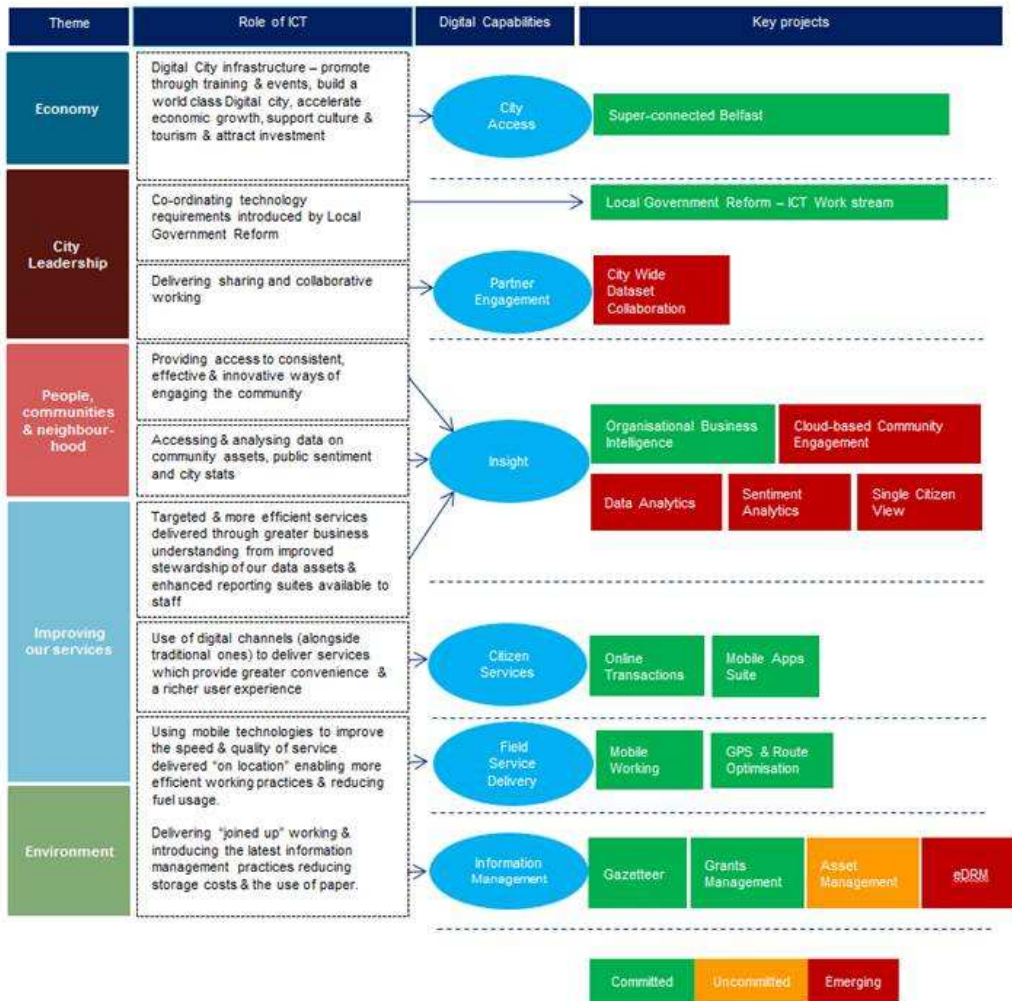
Digital city access

Digital access is the capability to provide a digital infrastructure for Belfast and to promote social inclusion in the use of digital services through the delivery of training and demand stimulation activities for citizens and businesses.

Figure 2. Key Projects

The following diagram provides a summary of digital capabilities and key projects mapped to the Council's strategic themes.

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3 Resource Implications

3.1 Projects emerging from the strategy that need capital funding will require business cases that will be taken through the Council's gate review process.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

N/A

5 Recommendations

Members are requested to endorse the new ICT Strategy."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

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Human Resources

Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives

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

Asset Management

Use of Illuminate Facilities

The Committee was reminded that the governance arrangements for the Illuminate Project, which had been approved in February, 2013, had limited access to the new Illuminate LED lighting facilities to:

- (a) charities nominated by our Civic office-bearers;
- (b) events organised or supported by the Council; and
- (c) an agreed schedule of additional days.

Any requests which did not fall into those categories required the approval of the Committee.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.) Support Group NI

The Director of Property and Projects reported that a request had been received from the M.E. Support Group NI asking for the City Hall to be illuminated blue on 12th May to mark International M.E. Awareness Day.

The Committee agreed to accede to the request.

Community Relations Council

The Director reported further that a request had been received from the Chairperson of the Community Relations Council seeking to have the City Hall illuminated in rainbow colours to support this year's Community Relations Week. The request was to have the City Hall lit up at the beginning of the week on 16th June or throughout the full week itself.

The Committee agreed to approve the request for 1 day only, that is, 16th June.

Acquisition of land at Blacks Road

In accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60, the Committee was advised that the Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting on 13th March, had agreed to acquire approximately 4.49 acres of land at Blacks Road for the purpose of developing a park.

The Committee approved the purchase of the land.

Local Government Reform: Department of Social Development Transfer of Assets and Liabilities; Projects and Contracts

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that as part of the Local Government Reform, Belfast City Council will see the transfer of regeneration functions from DSD. This will result in the transfer of a significant number of assets and liabilities; capital projects under construction/procurement; masterplans and regeneration plans; contracts and non property assets.
- 1.2 From a financial perspective, asset planning, project management, transfer of functions and implementation perspective it is essential to get clarity on what is to transfer to BCC and any associated conditions, liabilities or financial implications. A due diligence exercise is currently underway and whilst this is still at a early stage, given the quantum of transferring assets, liabilities and projects there are certain issues that need highlighting now in terms of the deliverability of certain projects and the associated financial implications. A number of these projects have major implications for the City particularly in terms of transport infrastructure.
- 1.3 The DSD Transferring Functions cover 3 broad areas including:
 - Physical Development – Comprehensive Development, Public Realm and Urban Development Grants
 - Area Based Regeneration – including Neighbourhood Renewal (physical and revenue projects); Belfast Area Partnerships, Masterplans & Frameworks
 - Community Development – Community Support Programmes & Community Investment Fund
- 1.4 The DSD Minister published proposals on the allocation of resources to the 11 new Councils for consultation on 18 December 2013 and these were considered by the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee at its meeting on 15 January 2014. The proposed allocation is intended to cover the delivery of these functions including the delivery of any physical projects; the costs associated with managing and maintaining all transferring assets; contractual commitments; human resource and administrative costs. The proposed model

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indicates that £20.418M will be allocated to the new Belfast City Council.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Baseline information has now been received from DSD although a significant amount of due diligence remains to be done. However, in broad terms this baseline information indicates the following:

(1) Assets:

- **203 no assets/liabilities transferring from DSD.**
- **Initial site inspections and information gathering is ongoing but a broad classification of asset types is indicated in the table below.**
- **The transferring assets include the former Lagan side assets including the Lagan Weir, public realm, Queens Quay lands etc. The Lagan Weir represents a significant liability that will transfer to the Council. The latest information provided by DSD indicates that BCC will have significant annual costs for upkeep of the revetments (banks) and dredging estimated at £3.5m over 7 years for dredging and £150k pa for the revetments not to forget that the weir itself will require a refurbishment circa 2020. However, a further detailed assessment is to be undertaken by BCC officers in relation to the legal, financial, and resource implications associated with the transfer of the Lagan Weir.**
- **A more detailed report will be brought back to Committee in relation to all transferring assets and liabilities (including the Lagan Weir) when further detail is obtained and officers have progressed with the due diligence exercise.**

Asset Type	Number of Assets
Development Assets /Vacant Sites (mostly vacant sites)	91
Event Space (Custom House Sq etc)	3
Buildings (Cathedral Quarter Managed Workspace Buildings, Paisley Park etc)	10
Key Development Sites (Queen's Quay, Girdwood, Northside etc)	10
Open Space (Colin Way, Bogtown Glen etc)	7
Public Realm (Lanyon Pl, Writer's Sq, Bank Sq etc)	8
Car Parks	6
DSD Head Landlord Properties (Four Corners, Mays Meadow, Greggs Quay etc)	23

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River Related Assets (River Lagan, Weir, Lagan Lookout, rib boat, pontoons etc)	16
Public Art (includes former Laganside Art)	28
Motor Vehicle	1
Totals	203

2.3

(2) Physical Capital Regeneration Projects & Contractual Commitments

DSD have a number of capital projects either underway or proposed, with associated financial and contractual commitments for the Council. Based on the most recent information provided by DSD the total expenditure profile for all projects underway or proposed for the period from now to 2016/17 is £70,998,462 plus an estimated additional £30M for the Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 project.

It should be understood that some of these projects are currently aspirational and would only be delivered if financial resources are forthcoming. Generally DSD spend around £5-6m per year on physical projects with exceptions made for schemes such as Streets Ahead, or public realm. DSD also have access to monitoring round funding in year.

Projects which will extend beyond 31 March 2015 will require the agreement of the STC or Shadow Council before preparatory and/or contractual work can proceed prior to 1 April 2015. To do this will require a degree of prioritisation on the part of BCC.

The projects fall under 3 main headings:

(i) Environmental Improvement Schemes /Public Realm Schemes/Other:

Total Expenditure Profile for period from now to 2016/17 for Public Realm schemes is £43,575,000, a further estimated £30M for the Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 3 project and other regeneration projects at £6,831,452 (based on most recent DSD information). Whilst a number of these projects are not currently contractually committed, certain projects have appraisals in progress, consultation has been undertaken and detailed design proposals are being developed. There are also certain Environmental Improvement Schemes which impact upon the

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Belfast Rapid Transit proposals and there is the possibility of funding in part by DRD. In particular these latter schemes relate to East and West Belfast and there is a risk of sub optimal outcomes for BRT if decisions are not forthcoming.

(ii) Urban Development Grants

Total Expenditure Profile for period from now to 2016/17 is £4,245,548 (based on most recent DSD information).

However, the application process for Urban Development Grants (UDG's) remains open and DSD are continuing to deal with new applications. It is still unclear as to the quantum and level of commitment currently in place by DSD in respect of the UDG's. The nature of UDG's is such that the grants may not become payable until several years from the date of application, which could leave the Council with an unclear financial liability on an annual basis.

(iii) Neighbourhood Renewal Physical Projects

Total Expenditure Profile from now to 2016/17 is £16,346,462 (based on most recent DSD information).

Whilst a number of these are not currently contractually committed and many may be aspirational there are nonetheless expectations that many will be delivered. It should be noted that many of these are closely linked with Council projects which are emerging either under LIF or BIF or emerging SIF projects.

(3) Masterplans /Regeneration Schemes.

- 22 no Masterplans, Regeneration Schemes and Development Frameworks. Includes Royal Exchange; Streets Ahead; Colin Town Centre; Northside; Greater Ballysillan; Queens Quay etc. However, the Colin Town Centre project was designated recently as an Urban Village and it is unknown how this will impact on the transfer or otherwise to the Council. A separate report will be brought by the Director of Development in relation

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to the Masterplans & proposed regeneration schemes.

Issues for consideration:

- Whilst there have been a number of recent meetings between BCC and DSD officers with a view to establishing a definitive list of all projects and contractual commitments there remains gaps in the most recent schedules received. Officers are continuing to meet with DSD on the detail of this and it is intended to bring a report back to Committee /STC in April with the details of all such projects and commitments and recommendations for prioritisation of projects.
- Some general principles will need to be considered in the prioritisation and funding of the projects, which may include:
 - Prioritisation of those projects that overlap with emerging Council supported projects including potential BIF/LIF/SIF projects eg Girdwood
 - Prioritisation of those projects that overlap with the Belfast Rapid Transit Scheme.
 - Prioritisation of those projects where DSD monies can be spent in the period up to 2015 and hence a reduced liability for the Council post 2015.
 - Consideration to be given to DSD retaining responsibility for any projects that are contractually committed as at 2015, including UDG's
- Notwithstanding any prioritisation process it is clear that the transferring budget allocation from DSD does not fully account for the aspirational list of projects. There is a high risk that the proposed 'seamless' transition from DSD will not occur and there is the potential for loss of momentum. It is therefore recommended that a meeting is requested as soon as possible by the Council with the DSD, DFP, DCAL and DRD Ministers to consider any scope for potential transitional funding and delivery mechanisms for key city projects that have major impacts.

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- The current model of the Council becoming responsible for all DSD activity in April 2015 with a fixed budget allocation inevitably means that the city will need to focus on a number of key projects that will enhance quality of life, reanimate the city and attract investment and economic activity
- There are a number of emerging DSD projects that the Council will need to consider now to ensure that budget is not lost and to maximise links with other funding streams, particularly those where the Council has an interest or where they relate to citywide strategic projects. Whilst it is intended to bring a further detailed report back in April to the STC and to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee there are certain projects that require Member's consideration now and should form the basis of the proposed Ministerial meeting:
 1. Environmental Improvement Scheme at Divis Street Gateway (Junction of Divis Street /Millfield to junction of Falls Road /Grosvenor Road) and the Albertbridge Road/Templemore Avenue: Both of these proposed projects are closely linked to the Belfast Rapid Transit scheme. They also link to other Council schemes including the Lower Falls/Divis Intervention scheme and the emerging St Comgall's BIF /SIF project (see separate Area Working Group Update report) at Divis Street Gateway and the Connswater Community Greenway project where it crosses the Newtownards Road/Albertbridge Junction (Albertbridge Road scheme).
 2. Girdwood: The construction work is due to commence on the Girdwood Community Hub in early April and the proposed DSD funded infrastructure and wider site works are integral to the overall project. The Hub has £1.5million of DSD funded external works associated with the building which cannot be completed until the building is up in June 2015. Therefore as things stand the Council would be expected to complete this. The wider Girdwood site development which is a key good relations scheme also has implications for Council, DSD and potentially DCAL.

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3. Other Environmental Improvement scheme – specifically those creating a gateway to city centre from Shankill and Crumlin Roads.

4. BRO projects – There quite a number of these in the system which is raising expectation levels and decisions need clarified.

3 Resource Implications

Officers from Property & Projects and Development are continuing to meet with DSD officials on the detail of transferring assets, liabilities, projects and contracts.

4 Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to note the contents of report:

- **note that detailed work is ongoing with DSD officials in relation to due-diligence on the assets, liabilities, projects and contracts which are transferring and note that a further detailed report will be brought back to SP&R and the STC in April**
- **to agree that an urgent meeting is sought with the DSD, DFP, DCAL and DRD Ministers to consider any scope for potential transitional funding for key city projects**
- **consider the emerging implications in light of other Council funding streams including LIF and BIF and in the context of emerging SIF priorities.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted recommendations 1 and 3 as set out in the report and agreed not to seek a meeting with the Ministers at this stage. The Committee noted further that the Chief Executive would be meeting with the Departmental Secretary of the Department for Social Development the following week and that a report on the outcomes of that meeting would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

Review of Rents at Parks Houses

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.0 Parks houses are residential properties located on land for which the Parks and Leisure Department have operational responsibility. Parks and Leisure look after allocation of the

dwelling to Council employees and have management responsibility for the properties. Property and Projects Department provide advice in relation to reviews of rents and content of Tenancy Agreements. The nature of the Tenancy Agreements for these houses provides less protection for occupiers than equivalent Housing Executive or private rented sector lettings.

1.1 Legal Basis

Legal Advice obtained requires the Council to restrict these lettings to Council employees. Letting on the open market or to those on housing waiting lists, would fall outside the Council's functions and legal scope. Legal advice confirms that because the lettings are to employees and the wording contained in the 'Tenancy Agreement' states the occupancy is 'at the will and during the pleasure of the Council', the occupier has no legal interest in the property. This means the occupier's status is more akin to that of a Licensee rather than a tenant. In addition the Council has no duty to re-house any tenant whose tenancy is terminated. The combination of these factors offers less protection to the occupier than a Housing Executive or private rented sector tenancy.

1.2 This report provides a review of rent on six properties.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Since 1991 Parks Houses rents have been calculated using the Northern Housing Executive Rents Point Scheme. Points are allocated based on the number of rooms and facilities and have then been further adjusted by the Estate Management Unit to take into account the following factors:

1. Location of the dwelling
2. Access and surrounding environment
3. Condition of the dwelling
4. Security duty
5. Security of tenure

2.2 Rental Adjustment

Due to the unique situation of many of the Parks Houses it is considered appropriate to make adjustments for the factors listed above. The rents are adjusted where houses are situated in cemeteries or more out of the way locations. Adjustment is also made where the occupier has a duty, under the tenancy agreement, to investigate any disturbance or unlawful entry occurring at anytime on the adjoining Council property, and report the same immediately to the police. In many cases the tenant will also have the responsibility outside

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normal park opening hours (e.g. at night) to open, close and lock gates in order to gain access to, or egress from, the dwelling. Adjustments are also made for the absence of parking arrangements where appropriate.

Each time rents on these properties are reviewed the condition of each dwelling is considered and account taken of any renovations, improvements as well as any need for repairs.

2.3 Allocation of Property to Staff

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 gate, reporting incidents of ASB to the police and some minor maintenance of the gardens.

2.4 Summary of Each Property

Information on the nature of each property as well as the existing and proposed rent has been circulated. A summary of existing and proposed rents is also provided below for Committee's consideration.

Over the two year period since the last review, Housing Executive rents have risen by approximately 6%. While the proposed revised rents take account of this increase the allowances applied to each house in terms of location and condition have also been reviewed. The resultant increased rents while remaining relatively modest, and in some cases nil increases are considered to reflect the relative advantages and disadvantages of their sites, surrounding locations and tenancy constraints.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

Subject to all the dwellings being let for the entire year, the proposed revised rents would increase the total annual rental income from the dwellings referred to in this report, from the current £17,784 to £18,512 per annum.

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Address	Existing Weekly Rent	Proposed Weekly Rent	Equivalent Monthly Proposed Rent Including Rates
743 Upper Newtownards Road	£48	£50	£287
511 Falls Road	£56	£58	£339
62 Antrim Road	£78	£81	£473
125 Ballygowan Road	£45	£50	£278
2a Stranmillis Road	£60	£62	£350
2 Park Road, Mallusk	£55	£55	£293

3.2 Human Resources

No additional human resources required.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

Ensures appropriate rental levels for dwellings.

4 Equality and Good Relation Considerations

4.1 No known equality or good relation issues associated with this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Committee is recommended to approve the revised rents set out in the body of this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Grove Development Study – Update

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Committee’s consideration the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide Members with an update on the recently completed Grove Development Study and to agree next steps.

2.0 Relevant Background Information

2.1 Members will be aware that the Council’s former leisure facility at Grove was recently demolished with the cleared site (1.27 acres) remaining in the ownership of the Council. In addition the Council recently acquired the site of the former Grove Primary School which was declared surplus by BELB in 2013

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following SP&R Committee agreement in November 2012. This is a 2.5 acres site on the opposite side of North Queen Street. A further 3.9 acres of adjacent land is owned by the NIHE which has also been declared surplus.

- 2.2 This therefore encompasses a sizeable site which presents a significant opportunity for development in an inner city area. The site is a strategically important gateway site on one of the main arterial routes into the city centre. The area falls within the Inner North Neighbourhood Renewal Area and its wards among those with the highest level of multiple deprivation in NI. The area has also been characterised by high levels of conflict and division. A number of previous planning assessments have been carried out on the sites.
- 2.3 Members are asked to note that a number of previous studies and frameworks have identified needs in the area and/or proposed a number of uses for the site. DSD's previous draft Physical Regeneration Masterplan for York Road/Shore Road identified an opportunity to create a landmark mixed use building at the junction of York Road and North Queen Street at the site of the former leisure centre. Key needs and/or potential uses in the area which have been previously identified include economic development and creation of jobs and training opportunities through the provision for small business units.
- 2.4 The Council, in conjunction with DSD and NIHE, recognised the potential for this site to make a contribution to the social, economic and physical regeneration of the area. Last year DSD, working jointly with the Council and NIHE, commissioned consultants to undertake a development study. The aim of the study was to explore the development potential of the land in and around the site of the former Grove Leisure Centre and identify a potentially viable model for its development in a way that benefited both the local and wider communities. Members are asked to note that whilst the Council supported the progression of the development study it was on the basis that the Council was not bound by the findings of the study and could progress development options as they materialised.
- 3.0 **Key issues**
- 3.1 A number of stakeholder consultation events were held to inform the development of the plan and a number of potential options for the future of the site were identified and appraised. The consultants have now delivered their report and the key recommendations emerging are outlined below for Members consideration

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- short term, meanwhile uses on a portion of the NIHE land
- longer term business start up/youth training units developed on the former Grove Primary School site and former leisure centre site
- Midland Boxing Club to be relocated on a portion of the NIHE land
- The transfer of a small portion of NIHE land to Alexander Presbyterian Church for car parking
- An Environmental Improvement Scheme to include the closure of a portion of North Queen St

3.3 The consultants concluded that due to insufficient evidence of demand or need for an immediate large scale development the preferred option for the development of the site is to use part of the NIHE land to install 'pods' as a meanwhile use. They felt that this would test the market. The consultants did not however recommend any immediate uses for the Council's lands and were of the view that if the meanwhile uses on the NIHE lands could provide sufficient evidence of demand for further developments, then the Council's lands could potentially be developed into a youth training and business start up centre. They proposed that the Council could potentially market their lands by way of a Development Brief for the provision of an Innovation Centre/youth training facility or start up units.

3.4 It should be noted that no budget has currently been allocated to the Grove Development Plan. The recommendations outlined above are only emerging findings and have not been costed in detail.

Other issues for consideration

3.5 The Council has also been approached by various other stakeholders who have ideas for the development of the former Grove site which demonstrates a level of potential interest in the site. These include the potential development of a 'city farm' and business incubation units. However these are only initial proposals with no funding attached.

3.6 Members are asked to note that there are also a number of Masterplans and Development Frameworks which are transferring across from DSD and any future decisions on the

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Grove study should be considered in the context of the overall Masterplans and frameworks.

4.0 Next steps

4.1 In addition to the emergent findings/recommendations from the Grove Masterplan, a range of other uses for this site have been proposed by other stakeholders. Members are asked to continue to authorise officers to progress decisions with interested parties with a view to bringing a further report back to Committee.

5.0 Recommendations

Members are asked note the contents of this report and

- agree that officers continue to facilitate discussions with interested parties over the future use of the Grove site with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. This will need to be considered in the context of the range of asset, project, masterplans and frameworks which are transferring from DSD “

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

North Foreshore Plot 1 Site Disposal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Members gave approval on the 18th November 2011 to release a Marketing Prospectus for the disposal (by way of lease) of a site up to 1.5 acres at the North Foreshore for Anaerobic Digester renewable energy use.

1.2 Members will be aware that the Council has previously agreed that the North Foreshore should be developed for waste management, environmental businesses and recreational uses. The environmental business proposal comprises the development of an environmental resource park to create an innovative ‘Green Technology Business Cluster’ for Belfast. This would have the benefit of diversifying the economy to encourage investment and job creation.

1.3 The North Foreshore Members Steering Group was briefed on the 25 February about the proposed development of the proposed environmental resource park, and were provided

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with an update on the progress being made to encourage private sector development interest.

- 1.4 The development of a cleantech environmental resource park at the North Foreshore is included within the Investment Programme 2012 – 2015. The Members will also be aware that the Council has submitted a £8 million European Regional Development Fund Application to develop the infrastructure for this environmental resource park. Invest NI and DETI are currently assessing the application, and the Council expects a decision in April 2014.
- 1.5 The disposal of the site for potential anaerobic digester cleantech renewable energy facility would enable the development of a sustainable renewable energy hub. It would create a unique selling point for the development of a cleantech environmental technology cluster. In particular, the availability of renewable electricity would be attractive to potential cleantech companies locating in the environmental resource park. A renewable energy hub at the North Foreshore would demonstrate Council's leadership in promoting the development of the cleantech environmental technology sector to build the City's resilience in an era of growing energy insecurity, increasing energy cost and fuel poverty. The NI Executive is promoting the development of anaerobic digester facilities to generate renewable energy to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and to improve our security of energy supply. It would also help contribute to the NI Executives' renewable energy target of 40% by 2020.
- 1.6 The disposal of a site for a commercial anaerobic digester renewable energy facility will form part of the renewable energy hub being created at the North Foreshore.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council identified and agreed a potential development opportunity, to release up to 1.5 acres to the market. The Marketing Prospectus was advertised in the local papers, the council website and in the European Official Journal in December 2011. Developers were invited to submit development proposals to acquire up 1.5 acres for a commercial anaerobic digester renewable energy facility. Developers were requested to offer an unconditional financial bid for the easement fee based on the amount of renewable electricity and heat produced. The closing date for the Development Submissions was the 13 February 2012.

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2.2 The Marketing Prospectus stated that an independent due diligence exercise would be undertaken to assess the Development Submissions to determine the commercial viability of the project. The Council commissioned KPMG in March 2012 to undertake an independent evaluation of the submissions to test the financial capacity of the companies and their ability to secure the funding for the development of the site. The following assessment criteria which was outlined in the Marketing Prospectus was used to assess the development submissions:

- i. Financial offer for the electricity cable and heat pipe easement fees.**
- ii. Company background, financial viability of the project and the financial capability of the operator to fund, deliver, and operate the facility.**
- iii. Experience of the Developer and project Development Team to deliver and operate similar AD renewable energy facilities.**
- iv. Quality of the design proposal and the socio economic benefits.**
- v. Delivery of the project within a reasonable timescale.**

2.3 Following this assessment it is recommended that the Council should enter into a Site Options Agreement with B9 Organics International Ltd, with the site options agreement containing appropriate terms and conditions requiring B9 to commit to an unconditional financial bid for the easement fee and site rent upon signing of the Agreement and a further precondition that requires confirmation of funding.

2.4 B9 Organic International Ltd is a local renewable energy company based in Larne. B9 Organic International Ltd is proposing to develop a commercial anaerobic digester facility that would process commercial organic waste to produce biogas to power up to 1Mw of renewable electricity and heat. This could be sufficient to power up to 1,000 homes. It will also contribute towards the 40% renewable energy target established by the NI Executive. Anaerobic Digestion (AD) is a cleantech technology that is a modern and clean facility that processes organic waste in the absence of oxygen, producing a biogas that can be used to generate electricity and heat. The AD operation takes place in an enclosed building under slight negative pressure and sealed containers to contain the odour. B9 Organic International Ltd has indicated that they will invest £5 million raised from private equity investors, via the Enterprise Investment Scheme designed to promote new business development.

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- 2.5 B9 Organic International Ltd is proposing to create a number of permanent full time jobs, and there will also be additional construction jobs created by the project.
- 2.6 The NI Executive is promoting the development of AD facilities to generate renewable energy to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and to improve our security of energy supply. The Executive has imposed targets that 40% of our energy production is to come from renewable sources by 2020. Currently, NI is producing c12% of its energy from renewable sources. It is worth highlighting that in 2009 the Council's landfill gas electricity generation power plant at the North Foreshore was producing 5mw which accounted for 1% of the 12% renewable target established by the Executive for 2012.
- 2.7 In addition, the NI Executive has also established targets to divert waste away from landfill and has established a recycling target of 60% by 2020. The B9 Organic International Ltd AD proposal will help to divert commercial organic waste away from landfill and contribute towards the 60% recycling target.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

The Council will receive a financial return for the site based on a ground rental (reviewable every 5 years) and a further return based on the amount of electricity generated from the facility and on the amount of any heat exported from the facility. The return from electricity and heat is based on an agreed (unconditional) price per mw hour. The total return will be dependent upon the amount of electricity and heat generated but setting aside any potential return from the export of heat (which is less certain given that there are currently no end users on this site), the estimated return to the Council is circa £77,500 per annum based on a 1mw AD renewable energy facility.

In order to enable development and comply with planning and NIEA requirements and for the protection of human health, the site will however require capping works (including an active gas abstraction system) to be undertaken. A report on the capping works as contained in the capital programme, was previously brought to the SP & R Committee in November 2012. It is worth noting however that in the absence of site development the Council will still have to provide a basic capping system.

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The development of this facility is an important element of the sustainable energy hub, and will encourage other developers in the cleantech and renewable sectors to locate at the North Foreshore.

The proposed investment by B9 Organic International Ltd is £5 million. In addition to job creation for the City, this facility will also add to the City's rate base.

Assets

- 3.2 The development of this site represents an important regeneration opportunity for Belfast and has the potential to create significant economic, social and environmental benefits.

The development of this facility is important in firmly positioning the North Foreshore Environmental Resource Park as a cleantech business cluster and would help improve Belfast attractiveness as a competitive location for the renewable energy and cleantech sector.

3.3 **Human Resources**

Staff resource, primarily from Property & Projects Estates Unit and Legal Services.

4 **Equality and Good Relations Screening**

- 4.1 A screening form is not necessary because there is no equality or good relation issues

5 **Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that Members give approval to enter into negotiations to complete a Site Options Agreement and draft Lease with B9 Organic International Ltd, for the disposal of a site at the North Foreshore for a commercial AD renewable energy facility, as detailed above and subject to detailed terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager and Legal Services."

The Committee adopted the recommendation and agreed that a report on the overall development of the North Foreshore site be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

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Good Relations and Equality

Minutes of Meeting of Good Relations Partnership

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 10th March.

Notice of Motion – Stained Glass Window.

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd April had referred the undernoted notice of motion, which had been moved by Councillor McCarthy and seconded by Councillor Webb, to it for consideration:

“This Council agrees to the installation of a stained glass window in the City Hall to commemorate the sons of our City who fought in support of the democratically elected Government of Spain against the forces of Fascism.”

The Committee was advised that the Spanish Civil War had been fought from 1936-1939 and had involved a range of political factions but mainly fascist and socialist forces. Most of the Irish volunteers who had fought against Franco's fascist forces were members of the Fifth International Brigade. Around 80 of those 320 Irishmen were from Northern Ireland, a significant proportion of whom were from Belfast.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that the installation of a Stained Glass Window would need to be considered within the overall context of City Hall Memorabilia. One of the Council's primary objectives was to make the environment within the City Hall balanced and inclusive and to reflect the cultural backgrounds of all the citizens of the City. As a first step, it was recommended that the matter should be referred to the Joint Group of the Party Leaders' Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group for consideration and comment. Thereafter, it would be a matter for the Committee to determine.

He pointed out that that course of action would be in keeping with the methodology used by the Council in 2011, prior to the installation in the City Hall of the 'Celtic Myths and Legends' window, which had been referred to the former Memorabilia Working Group for initial comment.

The Committee agreed that the matter be referred initially to the Joint Group of Party Leaders' Forum and Historic Centenaries Working Group for consideration and comment.

Cross-cutting Issues

Notice of Motion – New Psychoactive Substances

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 3rd February, had passed unanimously the undernoted notice of motion, which had been moved by Alderman Robinson and seconded by Councillor Hargey:

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“This Council notes with concern that the sale and use of Novel Psychoactive Substances, so called ‘legal highs,’ is becoming increasingly problematic in the City;

- it commends the gallant efforts of many charities and voluntary organisations, such as Opportunity Youth, Ascertainment, FASA and the Falls Community Council, which are working hard to support those individuals affected, whilst shining a light on this recent scourge;
- it notes the good work being led by the South Belfast DPCSP, which convened recently a meeting of a multi-agency working group to examine this issue and its impact, with a follow-up meeting to take place later this month; and
- it agrees to write to the Health Minister with a view to supporting his engagement with the Home Office to review the legislative controls and potential classification.”

The Democratic Services Manager reported that a response had been received from the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Minister Edwin Poots, MLA. In his correspondence, the Minister had acknowledged the ‘real harm’ which New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – or so-called ‘legal highs’ – caused in terms of health and well-being, together with the associated issues of anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. The Minister had welcomed the work which the Council had undertaken, in conjunction with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, to address the availability of New Psychoactive Substances, and had requested that he be kept informed in that regard.

The Minister highlighted also that he had raised concerns regarding those substances with the Home Secretary, Ms Theresa May MP. At that meeting, he had requested that a more ‘robust’ approach be adopted to address the issue, and had pointed out that the Home Office had announced a review of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which would examine if the legislation could be enhanced to introduce new measures which would address the problems of new psychoactive substances. The Minister concluded his response by welcoming the steps taken to highlight the issue and indicated that he looked forward to the Council’s continued support.

After discussion, during which the Members acknowledged the work which had been undertaken by Council staff in addressing the problems of New Psychoactive Substances, the Committee noted the response from the Minister.

Notice of Motion – Healthcare Provision in Belfast

The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that the Council at its meeting on 3rd February, had passed unanimously the undernoted notice of motion, which had been moved by Councillor Convery and seconded by Councillor Groves:

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“This Council expresses grave concern at the crisis conditions experienced recently by patients in many of the Accident and Emergency Departments across Northern Ireland; a problem which is symptomatic of a more general crisis in the National Health Service (NHS). The Council calls on the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety to work actively for and with GPs and other health professionals to ensure service provision and to demonstrate the political will to deliver the best healthcare possible for patients. An effective strategy must be put in place to address the managerial problems which exist and to identify the structural change needed within the NHS. The future provision of Accident and Emergency services and improved facilities throughout Belfast hospitals to accommodate patients where admission is required must, going forward, be a key component in any strategic plan.”

He reported that a response had now been received from the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Minister Edwin Poots, MLA. In his correspondence, the Minister had assured the Council that he was committed to protecting and improving the quality of services being delivered within the Health and Social Care system and acknowledged that vital work was being undertaken by staff in emergency departments. However, he had acknowledged also that concerns had been raised recently regarding some aspects of emergency departments and outlined the actions which he had initiated to address those concerns.

After discussion, the Committee noted the response from the Minister and that a report would be submitted in due course in relation to a closer working relationship with the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and the ‘Member Information Clinics’ which the Trust had previously agreed to host.

Framework for Student Housing in the City

The Director of Health and Environmental Services submitted for the Committee’s consideration the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

The Belfast Learning City context

- 1.1 The draft Belfast City Masterplan Review highlights development of the Learning City as a key theme aimed at harnessing the value of the higher education institutions across the city to maximise their impact on the economy, vibrancy and diversity of the city and the region.**
- 1.2 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as anchor institutions in the city contribute significantly to the economic, social and environmental prosperity of the city, as well as providing a knowledge hub in the city. This is also recognised in the emerging Integrated Economic Strategy for the city which**

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highlights the role of the Higher Education sector in developing skills and access to employment.

- 1.3 Research has shown that students studying and living within cities make a significant contribution to local and regional economies. Belfast currently has 5 Higher Education Institutions across the city and by 2018 will have 2 major University campuses close to the city centre. There is also a growing international student market which presents a significant opportunity for Belfast in terms of international marketing, tourism and knowledge research.
- 1.4 Attracting students to study and live in the city not only requires excellent education providers, high quality campuses and a wide choice of quality courses, but also the right city infrastructure including IT connections, transport and housing. Student housing of whatever nature needs to be attractive, high quality, safe, secure, accessible and affordable. It needs to be well planned and appropriately managed to ensure that there is positive integration with existing communities.
- 1.5 The '*Belfast: A Learning City - Strategic Study of the Holyland and wider university area*' report was presented to the Council on 2nd April 2012 and outlined a number of recommendations in relation to student housing, to make Belfast a learning city and destination of choice for students. Two of the recommendations were:
 - a) Development of a coherent city wide strategy for student housing promoting choice and fit-for purpose accommodation; and
 - b) Identifying locations, innovative arrangements and measures to attract alternative funding for housing students in the city;
- 1.6 As agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23 August 2013, a stakeholder engagement exercise on an initial 'discussion document' has been completed. This report seeks approval of the final framework document.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The Council has been leading a joint Inter agency team on the development of a student housing strategy involving DOE Planning, DSD, NIHE and SIB, DEL, DRD and the main HEIs).

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- 2.2 The purpose of the Framework Document is to set the policy context for student housing in the city. The full document and summary is attached in the appendix.
- 2.3 Belfast is different to most other large university cities in that the proportion of available managed purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) is considerably lower than elsewhere in the UK. Local students also tend to live with others from their home towns and stay in their student accommodation during weekdays only. Also whilst there are also lower numbers of international students, the HEIs are keen to attract new students and grow their existing base and there is a DEL target to increase the numbers over the next few years. This means Belfast needs a fairly unique solution.
- 2.4 A stakeholder engagement exercise was completed between September/October 2014 on an initial 'discussion document' which presented proposals to address student housing requirements in the city. Following consideration of stakeholder responses, a final Framework document has been produced which presents evidence to address student housing requirements in the city and promote Belfast as a Learning City, including:
- The Learning City context (including the value of students within the city);
 - Evidence of market and demand for student accommodation;
 - The current policy context for Belfast and evidence of approaches in other large university cities,
 - New planning criteria for Purpose Built Student accommodation (PBSA) proposals.
- 2.5 The planning criteria proposed in the document could form the basis for a future revised planning policy for PBSA (HMO Subject Plan, Policy HMO7) after 2015, following transfer of planning powers under Local Government Reform. The criteria are:
- i. Proximity: the development is within 15 minutes walking distance of a university/college campus or on a high frequency public transport route.*
 - ii. Design: the nature, layout and design of the development are appropriate to its location and context and would not result in an unacceptable impact on local character, environmental quality or residential amenity. The development should be designed to deter crime and promote personal safety.*

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- iii. Management: an appropriate Management Plan is in place to minimise potential negative impacts from occupants and the development on surrounding properties and neighbourhoods and to create a positive and safe living environment for students. This may require an Article 40 Planning Agreement with the relevant authority prior to the issue of planning permission (or Article 76 of the 2011 Planning Act);*
 - iv. Impact: the development would not result in an unacceptable impact upon surrounding residential neighbourhoods in itself or when considered alongside existing and approved student housing provision.*
 - v. Need: the development meets an identified need for the type of accommodation proposed.*
- 2.6 The Planning Service has also confirmed that once the Council has endorsed its support for these criteria, they will consider them as material in their planning considerations.
- 2.7 The framework document sets out the policy context. However a number of other interventions will be needed to achieve a choice of high quality student accommodation in the city. These other interventions include policy, legislative, practical and financial interventions around which work is currently ongoing. This includes improved HMO regulation, an accreditation scheme for student accommodation, complementary regeneration schemes in areas around the HEIs, pre-application discussion guidance for planning applications; and further work on the financial viability and options for facilitating/ supporting private sector or partnership delivery of PBSA schemes.
- 2.8 As previously agreed by Committee on 23 August 2013, work is continuing with key partners, including SIB, to:
- Explore the feasibility of options for facilitation of purpose built student accommodation; and
 - Develop a Business Case in conjunction with SIB to be submitted to DFP to assess whether there is scope for public sector financial support for delivering the strategy.
- 2.9 A further report on the outcome and recommendations of this work (in para 2.7) will be brought to Committee later in 2014.
- 2.10 As the Council inherits the responsibility for the development of a local area plan, it is likely to consider how this plan can control inappropriate student accommodation and support more managed purpose built accommodation.

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3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 Costs associated with publishing the framework have been allowed for within the revenue estimates.**

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 4.1 The Good Relations and Diversity Officer has been consulted and has advised that equality screening of the Framework is not required at this stage. The Framework document highlights the commitment of Belfast City Council and the Joint team partners to ensuring that equality and good relations matters are considered in delivery of all aspects of the Framework. As strategy proposals/interventions are progressed in more detail by the relevant agencies, these will be equality screened in line with corporate equality policy.**

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to:
Adopt and publish the Framework document and the summary;
Note the further work on feasibility/support for PBSA; and
Support the planning criteria for PBSA schemes in consideration of future managed PBSA proposals.”**

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

Belfast Healthy Cities Phase VI

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Belfast was first designated to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network in 1988; the city has been a key member of the five phases of the Network and recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with a key event, at which Dr Agis Tsouros, Head of WHO European Healthy Cities, presented WHO Healthy City Awards to a range of projects across Belfast.**
- 1.2 Belfast Healthy Cities, which operates through a Board of Directors from various statutory and voluntary agencies and a small staff team, has worked over the five phases of the initiative to place health and wellbeing on the policy agenda of all agencies within the city; to create an intersectoral approach**

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across sectors; and to promote understanding and action to address inequity in health throughout the city.

- 1.3 The current WHO Healthy Cities Network phase came to an end in December 2013 and Phase VI of the Network will operate from 2014 – 2019. There are two stages to the application process. As a first stage, an expression of interest letter was presented jointly on behalf of Belfast by Dr Eddie Rooney and the Lord Mayor to Dr Agis Tsouros, whilst he was in Belfast on 28 November 2013, following approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting in November 2013. The expression of interest letter was accepted by WHO and Belfast was invited to submit an application as a city that had been active in delivering on the Phase V themes. The second stage involved the Lord Mayor hosting a workshop on 10 January with key stakeholders in the city to identify the priorities in the Belfast Phase VI application.**
- 1.4 Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC) complements the work of the Belfast Strategic Partnership and other organisations advocating the linkages between health, improving quality of life and inequalities. Given the changing role of local government with the review and new functions coming into Council during this new Phase VI (2014-2019) period may provide opportunities for BHC to support the Council in specific work programmes. BHC also supports specific work programmes within the Belfast Strategic Partnership, leading the work on Regeneration and Healthy Urban Environments and contributing to the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership and to the Active Belfast/Active Travel group.**
- 1.5 It is important that the work of Healthy Cities moving forward continues to build more complementarity with the work of the Belfast Strategic Partnership and the future community planning process to be led by the Council.**
- 1.6 A benefit of being a member of the World Health Organization European Healthy Cities Network is the promotion of Belfast on the international stage as a leading example of innovative practice in intersectoral working. BHC is very successful in bringing expert speakers to build knowledge within the city on key health and equity issues.**
- 1.7 The World Health Organisation (WHO) European Healthy Cities Network was established in 1987, initially with just 11 cities committed to collaborating with WHO, focused on local action for health and health equity. Twenty five years on, the Network has a limit of 100 cities as designated members, alongside**

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some 30 national members involving more than 1,400 cities and towns similarly committed to Healthy Cities values and ways of working.

- 1.8 The Head of Environmental Health is currently a member of the Belfast Healthy Cities Board of Directors. The Chair of the Health and Environmental Services Committee is considered to be the lead politician representing Belfast at the European business meetings. The Council is also one of the core funders of the organisation and its programmes. Other key funders are the Public Health Agency, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

2 **Key Issues**

- 2.1 The two strategic goals of Phase VI are:
- Improving health for all and reducing health inequalities
 - Improving leadership and participatory governance
- 2.2 There are four core themes to be addressed during the Phase VI period and the Phase VI workshop identified the following priorities:
- Theme 1: Life course and empowering people - the priorities will include early life; older people and health literacy
 - Theme 2: Public health priorities - the priorities will be mental well-being; physical activity, obesity and transport
 - Theme 3: Strengthening people city services and public health capacity – the priority will be to strengthen the capacity of officers and politicians across sectors
 - Theme 4: Creating resilient communities and supportive environments - the priorities will be healthy urban planning and design; climate change and healthy transport
- 2.3 The detailed action plans will be finalised during the coming months with key stakeholders across the city.
- 2.4 WHO requires that the Phase VI application by the city is endorsed by the City Council through the Lord Mayor's office. The Committee is therefore asked to support the application for Belfast to apply for re-designation to the WHO healthy cities network Phase VI (2014-2019). A copy of the application to be submitted by the BHC office on behalf of the Lord Mayor has been circulated.

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3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial: At the 5 September 2012 Health and Environmental Services Committee, it was approved that funding to Belfast Healthy Cities should be maintained for three years at £89,586 until March 2016. The approval of the provision of this funding within the Revenue Estimates for 2015/16 will, however, now need to be given by the Shadow Council. Healthy Cities also intends to make a further bid for funding for the full Phase VI project at a later date. However, further reports will need to be brought through the appropriate governance structures in this regard.

3.2 Human Resources: These can be accommodated within current workloads.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None

5 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee

- 1. Supports the application of Belfast to the World Health Organisation for re designation to Phase VI (2014-2019) of the European Healthy Cites Network.**
- 2. Recommends that the lord Mayor formally supports the application on behalf of the city”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Progress on the delivery of individual flooding defences for householders in Northern Ireland

The Director of Health and Environmental Services reminded the Committee that many Belfast City Council residents had experienced or had been threatened by flooding from various sources over the last 6 years, with some properties being repeatedly flooded and householders suffering significant financial loss. By August 2012, the Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance had provided £1,000 payments to 4,259 households in the city (10% had claimed on more than one occasion).

She explained that a number of independent reviews, most recently by the Department of Finance and Personnel’s Performance Efficiency Delivery Unit report into the 2012 flooding, had called for individual property protection schemes, alongside other measures. However, there was still no scheme in place for householders who would not benefit from planned infrastructure improvements in the near future. While work had been progressed with a number of large scale alleviation investment schemes and improved alert systems for some areas, the only viable solution was individual property protection.

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The Director stated that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rivers Agency had developed a draft business case for the introduction of an individual property protection scheme. Feedback from that Department had indicated that the business case was currently progressing through its own and the Department for Finance and Personnel's approval mechanisms. It was also understood that there might be a role for Councils in terms of administering those schemes, although that had not yet been discussed in detail with councils.

Tailored individual property protection devices were far more effective and efficient than sandbags and such a scheme had significant potential to empower the public to help themselves, reduce the likelihood of their homes flooding and preventing financial hardship. Following the recent threat of tidal flooding in the city, a number of Members had called for a property protection scheme. Therefore, draft letters seeking clarity from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Finance and Personnel on the proposals, timescales and operation of those schemes and requesting early discussions on the implications of the proposed scheme for councils had been prepared for the Committee's approval. The letters also referred to the Executive Ministers encouraging all organisations to take the necessary measures to protect critical infrastructures such as plumbing stations, electricity substations and to the issue of the need to establish a lead 'response' agency in defined flooding situations.

The Committee agreed that the draft letters be sent to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Finance and Personnel Ministers.

A Member also raised an issue regarding a particular area of flooding and insurance implications. The Director stated that officers had been liaising with the Association of British Insurers and would speak to the individual Member about that.

IBM Smarter Cities Challenge: Final Report

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update Members on the final draft of IBM's 'Belfast Smarter Cities challenge' report who are seeking for approval for its publication. Members are asked to consider the report's recommendations for the city and the Council. Following approval IBM will publish the report on their website.**
- 1.2 Officers are currently considering the implications of the recommendations, particularly in relation to how they might inform the design and implementation of Community Planning. IBM are offering some limited follow-up support to facilitate this work.**

2.0 Background

2.1. Belfast was one of 31 cities to be awarded a Smart Cities Challenge grant in 2013. A team of six IBM experts travelled to the city to do the following:

(i) To propose a smarter and more effective approach to planning and decision making and provide a single view of activity based on multiple data sources from several agencies.

(ii) To do this in a manner that allowed for greater engagement and awareness of services by the public.

(iii) To do this in the context of health inequalities and the inter-connections with segregation and persistent disadvantage (while focusing on parts of west and east Belfast to gather their evidence.)

2.2. Whilst the researchers focused on particular issues in west and east Belfast, their findings and recommendations were intended from the outset to address the wider context (ie, how to tackle long term problems in a city with complex governance arrangements involving many organisations with no shared accountability for citywide impact or performance).

2.3. IBM presented their initial findings at a conference hosted by the Lord Mayor in October 2013 and subsequently prepared a draft report. Following a number of minor edits which were based on feedback from council officers, they are now seeking approval from the council to make their independent report publicly available on the Smarter Cities Challenge website: smartercitieschallenge.org/smarter-cities.html

3.0 Key issues

3.1 The final report is structured as follows:

- The terms of the challenge the council presented to them**
- Their findings (based on a literature review and interviews with stakeholders including those working in east and west Belfast)**
- Their thirteen recommendations for the city**
- An outline roadmap for implementation**

3.2 The recommendations describe the following:

- A process to put in place a Community Planning model for the city which encourages partnership working and engagement with the resident;**

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- An approach to establishing shared measures of impact and performance across the city;
- The ICT infrastructure for managing decision-making data.

3.3 Each of these three phases are considered in more detail below:

(1) People: Create a collaborative planning environment (Community Planning)

3.4 This phase sketches out an approach to Community Planning, community engagement and the structures they might require. It assumes the active involvement of community planning partners (particularly in terms of shared decision-making and data collection). The Council has already been calling for stronger outcomes-based accountability and performance management arrangements with our CP partners and this report offers independent credibility to this argument.

(2) Process: Define an evidence-based decision-making

3.5 This phase is about building on the community planning structure to create a shared performance management and outcomes-focused culture that allows partners to make decisions based on clear data.

3.6 To measure such shared outcomes the authors make the case for common metrics (such as a 'Locus of Control' or 'Wellbeing') that make it possible for many organisations to jointly measure if their interventions are actually making a difference to people's lives.

3.7 The 'common metric' idea was warmly received when raised at the IBM conference and OFMdfm are currently testing Locus of Control/Wellbeing alongside a second measure proposed by QUB ('Self Efficacy') as project and programme evaluation measures for Delivering Social Change across NI. The council is also looking at opportunities to try out such common metrics in preparation for measuring performance of a future Community Plan.

(3) Technology: Management system for providing services and consolidating information

3.8 At the heart of the report is a recommendation for suitable software infrastructure to manage the necessary data

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associated with future Community Planning. The authors identify three key pieces of technology:

A web-based portal (which Community, Provider and City hubs to capture and share results between partners and with citizens)

Analytics capabilities within the system to analyse the data to support decision making

A database to capture and manage the data

- 3.9 There are no indicative costs given against these technology proposals but this element is likely to prove expensive to deliver. Some aspects of the technology solution (such as cloud-based technologies) would have significant capital and ongoing revenue costs.
- 3.10 Future Council decisions around technology solutions will need to be in the broader context of our new ICT strategy and our future approach to managing data under Community Planning. There are a number of strands of work within the draft ICT strategy that may have particular significance including a future approach to cloud-based community engagement; the development of social media-based sentiment analysis; and collaboration on the development of a citywide data set.
- 3.11 Given the likely cost, and the need to involve Government departments in the creation and management of the data, it would also be important to involve departments such as OFMdfM who may be considering a regional approach to managing outcome and performance data in relation to Delivering Social Change and other social programmes.

Broader issues for council

- 3.12 The final IBM report makes an important independent contribution to the council's thinking about the design of a Community Planning process for the city. A number of the recommendations, particularly those regarding testing common metrics and new approaches to using shared data for joint decision-making, are likely to prove influential.
- 3.13 In terms of the recommendations relating to technology and city data management, issues of appropriate scale are important. For example, Government Departments, who will contribute to community planning in the city, are unlikely to enter into separate data and performance management arrangements with each of the new eleven Community Planning partnerships across Northern Ireland. They are more likely to support a single regional approach. However,

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this might provide an opportunity for Belfast City Council to act as a pathfinder for such a solution.

Next steps

- 3.14 IBM have offered some limited follow-up support to the Council to help us determine the change management challenges that the recommendations represent for the organisation. This work will consider how we can use the recommendations to support the design of the infrastructure required to deliver community planning over the longer term.**
- 3.15 Over the medium term officers will look to test individual aspects of the recommendations. This is likely to include finding opportunities to work with partners to measure our impact using a common metrics and exploring how we can effectively manage this data.**
- 3.16 In the short term, following Committee approval, IBM will make the report publicly available. Officers will then contact organisations and individuals who contributed to the research to share with them the recommendations.**
- 4.0 Resource Implications**
- 4.1 None at present.**
- 5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications**
- 5.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage.**
- 6.0 Recommendations**
- 6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the final Smarter Cities report and give approval for IBM to now make it publicly available.”**

During discussion, several members expressed disappointment at the recommendations contained in the report and suggested that its publication be deferred.

The Director of Health and Environmental Services pointed out that the report was in the ownership of IBM and that officers would speak to Party Groups about their concerns and bring back to the Committee a report on how the recommendations could be taken forward before publication of the IBM report.

The Committee agreed to this course of action.

(Councillor Hendron in the Chair.)

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**Response to 'Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People'
Consultation**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Inform Members of the consultation exercise by OFMDFM on Delivering Social Change for Children and Young People (DSC CYP); and
- Seek approval subject to committee amendments or additions and retrospective Council ratification on the draft officer response due for submission on 31 March 2014 (Originally 5 February 2014).

1.2 The stated purpose of the DSC CYP document is to provide 'an integrated policy framework encompassing policy on children and young people, including child poverty and children's rights' bringing together the Executive's commitment to reducing child poverty and delivering improved outcomes for all children and young people and:

- Represents the Executive's child poverty strategy as required under the Child Poverty Act 2010;
- Providing the required annual Child poverty report to the Assembly;
- Delivers its commitments under the Our children and young people – our pledge, the Executive's ten year strategy for children 2006-16; and
- Further implements its obligations under the UNCRC rights of the child.

1.3 The Strategy proposes a broad remit in that the 'Delivering Social change for Children and Young People' following consultation will be 'laid in the assembly, providing the annual progress report on the measures under the Child Poverty Act and a strategy which brings together all the policies and strategies dealing with child poverty and improving children's lives' for those that need it most.

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- 1.4 The consultation exercise was circulated by Council policy officers to form departmental responses and the Young Person's version was shared with members of the youth forum.**
- 1.5 The document has four main areas to be considered which are the vision and outcomes; report on progress for the Child Poverty Act; a proposed way forward using an outcome based approach and proposals for governance.**
- 1.6 The draft response generally welcomes the desire and direction to provide a clear focus on child poverty and the attempt to integrate a joined up approach across the Executive departments. However, there are instances where further clarity and involvement from the council would benefit the framework; these have been outlined in this report.**
- 1.7 Council has an agreed position and vision for children and young people and tackling poverty and disadvantage reflected throughout the response and summarised below:**
 - Children and Young People (CYP) are a corporate priority and an outcomes framework is being embedded in the development of the council's CYP services, refining implementation for transition through local government reform (LGR) and transformation corporately towards community planning in 2017. In so doing, the council's approach is aligned with the global and regional direction for promoting the rights of the child;**
 - The Investment Programme for Belfast sets out the council's commitment to deliver for the city, through a prospectus for partnership, to help its citizens realise their potential and focus on reducing inequalities and tackling disadvantage;**
 - As part of the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge which focused on the issue of persistent deprivation and poverty, the council is committed to creating a collaborative environment (and management system) with clear accountability and leadership to implement an evidence-based decision-making model;**
 - Council is an active partner in addressing poverty and disadvantage through the Belfast Strategic Partnership and the delivery of the Framework for Tackling Life Inequalities. The Council is a key partner in the**

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development of an action plan to tackle health inequalities and promote an active Belfast;

- **Council recognises that a strategic and inclusive approach is essential to maximise the level of impact and resources required to tackle elements of poverty. This was endorsed at a Civic Forum on Poverty hosted by The Lord Mayor in January 2014. Key themes discussed included: employment & jobs, fuel poverty, food poverty and finance. The feedback from this event is currently being analysed to inform the way forward and provides the opportunity to revisit the Council's existing Framework on Tackling Poverty and Social Inequalities.**
 - **As part of its Leisure Transformation Programme, the council is committed to investing £105 million over the next ten years, to transform the leisure centres across the city to ensure that they are modern fit for purpose, attractive and welcoming. The transformation programme marks the biggest change to the council's leisure provision since the 1970s and is a unique opportunity to provide services that will help drive health, social and economic outcomes for the city. The Leisure Transformation Programme will therefore contribute greatly to the strategy's third outcome, 'Children and families thrive and have a healthy future' and further collaboration is welcomed in this area.**
 - **Council is a key delivery agent within the Together; Building a United Community strategy where an Action Plan for 2014-15 is in development;**
 - **Council is the lead partner with Policing and Community Safety Partnerships for a safer city;**
 - **Member led local area working has been implemented within the council in the last year and focuses on collaborative working to address all issues, primarily in areas of disadvantage and deprivation.**
- 1.8 The draft response reflects council's desire to work in partnership at every opportunity and to integrate our resources in order to ensure effective and collaborative delivery across Belfast. However there are areas we would welcome greater detail on to provide further clarity and inform how best we can become involved.**

2 Key Issues

2.1 Vision and outcomes

The document proposes a new vision which is *'that all children have the support and nurturing required to allow them to have a healthy, safe and active childhood and have access to quality education, which will provide them with the skills to gain employment and fulfil their potential as active engaged citizens'*. The Council response recommends a reference to the rights of the child is included in the vision is added (this is already in the 10 year pledge). This is a fundamental tenet in the Council's approach to support children and young people in Belfast.

2.2 Council is a fully committed member of the current CYPSP Belfast outcomes group set up to deliver on 'Our children Our People Our Pledge 10 year strategy for children' (2006-16) and its 6 regionally agreed children and young people outcomes. We welcome further detail on the future status and governance hierarchy on this.

2.3 Given the broad remit proposed we welcome clarification on the level of accountability, roles and responsibilities and level of capacity being resourced to support the roll out of the approach across 11 new council districts in order to develop local government ownership of the outcomes and approach.

2.4 Council generally welcomes the outcomes in the document which can be traced back to the 6 regional outcomes in the CYPSP 10 year strategy however would note there is no hierarchy and some of the proposed outcomes suggest targeted benefit for all (Children and families thrive and have a healthy future) whilst others target those most in need (Children in poverty achieve good educational outcomes).

2.5 In the absence of any identified resources during the time of local government reform it may be useful to have a staged and resourced approach to developing the agreed outcomes.

2.6 Report on progress for the Child Poverty Act

The feedback on performance progress on child poverty identifies that absolute poverty continues to increase in spite of the interventions listed to date. The Council welcomes the opportunity for further involvement for greater alignment of efforts in Belfast to make a measurable difference especially in closing the gap for children and young people.

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2.7 Members are aware of the DSC 6 signature projects and the additional 7 signature project which is the play and leisure plan (£1.6 million). Our response welcomes the play and leisure project and hopes to be able to influence how it is defined to shape its impact to meet the needs of Belfast. Officers have requested an update on the current position of this resource.

2.8 A proposed way forward using an outcomes based approach

An Outcomes approach is welcomed in principle however further involvement and information on whether or not the model meets the needs of all children and young people and also whether or not it is most suitable for the sections of the community in greatest need e.g. traveller community is invited through a robust equality screening process.

2.9 Governance, monitoring and reporting.

Whilst a fully co-ordinated approach to managing the outcomes is welcomed there is no detail on how the council and other partners will be supported to effectively capture, record and report the data to measure differences and performance at both a population and project level consistently.

2.10 Further commitment is encouraged on sharing data and making it publicly available and disaggregated to a local government district level (LGD2014). As a result of the IBM Smarter Cities Challenge, the Council is working with OFMDFM on developing a shared common metric around wellbeing which may be appropriate to incorporate as part of the strategy.

2.11 It is unclear how the strategy can practically be implemented into mainstream service delivery and the impact and resources involved. There is a heavy referencing of signature projects and other DSC initiatives which does not present how planning or accountability of all partners will be achieved.

2.12 The Council will support the delivery locally of OFMDFM's Together: Building A United Community Strategy which incorporates a series of targets relating to children and young people. This example and the various other CYP strategies or initiatives named in the progress report section of the document would benefit from a greater balance in the level of comment in the document to reflect the likely impact the proposals have on it and we would see this as an important gap to highlight in our response.

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3 Resource Implications

3.1 There are no resource implications to report.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 OFMDFM have carried out a strategic level equality screening as part of the framework development; no relevant equality and good relations implications have been identified

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are requested:

- i. To note the contents of the report and;**
- ii. Following discussion agree any amendments or additions to finalise the Council's response and;**
- iii. Agree for it to be submitted subject to retrospective Council ratification on the draft officer response by the submission date of 31 March 2014."**

During discussion a Member referred to the Integrated Services for Children and Young People schemes which operated in West Belfast and the Greater Shankill areas. Those schemes, which helped deliver social change, were no longer to be funded and were being closed down. He pointed out that Members had previously referred to the success of the projects and had requested that they be rolled out to other areas of the city. He suggested that the response to the consultation should include a comment in this regard. In addition, a letter should be forwarded to the appropriate Minister expressing the Council's concern on funding for the project being withdrawn.

The Committee agreed to this course of action and approved the draft response.

Chairman.

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MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McKee (Chairman);
Aldermen Robinson and Rodgers;
Councillors Beattie, Convery, Corr,
Cunningham, Haire, Hanna, Hendron,
Hussey, Kyle, Mac Giolla Mhín,
McCabe, McNamee, Ó Donnghaile,
Mullan, Thompson and Verner.

In attendance: Mr. A. Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure;
Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks
and Leisure;
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer; and
Ms. L. Francey, Democratic Services Section.

Apology

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Mallon.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Committee Meeting in May

The Committee was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had, given that elections were due to take place on 22nd May, agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled.

The Committee agreed not to hold any meetings in May and agreed further that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and, if necessary, the Chairman of the Parks and Leisure Committee, to take any urgent decisions in accordance with the procedures which were routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

Reservoirs Bill

The Director reminded the Committee that the Assembly had introduced the above-mentioned Bill, the second reading of which had been heard on 14th February. The Bill, he reported, was at its Committee Stage and, as part of that process,

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interested parties had been requested to comment on the Bill's provisions. Accordingly, the Director reported that the Department had been requested to attend a meeting of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and, after consulting with the Chairman, the Assistant Director and the Senior Civil Engineering Officer had attended the committee on 25th February.

The Director outlined the contents of the Council's submission which had been presented to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, a copy of which was available on the Mod.gov website. He reported that, arising from the presentation, two questions had been posed by MLAs, which had required further clarification by the Council. The two questions, together with the Council's responses, are set out hereunder:

- What, if any, insurance does the Council hold in respect to the failure of a reservoir under its ownership?

The Council purchases presently commercial insurance protection for public liability risks arising from the ownership and use of all reservoirs that are located on council land or in council parks. This insurance covers the cost of claims arising from the failure of, or defects in reservoirs which cause loss, or injury to members of the public and/or damage to their property. The insurance only applies in so far as the Council can be held legally responsible for the loss, damage or injury so caused. The insurance protection is for £50M.

- What opinion, if any, does the Council have regarding the various appeals and dispute mechanisms in the Bill?

Reservoirs are designated as High, Medium or Low risk by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and within the proposed Bill, Clauses 17 to 21 allow reservoir owners to appeal against that designation. Council officers have considered the risk designation of Reservoirs owned by the Council and would categorise them all as high given the proximity to residential areas. Action plans are currently being developed in line with this designation. It is the view of officers that whilst the appeal mechanism is necessary this will not be relevant to the Council and will more likely be used by private owners.

The Committee agreed that the Council's responses, as set out, be submitted to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee.

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Departmental Plan for 2014/2015

(Ms. C. Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the departmental plan for 2014/2015, a copy of which was available on the Council's Mod.gov website. The Director indicated that the Plan set out the strategic direction for the Department during the forthcoming financial year and aimed to provide a framework for the effective leadership and management of the Department. He pointed out that the Plan would enable the Committee and senior managers to deliver projects and manage performance in line with the Corporate Plan and Investment Programme. He indicated that quarterly progress reports in respect of the Plan would be submitted for the Committee's consideration.

After discussion, during which the Director clarified a number of matters in respect of the Plan and answered a range of Members' questions in relation thereto, the Committee approved the Plan.

Antisocial Behaviour – Quarterly Report

(Mr. P. Murray, Antisocial Behaviour Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“2. Key Issues

The comparative data outlined in Table 1 below shows an increase in the number of incident reports of ASB in parks between August to December 2012 and August to December 2013 within the 4 electoral areas of Court, Laganbank, Pottinger and Upper Falls. The data highlights a downward trend in the number of reports of ASB in parks within Balmoral, Castle, Lower Falls and Oldpark electoral areas. This trend can be attributed to a decrease in visitor numbers due to seasonal variance - less people visit parks in autumn and winter. The data also showed the following trends:

- **Increase in reports of groups of youths gathering; and**
- **Increase in reports of fire setting and drinking.**

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Comparison of the number incidents in facilities between August to December '12 and August to December '13			
August to December 2012		August to December 2013	
Electoral Area	Total ASB	Electoral Area	Total ASB
Balmoral	63	Balmoral	7
Castle	64	Castle	24
Court	33	Court	79
Laganbank	67	Laganbank	117
Lower Falls	20	Lower Falls	12
Oldpark	158	Oldpark	139
Pottinger	49	Pottinger	80
1Upper Falls	27	Upper Falls	142
Victoria	19	Victoria	22
Total	500	Total	622

The data presented in Table 1 illustrates a snapshot of ASB in parks between August and December 2013. The data details the three parks with the most incidents of ASB in each electoral area, the hotspot categories of ASB and where there were more than 20 incidents (these locations appear in bold type).

Citywide responses and interventions are implemented proportionately across all of the city's parks. This approach is used to tackle low level, re-occurring ASB incidents (parks with less than 20 incidents) and is delivered using existing and available resources.

Planned intensive interventions are designed and introduced for parks that have more than 20 ASB incidents. The planned interventions span across all 4 objectives of the ASB programme: education, enforcement, environment and partnership. Interventions will resource and schedule enforcement operations in partnership with existing council services or PSNI and interventions also involve the environmental and physical development of a site.

Table 2 outlines the parks that have had more than 20 incidents during August to December 2013 and the specific interventions planned for the coming months.

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Table 2: Specific interventions planned to tackle ASB in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents	
Court	
Woodvale	The Park manager will ensure that damage is repaired and motorcycle use is reported to the PSNI.
Laganbank	
Botanic	A series of enforcement operations are planned for the spring to address reports of rowdy behaviour and drinking.
Oldpark	
Ballysillan PF	Temporary signage will be sited in the playground to inform drinkers of consequences and playground inspectors will report damage to be repaired.
Waterworks	Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum
Pottinger	
Ormeau	Park Wardens will issue fixed penalty notices for dog control and dog fouling offences. They will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum.
Avoniel PG	Playground inspectors will report damage to be repaired. Park Wardens will issue fixed penalty notices for dog control and dog fouling offences.
Upper Falls	
Falls Park	The Park manager will ensure damage is repaired and Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum.
City Cemetery	A decorative arts project has been initiated to address graffiti in the cemetery. Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if under 18 will be reported to the ASB forum.

Alongside the intensive and citywide interventions planned to tackle reported incidents of ASB, a number of citywide ASB programme developments will be implemented during the coming months:

- Park Wardens will be deployed during St. Patrick's Day in support of the Councils safer city operations
- Park Wardens are currently deployed in parks as part of an ongoing enforcement programme. They will

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issue fixed penalties in relation to litter and dog fouling offences.

There also several steps that are being undertaken in the next stage of the development of the ASB programme which are outlined below. Detail on these will be brought to the Committee in the new Council term for consideration.

- **Refinements to ASB data collection and reporting methodologies will ensure that there is a consistent service delivered across the city.**
- **The department is developing processes to formally communicate with the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP) structure.**
- **It is intended that the ASB programme will establish sustainable synergies and interfaces with local area working groups that will develop more appropriate responses to ASB.**

3. Resource Implications

The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed ASB budget 2013-14 which is approximately £250,000.

4. Equality Implications

Much of the ASB programme work spans activities related to reducing interface tensions and bringing young people together to take part in positive programmes and activities. All of the programme work is delivered in line with the council's equality and good relations policies and procedures.

5. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.”

During discussion, the Members welcomed the progress which had been achieved to date in addressing antisocial behaviour within departmental properties. However, a Member referred to ongoing issues within the overall vicinity of the Falls Park, the City Cemetery and the Whiterock Leisure Centre. He suggested that the Council should endeavour to address the problems within those sites on a collective basis with a range of departments seeking to work together and share information which could assist in addressing the problems.

The point was made that the safety of Council staff should, at all times, be paramount and that reported instances of staff intimidation could not be tolerated. It was stated that there remained an onus on the Council to secure its own properties and that, in respect of the issues within the general Whiterock area, it would be prudent to

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seek to raise the ongoing issues on an official basis with the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The Director indicated that there were working arrangements in place between officers from the Department and the Community Safety Team within the Health and Environmental Services Department. He pointed out also that the Department was investigating currently the feasibility of enhancing the working relationships among a range of partners which would complement the work of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships.

Councillor Hendron pointed out that she was the Chairman of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and indicated that she would endeavour to raise the aforementioned concerns at its next meeting.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted further that the issue, in so far as it related to departmental properties in the general Whiterock area, would be raised at the next meeting of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership for West Belfast.

Events in Parks

(Ms. C. Wilson, Neighbourhood and Development Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

1.1 At its meeting in August 2013, the Committee was provided with information on the number and location of events which had been held in Council parks over the past five years.

1.2 Members noted that large-scale commercial operators tended to favour a small number of locations, namely Boucher Road Playing Fields and Botanic Gardens. At that meeting, Committee agreed that a proposal be developed to establish a number of strategic arts partnerships, in order to build a commercial market for alternative locations across the city.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Following analysis, there are a number of perceived barriers deterring commercial operators from holding events in parks and open spaces:

- **Capacity is a primary determinant in deciding where a promoter will stage an event. For example, events such as Tenants Vital require capacity in excess of 45,000 – only available at the Boucher Road Playing Fields.**

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Capacity operates on multiple levels; audience capacity; car parking for audience and participants; accessible /egress capacity;

- **Neighbourhood: the prospect of having to deal with potential complaints about noise or event disruption issues can be off putting for commercial operators;**
- **Facilities: These can be within the park itself in terms of toilet provision but this can be addressed with additional temporary facilities being provided. Car parking can be more difficult to address at times;**
- **Security: This in relation to perceived safety of audience members arriving/leaving events and potential vandalism to property such as cars;**
- **Financial cost coupled with misconceptions about public accountability i.e. 'bureaucracy' can deter commercial operators from using a council facility.**

2.3 It is acknowledged that the issues listed above also relate to hosting city centre-based events and that working with the community, the relevant parks/outreach managers have delivered many successful events in neighbourhoods across the city.

2.4 Examining best practice from other local authorities, the issues are not insurmountable and the promotion of commercial events in parks across the city may be supported by the following:

- **The development and targeted distribution of a commercial prospectus for distribution to a range of event promoters and organisers positively promoting the use of Belfast Parks for events e.g. corporate prospectus containing details on capacity of all parks and support available.**
- **Delivering large-scale (5,000+) demonstration arts/cultural events as high-quality, family-orientated cultural events across the city (N, S, E and W), showcasing the range of opens spaces to attract commercial operators.**
- **Engagement with Translink to encouraging sustainable modes of transport such as the provision of park and ride facilities**

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- Incentivisation/promotion of particular parks outside of city centre e.g. reduced hire rates or grant-aid to commercial operators. Potential for joint promotion with the City Events Unit of the availability/suitability of parks and open spaces for events that move between major cities.
 - Develop the criteria for the park grants funds to enable events to be sustainable year on year and more evenly spread across the city e.g. a higher score for working with partners; using under-used parks.
- 2.5 In line with the commitments outlined within the Investment Programme 2012-2015, it is proposed that further discussions are undertaken with the City Events Unit, Development Department to develop a corporate prospectus to bring forward some of these proposals.
- 2.6 In advance of this, it is suggested that Committee considers the potential to financially support a number of strategic arts demonstration events for the delivery of high-quality, large-scale (5,000+), family-orientated cultural events across the city. The purpose of this would be to build capacity across a diverse range of sites for these large-scale events, as well as demonstrate to commercial operators the viability of these locations.
- 2.7 The Council established successful arrangements with the Belfast Festival at Queen's and Mela in 2013. These operate at minimal cost to the public. Both events were well-received by audiences and significantly add to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces.
- 2.8 To assist Members' ambition to spread large-scale events across the city, and as a condition of financial support, it is proposed that Mela 2014 is requested to develop a programme of outreach events whereby they deliver 'taster' events in 3 other parts of the city. Transport would be made available to these parts of the city to allow people to travel to Botanic Gardens for the main event in August at no cost. Similarly, it is proposed that officers engage with the Belfast Festival at Queen's to encourage them to consider using an alternative venue to Botanic Gardens.
- 2.9 As part of an agreement with the two groups, a series of targets for participation, outreach and sponsorship would be set. The evaluation of these events will be used to inform the development of a corporate prospectus for commercial operators. It is anticipated that both of these initiatives will

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contribute to build a commercial market for alternative locations across the city.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

A fund of £40,000 has been provided for large-scale cultural events within revenue budgets for 2014/15. There may be overtime required by staff to assist with the management of the proposed events which would be met by the Council.

Asset and Other Implications

The Legal Agreement will include a Bond Of Reinstatement (£1000) to ensure minimal impact on Council property, provided by the partner organisations

4. Recommendations

- To authorise officers to initiate discussions with Mela 2014 (Artsekta) and the Belfast Festival at Queen's to agree the conditions of financial support for 2014, as outlined above
- Agree to support Mela 2014 (Artsekta) and the Belfast Festival at Queen's up to £20,000 each, subject to conditions agreed
- Agree to receive a future report on a 'corporate prospectus' for parks and opens spaces."

The Committee adopted the recommendations, subject to the Department undertaking discussions with organisations which delivered festivals in Belfast with a view to enhancing their involvement in the outreach initiatives associated with the Mela and the Belfast Festival at Queen's. It was noted that a further report in respect of the development of this approach with other arts and culture organisations across the City would be submitted in due course.

Cyclists Touring Club - Review

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1. Relevant Background Information

As the UK's national cycling charity, CTC (Cyclists Touring Club Charitable Trust) works to protect and promote cycling to create a healthier, cleaner world. In March 2010, the Parks and Leisure Committee approved the provision of office space for a Cycling Development Officer, funded by CTC and agreed to provide in-kind support for a Cycling Development Officer. The purpose of the partnership was to introduce people to leisure and utility cycling for the associated health, wellbeing

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and environmental benefits and use cycling to engage disadvantaged, hard to reach and under-represented groups.

Since then, the partnership has delivered the following:

- **Over 4,000 young people engaged in Belfast through Bike Club, a community focused project called Bike Club (target beneficiary range 10 – 20 years) in partnership with the ASDA Foundation and the youth charity organizations UK Youth and ContinYou.**
- **Worked with over 30 groups, including West Belfast Area Youth Project; Glencairn Youth Initiative; Challenge for Youth Bike Club; and Park School and Education Resource Centre**
- **Demonstration of a delivery model proven to encourage more people to cycle within deprived areas and hard to reach groups across the city which has been adopted by other Councils in the region**
- **Operated a small grants scheme £52,000 within Belfast City Council area which funded 26 Bike Clubs to buy bicycles and train staff.**
- **60 Bike Club Leaders and Volunteers trained to run the 26 clubs. The Bike Club Development Officer (BCDO) facilitated capacity building and cycle leader network.**
- **Created employment opportunities resulting in the first CTC National Standard and Mountain Biking trainers in N.Ireland**
- **Direct and advisory support for a range of initiatives including annual Belfast Bike Week, programming support on Barnett's Mountain Bike Trails, development of Active Communities cycling work programmes, delivery and legacy programmes for Giro d'Italia, specialist advice on the Belfast Cycle Hire scheme, development support for club and community cycle groups.**
- **Development and delivery of Active Belfast active travel strategy and action plans.**
- **400 young people engaged in the first 4 months of delivery by the Shankill Area Project and Glencairn Youth Initiative Bike Clubs, providing up to 15 hrs of mountain bike activities per week.**

The impact of these Bike Club initiatives include:

- **Increased learning opportunities for young people beyond school day**
- **Increased levels of physical activity**

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- Identification and creation of instructor/trainers to deliver road and mountain bike training to instructors locally
- New partnerships created with training providers: Belfast Activity Centre and Tricycle
- Bike Club and Leader network established
- Promotion of cycling to school

As one small example, one beneficiary reported that her son, who was in foster care, had Asperger's syndrome. She was anxious about him cycling around the city. However, once she knew he was training to do Bikeability, she was happy for him to continue. This led to him being confident enough to cycle independently from his foster home to regularly visit his mother.

The Active Belfast project work delivered on 2 core themes: Active Travel and Active Workplaces. The outputs from this work include:

- 178 staff trained at 3 large public sector employers to cycle on city roads using the national standards for cycle training, tackling real or perceived fears of cycling on city roads
- 249 staff from 23 employers completed an online cycle challenge to encouraged to cycle for more journeys more often.
- 72 employees received bike maintenance training to help them deal with basic repairs whilst commuting.

2. Key Issues

Given the impact and success of the project to date, CTC would like to continue the existing partnership with Belfast City Council until the end of March 2015.

It is a key time to focus on the progression of cycling development in Belfast and a continued partnership would allow the Council to maximise the impact of a number of major cycling developments, namely:

- Belfast's annual bike week
- Giro D'Italia Big Start 2014
- Public Bike Hire scheme
- Barnett's and Mary Peter's Mountain Bike Trails.

Future developments

There is potential to develop Community Cycle Clubs, which use cycling to tackle health, social and economic inequalities.

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The community cycle clubs, improve access to bikes for those without, skills training, leader capacity building and pathways to employment.

In addition, the following objectives will be integrated into future work programmes:

- Enhance existing Bike Clubs through continued development and wider community engagement.
- Develop Bike Clubs as a community wide resource in Council Parks
- Target the creation of Community Bike Clubs at Interface areas in Belfast
- Develop pathways to employment for trained volunteers and leaders
- Develop an inclusive cycling resource in Belfast Parks, serving people with limited mobility.
- Provide access to bikes coaching and led rides for the public at Barnet's and Mary Peter's Mountain Biking Trails.

Potential funding

The funding for the Cycling Development Officer ends in May 2014.

It is anticipated that funding will be available under the Active Belfast Partnership and potentially Sport NI. Similarly, the Giro D'Italia legacy programme is being developed by DCAL. It is likely that this will include community engagement activities around the Belfast Cycle Hire scheme, e.g. on road cycle training to encourage active travel within the city centre.

DRD has recently launched a Cycling Unit and there are plans to partner on active travel and active workplace revenue-based initiatives.

Officers are actively pursuing a number of funding bids to continue the partnership arrangement and are currently engaged with Sport NI, OFMDFM and other agencies to secure funding for the next period.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

Core costs for the Cycling Development Officer are £34,000, to be secured from external funding. In-kind support from the Council will include: office space; access to computer and office equipment; and use of communications and promotional channels to disseminate information.

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Human Resources

The Cycling Development Officer will be located within the Leisure Development Unit.

4. Equality Implications

No equality or good relations impacts have been identified.

5. Recommendations

Committee is asked to agree to the continuation of the partnership arrangements with CTC, subject to external funding being secured.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Development of Land at Slievegallion Drive

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

In June 2013 Committee considered a request from De La Salle School for the development of land at Slievegallion Drive. The school approached the Council with a proposal for the redevelopment of the Council’s land at Slievegallion Drive to provide a school/community facility potentially comprising a full size GAA pitch, a smaller training pitch and a pavilion/small stand for use by the school and its three feeder primary schools during school hours and by the local community out of school hours.

The school indicated that they were seeking a long lease (25-50 years) for the land at Slievegallion Drive from the Council in order to secure the funding required for their proposals.

Committee agreed to officers progressing discussions with De La Salle school with a view to exploring the most appropriate arrangement (including leasing options) for the redevelopment of the informal open space at Slievegallion Drive, with a further report to be brought to Committee. Discussions were to include:

- Details of the schools business model in terms of costs and income producing capacity
- Public access arrangements
- Partnership or leasing arrangements to ensure ongoing wider community use
- Sources of funding to redevelop the site.

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The site does not form part of the Pitches Strategy and there is currently no identified funding in the Capital Programme for the development of this land.

2. Key Issues

- Officers have engaged with De La Salle School to discuss their proposal and arrangements for use of the land. This has not progressed to the point where officers can report on the business model, access arrangements, leasing arrangements and sources of funding.
- De La Salle School undertook the community consultation and engagement for the project.
- Following the initial engagement with residents, proposals were changed by the school and further consultation was then undertaken by them.
- Local residents have approached the Council with concerns about the proposed development and the level of consultation to date.
- Residents were concerned that a Planning application has been submitted for the development of the site.
- Residents raised particular concerns about why the Council, as land owner, has not consulted the local community about the use of the land.
- Concerns were raised about the nature and extent of the consultation with a view that it was not inclusive of all residents and that feedback on issues raised has not been provided by the school.
- Residents were concerned about the loss of amenity as this is the only open space available to them in a densely built up area.
- Residents have formed a Residents Group in October 2013 around the issue.
- Residents were seeking assurance from Council that formal consultation would take place with the local community about the use of the land.

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3. Resource Implications

Financial

No financial implications at this stage.

Human Resources

None

Asset and Other Implications

None at this stage.

4. Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the request by residents representing the Slievegallion/Glassmullan area that Council undertakes a consultation with the local community about the use of the land at Slievegallion Park.”

A Member indicated that the Member of Parliament for West Belfast, Mr P. Maskey, was in the process of facilitating a community consultation in order to resolve outstanding issues in respect of the proposal. Accordingly, the Member suggested that it would be prudent to defer consideration of the matter to enable those consultations to be concluded.

The Assistant Director indicated that work had commenced corporately on the development of a formal framework which would be used to oversee future community consultations and which would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course. A Member suggested that a Committee site visit might be required in order to acquaint Members with the layout of the site and the impact of the proposal.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter to enable the local Member of Parliament to facilitate the community consultation process as outlined.

Acquisition of Land at Black's Road

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st July, 2013, had agreed to acquire land at Black's Road for the purposes of developing a park in accordance with the terms which had been set out in the Committee report of 13th June. Accordingly, the Committee considered the undernoted update report in this regard:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The site extends to approximately 4.49 acres and comprises derelict land which has been identified as an area of anti-social behaviour. There is a proposal by Groundwork NI to transform the site into a park for the use of the local community. The park is currently within the boundary of Lisburn City Council**

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but will fall into Belfast City Council revised boundary post local government reform in 2015.

- 1.2 Members will recall that the site is owned in part by DoE NIEA and in part by DRD Roads service. The DoE NIEA site was to be transferred at nil cost, and DRD Roads site to be transferred at market value, to be determined by LPS. Prior to acquiring, a number of planning and title issues were to be resolved and terms were to be agreed with LPS and reported back to committee for approval.
- 1.3 As it relates to an acquisition of land, the terms will also require to be reported to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 It was previously intended to acquire the sites in two separate lots however it is now considered that it is more straightforward for DRD Roads to transfer their site to DoE NIEA. The Council will acquire the assembled site in a single lot from NIEA. NIEA has ministerial approval the whole site to the Council at nil value.
- 2.2 The deadline for construction of the park within the timeframe for 'Sharing our Space' Peace III funding has been extended to December 2014. Our investigations in advance of acquisition are largely complete however there is a complex title, which Legal Services is investigating.
- 2.3 Planning permission was granted in February 2014. Groundwork NI requires to begin construction as soon as possible, in order to meet the funding deadline of December 2014.
- 2.4 It is proposed that NIEA grants a temporary licence to Groundwork NI to undertake the construction once the transfer of the DRD Roads site to NIEA completes. Following the construction works, the Council will acquire the assembled site from NIEA, estimated to be January 2015 (just a few months in advance of falling within the Council boundary). This approach allows Groundwork NI to undertake the works within the timeframe while our title investigations proceed.
- 2.5 In order to draw down the funding, Groundwork NI is required to enter a Partnership Agreement with NIEA. As part of this, NIEA requires to confirm that maintenance arrangements are in place for the park. In view of this it is proposed that Heads of Terms for the acquisition be entered now with NIEA, which

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will include an assurance on maintenance. NIEA are prepared to accept Heads of Terms on a 'subject to satisfactory title' basis.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

- No acquisition cost would be payable to DoE NIEA for the acquisition of the assembled site.
- The maintenance and operational cost of the park is estimated to be in the region of £31,000 per annum. This amount is not currently budgeted for Area South West and would need to be taken into account in the next budgeting round.
- NIEA has agreed to fund or treat Japanese knotweed, however this is not substantial, estimated to be in the region of £100 per annum.

3.2 Human Resources

Continued resource from Estates and Legal Services is required to complete the acquisition. Thereafter Parks and Leisure staff resource will be required for ongoing management.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

A 4.49 acre site will be added to the Council's assets. The site will be held by Parks and Leisure.

4 Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the acquisition as outlined above on the basis that:

- DRD Roads Service transfers its site to DoE NIEA who then permit Groundwork NI access to the site by a temporary licence for carrying out the works;
- The Council and DoE NIEA enter Heads of Terms to: agree to the acquisition on completion of the works; give assurance on maintenance; and on other such terms as agreed by the Estates Manager and Head of Legal Services.
- On completion of the works, the Council acquire the site (estimated to be January 2015) at nil cost, subject to satisfactory title."

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The Director reported that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would, at its meeting on 21st March, in accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60, be requested to approve formally the acquisition of the land.

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Flooding at Properties Adjacent to the Cherryvale Playing Fields

The Assistant Director drew the Committee's attention to a flooding incident, which had occurred on 14th February, and which had affected a number of properties in the Knockeden Park area, adjacent to the Cherryvale Playing Fields. She indicated that one of the contributory factors which had been suggested by the local community was 'run-off' rainwater from the playing fields. She reported that officers from within the Department were investigating the matter and drew the Committee's attention to the following:

- there existed a differential level between the playing fields and the private gardens at Knockeden Park;
- there existed an outlet pipe, which, as far as could be established, was in working order; and
- there was a possibility that the water from the pitches was not being fed into the outlet pipe;

The Assistant Director indicated that further investigations would be required to ascertain whether there was a need for additional drainage to be installed to ensure that rainwater was fed into the outlet pipe. She indicated that, should such work be deemed necessary, the installation of additional drainage at the site could prove to be costly. Concern was expressed that the flooding incident had, potentially, a significant impact on the proposals which had been formulated for the development of a 3G pitch at the site. It was pointed out that the Council should assure itself that all issues which could have related to the flooding should be addressed prior to any work being carried out on the site in respect of the pitch.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a further report in respect of the matter would be considered at the earliest opportunity.

Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council

The Director reported that a request had been received from the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council seeking financial support to assist in the costs associated with sending the Northern Ireland team to the 20th Commonwealth Games, which would be held in Glasgow in July and August. He pointed out that over seventy countries would be participating in 2014 and reminded Members of the significant achievements of Belfast competitors at previous Games.

The Director reminded the Committee that the Council had, in 2002, 2006 and 2010, agreed to provide financial assistance to the Commonwealth Games Council to offset the costs associated with bringing the team to the Games. Such expenditure had been authorised under the specialised expenditure powers as set out within Section 37

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of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee agree to make a contribution of £5,000 to the Commonwealth games Council.

Accordingly, it was

Resolved – That the aforementioned expenditure in respect of the Council's contribution to the Commonwealth Games Council be approved under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, it being the opinion of the Council that the expenditure would be in the interest of, and would bring direct benefit to, the District and the inhabitants of the District, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefit so accruing would be commensurate with the payment to be made.

Dundonald Cemetery - War Graves Centenary Event

The Director advised the Committee that the Lagan Village Somme Society had been awarded a sum of £7,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund which would be used to carry out research on those individuals who were buried within Dundonald Cemetery's 77 war graves, together with the two war graves contained within the Knock Burial Ground. In addition, he reported that the Society had received funding which would enable the refurbishment and upkeep of the aforementioned graves, permission for which had been granted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It was anticipated that the work associated with the refurbishment would be completed by July.

Accordingly, the Director reported that the Society had requested:

- permission to hold an event to mark the refurbishment of those 79 war graves, on a date to be determined; and
- permission to hold a Drum Head Remembrance Service on 3rd August, which would be attended by approximately 200 participants.

The Director indicated that the Society would be requested to adhere to the principles which had been established in 2011 to oversee the holding of commemoration events within Council properties and, accordingly, he recommended that the Committee accede to the request as outlined.

The Committee authorised the holding of the two events, subject to the following conditions:

- that there would be no displays of paramilitary emblems or regalia;
- that the Council's Events Policy would be complied with fully;
- that appropriate working methods would be used at the historical war graves;
- the Society would agree to adhere to an appropriate grave restoration and events schedule;

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- that the event and working practices would resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- that appropriate legal agreements were put in place;
- that the Society would meet all statutory requirements; and
- that sensitivities and respect for the graves would be observed.

Belfast City Cemetery - War Graves Commission

The Director reminded the Committee that the Council maintained two war grave areas within the City Cemetery. He indicated that representatives of the War Graves Commission had requested permission to plant a range of colourful plants along the edges of the graves to enhance the general amenity of the area. He outlined the benefits which the introduction of the plants would bring to the area and indicated that this proposal was, initially, for a pilot period of approximately one year. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee grant approval to the War Graves Commission to landscape and maintain the graves, subject to the drafting of an appropriate legal agreement with the Town Solicitor, and that any further proposal to extend the arrangement would be considered after the pilot project had concluded.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

World War I - Commemorative Events

The Committee was reminded that the Council, at its meeting on 1st November, 2011, had endorsed a set of principles which would be used to oversee the management of events on Council properties to mark the centenaries of historic events which had occurred between 1912 and 1922. A copy of those principles had been circulated previously to the Committee and the Director outlined their principal aspects.

The Director indicated that the Department had received a number of enquiries from community groups seeking permission to host commemorative events to mark World War I, which took place between 1914 and 1918. He reminded the Committee that the Council's Events Policy stated that there was no requirement to seek prior approval for events which, amongst other things, did not last for more than three days; did not require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility; would not involve the sale of alcohol; and would not be deemed to be controversial.

Accordingly, he sought the Committee's approval to delegate authority to him to consider and, if deemed to be in keeping with the principles which had been agreed by the Council at its meeting on 1st November, 2011, to grant approval for events taking place in departmental properties to mark centenaries associated with World War I.

The Committee acceded to the request and granted delegated authority to the Director as outlined.

Request for the Use of the Ormeau Park by 'Holi One'

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

The Director has been approached by a commercial company, Big Cat Group, to request the use of one of our parks to stage a 'Holi One' event, as part of a proposed 17 city tour of the UK and Ireland in 2014. Following consultation between the event organiser, City Park Managers and Officers from Building Control, Ormeau Park was identified as a possible location to stage this proposed event.

The proposed Holi One is a one day festival of colour and dancing. It is an over 18's only event with a site capacity of 5,000. The event is inspired by the Hindu Holi festival and involves the throwing of non-toxic, environmentally friendly powder paint in the air to celebrate diversity and equality. The admission fee is based on a scale of charges from £24.99 - £42.99. The festival has previously run successfully in Europe, Israel, South Africa and has previously been held at Battersea Power Station August 2013 and Manchester Heaton Park, August 2013.

2. Key Issues

- The festival is proposed to take place on Saturday 16 August 2014 at Ormeau Park. Gates will open at 10.00am with music starting and bars opening at midday. Bars will close at 22.00, music will turn off at 22.00 with the site closed and cleared of guests by 22.30.
- The site build for the event would begin 14 & 15 August, and the take down would be on 17 August.
- In addition to DJs, the event would include food and drink sales, performance art, visual stimulation, a stage and a large area for dancing and for throwing the powder paint.
- A section of the park would be used to house the festival village, this would comprise of a stage, marquee structures and back of house production area and toilet facilities.
- The event would be ticketed with adequate numbers of security staff present to ensure all persons present have purchased a ticket.

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- The event organiser would provide a full Event Safety Management Plan to Belfast City Council prior to the event.
- Following the conclusion of the festival, the event organiser will instigate a thorough cleaning of the park to remove the coloured powder.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

Big Cat Group would pay Belfast City Council for the hire of the hard surface at Ormeau Park at a cost of £1,175. In addition a fee of £5,000 will be charged for the event, based on the expected number of attendees. A Bond of Intent of £1,000 will be required to confirm the booking on approval of the event.

Human Resources

It would be proposed to have a duty Community Park Manager present on site on the day of the actual event from 10.00 a.m. until midnight – at a cost of £330. The cost of this will be added to the total fee.

Asset and Other Implications

A Reinstatement Bond of £5000 will be required to be put in place to cover the need to repair pitches.

5. Recommendations

If permission is granted for the event it will be subject to the Development of an Event Management Plan and satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director of Parks and Leisure and on condition that :

- The event organiser resolves all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction
- An appropriate legal agreement is prepared by the Town Solicitor
- The event organiser meets all statutory requirements including Health and Safety and licensing.
- The timely payment of the agreed charges and fee as required in the legal agreement.”

The Committee agreed to grant permission for the event subject to the conditions outlined.

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Proposed Change of Use – Ballysillan Bowling Green

The Committee deferred consideration of a report in respect of a proposal to convert a bowling green to a putting green at the Ballysillan Park to enable further information to be provided in respect of extent of community consultation which had been carried out in this regard.

Ormeau Park and Falls Park – Welcome Art Signs

The Committee was advised that the Council's former Artist in Residence, Ms. E. Wheeler, had requested permission to erect two artistic 'welcome signs' – one at the Ormeau Park and one at the Falls Park – which had been produced by pupils at two Educational Resource Centres, that is, Park School, Ravenhill Road and St Gerard's School on the Upper Springfield Road. The Director indicated that the artist had been working with the pupils on a project which had been funded by the Shared Education Programme. He pointed out that the signs, images of which had been circulated for the Committee's information, would enhance the overall amenity of the parks and the associated erection costs would be £400.

The Committee granted authority for the art pieces to be installed in the Ormeau Park and the Falls Park.

Knocknagoney Linear Park – Art Project

This Director reminded the Committee of the extent of work which had been undertaken in conjunction with the local community to address antisocial activity at the Knocknagoney Linear Park. He reported that the Arts Council for Northern Ireland had awarded the Knocknagoney Area Forum a sum of £5,000 to oversee an arts project which would seek to enhance the appearance of the two lookout towers in the park.

He reminded the Committee that the towers had been the subject of vandalism in the recent past and the project would seek to work with the local community to explore issues associated with identity, wildlife, nature and the environment within the local park.

The Director outlined the plans which had been formulated to oversee the delivery of the project. He indicated that the aim of the project would be to tackle antisocial behaviour and to ensure that the park would become a central part of the community.

The Committee expressed its support for the project and agreed that the Council, in conjunction with the Knocknagoney Area Forum, should seek to secure additional funding to enhance the scope of the project. In addition, it agreed in principle that the finished art piece would be installed at the park's lookout towers.

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Friends of Belmont Park – C.S. Lewis Art Proposal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

2013 was the 50th anniversary of CS Lewis, his anniversary was celebrated very extensively with festivals, art projects, and community projects and involved a wide range of community and statutory bodies, in particular East Belfast Partnership Board. The Friends of Belmont Park are very eager to acknowledge Belmont Park’s importance in Lewis’ life by creating a permanent art installation which would be based on the Chronicles of Narnia. Lewis’ family home was in close proximity to Belmont park, Belmont Park is the area where we imagine he would have played and taken inspiration for his wonderful and fantastical stories.

The Friends of Belmont Park was formed by passionate individuals who reside locally and who see the further potential for enjoyment, inclusion and interaction within their park. Parks staff have worked extensively with Friends of Belmont Park over the past number of years and developed the park significantly with their help and guidance. The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed programme of art installations and to seek Committee support to explore funding opportunities.

2. Key Issues

The Friends of Belmont Park along with council officers’ aim to celebrate the heritage of the past through the link between CS Lewis’ well known literary works and the locality, to create a unique experience in the present that has longevity through the legacy it will leave for future park users.

This proposed programme will consist of a number of large art installations, to include:

- **Public art piece at Belmont Playground**
Friends of Belmont and council officers hope to generate discussion, interest and ownership of this large art project. Their aim is to develop a project within the playground that will engage with park users and children, allowing the local community to input ideas with a visual artist to create a mural.

Estimates Costs - Project £3000 - £5000

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- **Carved wooden sleigh and wicker reindeer**
The sleigh first appeared in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* when Edmund found his way through the back of the wardrobe and stumbled upon a sleigh being drawn by two reindeer, driven by a small dwarf, whose passenger was Queen Jadis.

*Estimates Costs - Carved Wooden Sleigh - £3500
- Wicker Reindeer - £2000*

- **Vintage solar powered Lantern, bronze umbrella and parcels**
The lantern first appeared in *The Magician's Nephew* when it grew from an iron bar from a London lamppost. The fully grown lamppost was a feature in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* when Lucy met the Faun, Mr Tumnus for the first time as he pitter pattered through the snow carrying his umbrella and parcels.

*Estimates Costs - Vintage Lantern - £1000
- Bronze umbrella, small and large parcels - £5700*

- **Small sculpture art trail**
The development of 8-10 small scale sculptures to culminate in the creation of an arts historical trail within Belmont park. These small sculptures can take the form of many significant aspects of the chronicles, for example; Mr and Mrs Beaver (*The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*); Atlantean box containing uncle Andrew's rings (*The Magician's Nephew*) ; Aslan shaped as the small cat that saved and accompanied Shasta (*The Horse and his boy*).

Estimates Costs - £300 - £3000 per sculpture

- **Stone cast lion**
The Lion will symbolise Aslan, who with a song created Narnia. When the grass had rolled over the hills like a wave, arms of the trees rose from the earth like spikes and animals appeared from swollen humps in the ground Aslan exclaimed 'Narnia, Narnia Narnia, awake. Love. Think. Speak. Be walking trees. Be talking beats. Be divine waters.'

Estimates Costs - Stone lion £3000 - £10000

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This programme will involve the local community, schools and park users to create art pieces that enhance the natural environment and are of benefit to park users, promoting and developing a visitor experience that is unique to our local parks.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

The estimated cost for this project is £45,000. The project costs will be finalised when funding is applied for.

Human Resources

There are no human resource implications attached to this report.

Asset and Other Implications

The life span of the final art pieces will vary and be dependent on the materials used and the effects of outside elements over the years.

4. Recommendations

Committee is asked to support, in principle, the proposed programme of art installations in Belmont Park subject to funding being secured for the programme.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

The Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park

The Committee was advised that the Council had been approached by South Belfast Alternatives seeking permission to erect three pieces of artwork, together with a welcome sign, at the Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park. The Director reported that the artworks had been prepared by a group of young people as part of a rehabilitation programme which had explored the culture and history of the wider Donegall Road area. He added that the costs of erecting and securing the pieces to the fences of the multi-use games area at the park would be £400.

The Committee reviewed the content of the artworks and granted permission for them to be erected at the park.

Requests for the use of the City of Belfast Playing Fields

Youth Soccer Tournament

The Committee was advised that a request to hold a soccer tournament at the City of Belfast Playing Fields had been received from Youth Soccer Tournaments Northern Ireland. The Assistant Director reported that the tournament would take place between 15th and 17th August. She pointed out that the dates requested would impinge

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upon the 'resting period' for the pitches and there could be a detrimental impact on the quality of the pitches ahead of the forthcoming season.

The Committee deferred consideration of the matter to enable further information to be ascertained in respect of the potential damage to the pitches, together with the feasibility of the tournament being relocated to another departmental property.

Irish Football Association

The Assistant Director reported that the Irish Football Association had requested the free use of the City of Belfast Playing Fields in order to host the inaugural Schoolgirls' Soccer Festival Day on Wednesday, 11th June. The Assistant Director indicated that the event would be attended by approximately 1600 pupils representing 22 Belfast schools. She indicated that the loss of revenue to the Council would be in the region of £1,150.

The Committee acceded to the request and granted the free use of the Playing Fields for the purposes outlined.

Chairman

Development Committee

Tuesday, 18th March, 2014

MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman Stalford);
Aldermen Ekin and Stoker;
Councillors Beattie, Convery, Garrett,
Keenan, Kennedy, Kingston, Kyle,
Magee, Mac Giolla Mhóin, Ó Donnghaile,
Reynolds, Spence, Verner and Webb.

In attendance: Mr. J. McGrillen, Director of Development;
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Services Manager; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apology

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Austin and Kelly.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 30th January and 18th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March.

Declaration of Interest

In respect of item 4(g), viz., 'European Social Fund – Match Funding Requests', Councillor Ó Donnghaile indicated that he was employed by an organisation which worked in conjunction with one of the Trust's which had been recommended for funding.

Meeting of the Committee in May

The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had, given that the Local Government Elections were due to take place on 22nd May, agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled.

The Committee agreed not to hold any meetings in May and agreed further that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources and, if necessary, the Chairman of the Development Committees, to take any pressing decisions in accordance with the procedures which were routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

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Giro d'Italia

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

The Events Manager provided an overview of the arrangements which had been put in place for the holding of the Giro d'Italia in Belfast on Friday 9th and Saturday, 10th May. He reminded Members that the event would start on both days at Titanic Belfast and finish at the City Hall. He outlined the principal aspects of the week-long festival which would run in conjunction with the race, which would include family entertainment, craft workshops and Italian-themed food events. He outlined also the communications plan which had been formulated to manage and promote the event, together with the traffic management arrangements which would be introduced to minimise disruption.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Visit Belfast

The Committee considered the undernoted report, together with a draft Business Plan for 2014/2015, a copy of which had been published on the Council's Mod.gov website:

"1 Background Information

- 1.1 Members are aware that Visit Belfast submit their Business Plan annually to Development Committee for approval. The plan covers the leisure marketing and business tourism activity undertaken by Visit Belfast, visitor servicing carried out by Belfast Welcome Centre in the city centre and at the two airports. This occurs to ensure that budgets and activity are in place by April to allow Visit Belfast to deliver activity in the new financial year.**
- 1.2 The draft Visit Belfast Business Plan is a one year operational marketing and visitor servicing plan. This is set against the context of a strategic review of Tourism within the City being led by Belfast City Council in partnership with the NITB. This review has commenced and is due for completion early in May. The review will examine all aspects of tourism activity and will heavily influence future activity undertaken by a number of key delivery agents within the City including Visit Belfast.**
- 1.3 Some specific examples of success to date include securing 60 cruise ships for 2014, generating £5.7m spend by leisure visitors through activity in the GB marketplace, securing conferences worth £37.7 million for the city and dealing with 534,515 enquiries via the 3 TICs. Areas under-performing include advertising equivalent from PR due to the lag time between press visits and coverage (therefore likely to reach targets by year end); and value of accommodation booking**

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fees from conferences - delegates tend to negotiate better rates directly with hotels as there is no commission. Overall however Visit Belfast's performance has remained on target for 2013/14 period.

1.4 The plan proposes targets and KPI's for 2014/15 on page 11. Key initiatives for 2014/15 include enhanced digital activity and adding value and focus on periods of low occupancy and the off season. In summary, through implementing this Business Plan, Visit Belfast will aim to generate £64.3 million spend in the local economy. The overall budget is £3.56 million of which £1,827,465 is requested from Council.

1.5 The 2014/15 Business Plan has been developed with input from Council officers. It is envisaged that there will be some degree of flexibility within the Visit Belfast Business plan to adopt some of the findings within the Tourism Strategy in the 2014-15 financial year.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The Tourism Strategy which is due for completion early in May will provide a long term vision, strategy and associated action plans for the future of tourism in Belfast. This strategy will look at all aspects of tourism activity including delivery mechanisms to ensure value for money and the delivery of best practise.

2.2 In the incoming 2014/15 year the principles of the new strategy will start to be embedded by partners across the City both public and private sector. Officers have discussed with Visit Belfast the need for some flexibility in terms of adopting some of these concepts in the incoming year.

2.3 Part of the tourism strategy will look in-depth at monitoring and research, looking to European best practise models to provide accurate data in a timelier manner. This is fundamental in the long term business planning of tourism in the City.

2.4 NITB remains a key partner in the development of the new Tourism Strategy. The steering group for the strategy however also includes DETI, Visit Belfast and Tourism Ireland as well as senior staff in NITB and BCC.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 BVCB is requesting £1,827,465 towards 2014/15 plan. This has been included in departmental estimates."

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The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Mr. G. Lennon, Chief Executive, and Mr. D. Gavaghan, Chairman, representing Visit Belfast.

Mr. Lennon provided an overview of the work which Visit Belfast had undertaken during 2013 and outlined the principal aspects of the business plan which had been formulated for 2014/2015. In response to a question in respect of the new Welcome Centre in Donegall Square North, he indicated that, since it had been opened in December, 2013, retail sales had increased by 15%, while visitor numbers had risen by 8.5%, when compared to the same period in 2012. Mr. Lennon and Mr. Gavaghan outlined also the alternative funding arrangements which Visit Belfast would consider in future years which would place a greater emphasis on the private sector to contribute to the work of the organisation.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to provide the sum of £1,827,465 to Visit Belfast for the 2014/2015 financial year and endorsed the contents of its Business Plan for that period.

Departmental Plan for 2014/2015

The Director submitted for the Committee's approval the Development Departmental Plan for 2014/2015, a copy of which was published on the Council's Mod.gov system. He pointed out that the Plan had identified the key actions, events and initiatives which the Department would oversee in 2014/2015, and stated that it would enable the Committee to manage and monitor the work of the Department. He indicated that the Plan would assist Members and officers to make informed decisions and to allocate resources in line with departmental objectives and the Council's Investment Programme. In addition, he stated that the Plan would be reviewed throughout the financial year to ensure that it remained relevant to the Committee's priorities.

After discussion, the Committee endorsed the Departmental Plan for 2014/2015 and noted that periodic updates would be provided in respect thereto.

Lagan Trust

The Committee was reminded that Lagan Canal Restoration Trust had been established in 2006. In 2012, the Council had agreed to contribute a sum of £34,200 to the Trust over a two-year period, which would end on 31st March, 2014. The Director reported that a further request for assistance, in the sum of £17,640, had been received from the Trust for the financial year 2014/2015. He indicated that, should the Committee agree to provide funding to the Trust for a further year, it would enable an evaluation to be carried out on the future viability of the project.

The Committee was reminded also that the restoration of the Lagan Corridor had been identified as an emerging project within the Investment Programme. Therefore, within the context of the Reform of Local Government and the associated implications which that would have on the Council's boundary, it would be prudent for the Council to re-examine its support for, and involvement with, the Trust. Accordingly,

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he recommended that the Committee accede to the request for funding for the financial year 2014/2015 on the basis outlined.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Ulster-Scots Hub

The Director reported that the Ulster-Scots Agency, the Ulster-Scots Community Network and the Ministerial Advisory Group for an Ulster-Scots Academy, in conjunction with the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure, were in the process of developing a hub and heritage centre at the former Corn Exchange at the junction of Dunbar Link and Gordon Street. He indicated that a request had been received seeking a nominee from the Council to serve on the multi-agency partnership group which would be established to oversee the work of the project as it developed.

The Committee agreed that the Director, or his nominee, be authorised to represent the Council on the partnership group.

Lord Mayors' Forum

The Committee noted the contents of a report which outlined the programme of activities which take place on 28th March as part of the Forum, which would be hosted jointly by the Lord Mayors of both Belfast and Dublin, which would seek to promote business and tourism linkages between the two cities.

Retail Evaluation

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Development Committee at its meeting on the 20 June 2013 approved a range of support for the retail sector in the city – focused on neighbourhood retailing – and agreed that an evaluation of existing and previous council support for the sector should be undertaken in advance of any additional funding being provided in future years.**
- 1.2 Members will be aware that Belfast City Council supports businesses through a range of mechanisms and across a number of its services. In recent years the Economic Development Unit (EDU) has taken a lead in developing a targeted programme of support for a number of sectors, including the independent retail sector, based on business improvement, market development and enhancing footfall.**
- 1.3 The EDU-led programme of activity for the independent retail sector is now entering its fourth year. The current programme contains a range of interventions around targeted business**

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start-up and growth, product development support and networking and promotion activity.

- 1.4 In order to evaluate the impact of the work to date and to identify the proposed approach for future interventions, taking account of ways to maximise the impact of the council's intervention, an independent evaluation was commissioned in December 2013. This evaluation has just been completed and the findings are presented in this report, alongside recommendations as to a proposed way forward for council support for retail.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The current retail action plan contains a range of activities including:

Business development support

- Master classes and best practice visits: 5 master classes have been delivered to date, involving 70 Belfast retailers
- Tailored mentoring support: 10 retail businesses have availed of this support
- Visual merchandising support: Belfast City Council undertook a joint initiative with interior design students from the University of Ulster to support 8 local retailers to re-design their shop front.

New retail and product development support

- Market start up programme including pop up facility: this programme is currently supporting 20 participants to establish their own food or craft business, providing them with test trading opportunities alongside mentoring and workshops. The pop up shop facility was open from the 27th February to 9th March at Queen Street Studios on Bedford Street.
- Introduction to retail programme – this programme is currently supporting 8 participants to develop the skills needed to establish a retail unit, providing them with test trading opportunities alongside mentoring and workshops. All 8 participants plan to set up in business.

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City-wide retail networking and promotion

- Retail forum and information seminars: two meetings of the retail forum took place, chaired by the Chair of Development Committee. Attendees included traders' groups, BCCM and NIIRTA.
- Area Development support for traders groups: this providing funding for activities aimed at driving footfall to an area as well as enhancing the area's profile and supporting the sustainability of the group. This year 7 traders associations have drawn down support totalling £79,000 against a budget of £160,000. Examples of activities supported include; seasonal events, the production of marketing materials, design and print of newsletters, PR activities and consultancy support.

2.2 The terms of reference for the evaluation work included the following objectives:

- To quantify the overall benefits and impact of retail support activities for previous two financial years and assess the effectiveness of the individual element of the programme against objectives
- Make recommendations as to how current activity might be improved
- Consider how council support for retail businesses can be better coordinated
- Consider how impending structural changes might impact on the council's support for retail businesses
- Identify possible future areas of focus for the council to support the retail sector in Belfast, including an assessment of the financial implications of this activity.

2.3 The first stage of the evaluation analysed the quantitative impact of retail support and the extent to which targets were achieved. The second stage of the evaluation analysed the qualitative impact achieved through consultations with representatives from local traders associations, key stakeholders such as NIIRTA, BCCM, Belfast City Council Officers as well as participants who took part in retail programme activity.

Key findings from this research have identified;

- Business development interventions enabled through the retail programme and delivered by contracted

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delivery organisations are efficient and effective and have met or exceeded targets set

- Retail development programmes funded by council are high in cost relative to other business development programmes because they do not attract EU funding leverage and are therefore funded 100% by council
- The funding of Traders Associations through Economic Development is the only such 'umbrella body' type funding that exists
- The funding process for Area Development Support (to trader groups) lacks the rigour evident in other support interventions, given the difficulties in identifying local needs, base lining and benchmarking, objective and target setting
- The priority needs identified through the engagement with Traders Associations are significantly wider than the support available from the council's retail support interventions (e.g. parking issues, graffiti, refuse collection)
- While most Traders Associations are now charging a membership fee, they are still not sustainable at present – albeit that this was one of the original imperatives of early council intervention in these groups.

2.4 The evaluation also explored a wider range of issues impacting on retail support which has identified the following;

- ERDF and Invest Northern Ireland funding is not available for retail focused interventions. This means that the financial implications of funding this activity reside solely with Council. Engagement with invest NI and EU programmes has confirmed that this will continue to be the case for the new round of EU programmes (and that the match funding support for other business development activities will be up to 80% of eligible project costs)
- Direct business development support (mentoring, business workshops) can be delivered through the wider programme of support provided by the Economic Development Unit

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- The neighbourhood-based nature of local area interventions such as (but not confined to) Traders Associations require a more joined-up approach which integrates support such as physical, environmental and infrastructure improvement. Channelling these through the Economic Development unit and focusing on marketing and promotional support only is somewhat at odds with broader needs identified by these groups
- There is a need for internal Belfast City Council co-ordination to optimise the channelling of council resources to businesses, including retail
- The BIDs, Area Based Working, Neighbourhood Renewal and Community Planning processes present opportunities for the council to provide leadership to ensure that the totality of areas' needs (including those of retailers and traders) are addressed holistically.

2.5 In analysing the broader policy context, the evaluation also identified the following issues:

- The draft Integrated Economic Strategy (IES) does not identify retail as a 'sector' requiring specific intervention. The strategy points out that contemporary policy is moving away from footfall-boosting approach (with an emphasis on promotional interventions) towards a broader view of how best to accommodate other usage within cities and localities such as office, leisure, education, tourism etc.
- Reform of Local Government (RPA) means from 2015 it is likely Belfast City Council will have an enhanced Neighbourhood Renewal role. Traders in specific neighbourhoods should benefit if this role is delivered effectively in a way which co-ordinates, integrates and targets council resources.
- The BIDs process presents an opportunity for area-based development with businesses as investors (therefore making this a more sustainable approach) agreeing a range of local activities and initiatives that can be delivered with an emphasis on the totality of that area's needs (e.g. footfall oriented promotions, business development support, environmental improvements, infrastructure improvements such as car parking etc.)

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- The Local Investment Fund has an area based emphasis. There is potential to build on its current delivery by more strategically linking the needs of local areas (including those of retailers) to resources and funding streams.

2.6 Some of the key recommendations emerging from the report are as follows:

- Direct business development support for retailers (such as programmes aimed at improving competitiveness) can be funded through economic development on a discretionary basis and have some strategic validity
- Area-based interventions such as (but not confined to) Traders Associations should not be resourced uniquely through Economic Development given that the neighbourhood-based nature of these require a more joined-up approach which integrates support such as physical, environmental and infrastructure improvements. This involves the delivery of wider council services (such as building control, environmental health, street cleansing, commercial waste etc) as well as other agencies (Roads Service etc.)
- There is a need for a much more structured, rigorous and strategic process for traders support which starts with needs identification, SMART objectives, production of a structured implementation plan and robust monitoring and evaluation to assess efficiency and effectiveness/impact of delivery. At present, there is limited capacity within the groups to undertake this activity and analysis
- The BIDs, Area Based Working, Neighbourhood Renewal and Community Planning processes present opportunities for Belfast City Council to provide leadership to ensure that the totality of areas' needs (including those of retailers and traders) are addressed holistically. Clearly this role requires development and is beyond the scope of the economic development section.

2.7 Taking account of these findings, it is recommended that the following approach is adopted regarding council support in the coming financial year:

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- There is significant rationalisation of support, with business growth support channelled through the Economic Development Unit's generic business growth programmes (and therefore eligible for match funding support from EU)
- Area development support for traders' groups is pared back to a level of up to £5,000 funding available without any match funding being offered by the group and up to a further £5,000 available if they can provide evidence of £ for £ match funding (i.e. a total maximum contribution of £10,000 from council). There should be a deadline for applications, with no applications for support accepted after end August 2014
- There should be no commitment to area development support beyond the current year and work should be undertaken within the council to consider how area support can be incorporated within wider area-based support across the council
- There should be a budgetary commitment for start-up and product development activity, based on evaluations of the current activity as well as best practice from other locations
- The retail forum should be retained as a vehicle for engagement with local groups, with consideration given as to how this can be incorporated as part of wider area working activities as well as council's engagement with the private sector
- Consideration should be given to how BCCM (and other partners) can be used as a conduit for better engagement with retail businesses in the city centre as well as exploring opportunities for addressing challenges such as vacant properties for retail use.

3 Resources

- £80,000 for trader group support; and
- £40,000 for targeted start-up and product development activity.

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4 Recommendation

- That future consideration should be given to a co-ordinated programme of activity within Council linking in with area working groups and other initiatives to ensure effective delivery of service and avoid duplication.”

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and adopted the recommendation.

Festivals' Forum

The Committee noted the contents of an update report and endorsed an associated Action Plan for 2014/2015 on the work of the Council's Festivals' Forum, which had been established to support and enhance the range of festivals across the City. It was noted that a copy of the Action Plan had been published on the Council's Mod.gov website.

European Social Fund - Match Funding Requests

(Councillor Ó Donnghaile remained outside the room whilst this matter was under consideration.)

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that European Social Fund (ESF) Priority One provides financial support to promote training and other activities to assist long term unemployed people obtain sustainable employment. Funding is awarded through an open call for projects. Successful applicants are allocated funding on condition that they can provide 35% match funding from another public sector source.**
- 1.2 The ESF projects are funded through Department of Employment and Learning (DEL). Match funding must be secured on an annual basis. These offers are based on the project being able to draw in the appropriate levels of match funding. All funding from DEL is subject to the agreed match funding being in place. Requests for match funding from five projects for the next financial year 2014-2015 have now been received by Belfast City Council. In addition, the council has led on a project and there is also a requirement to seek match funding for this project for the coming year. One of the projects (East Belfast Mission) has not yet submitted the match funding request to Belfast City Council. If this is**

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forthcoming, it will be presented to a future meeting of the Development Committee for consideration.

1.3 At the March 2013 meeting of the Development Committee, Members agreed to provide match funding to the following ESF projects for 2013-2014:

- **Belfast City Council with project partner Lisburn City Council – Hospitality and Retail Training and Employment (HARTE) £25,000;**
- **East Belfast Mission - Jobs4U £12,485;**
- **Lenadoon Community Forum - Neighbourhood Training for Employment £12,010; and**
- **Time Associates/Belfast Metropolitan College - Learn to Earn £6,000.**

At the May 2013 meeting of the Development Committee, Members agreed to provide match funding to the following ESF projects for 2013-2014:

- **Upper Springfield Development Trust (USDT) - Jobs on the Move £30,000;**
- **Ashton Community Trust - Progress to Employment £33,642.65; and**
- **Ashton Community Trust - Women’s Training Project £13,856.02.**

1.5 Members will recall from the May 2013 meeting that the original letters of offer from DEL were issued on the basis of a three-year programme. DEL wrote to all project promoters to confirm that they could offer funding to the approved projects for an additional year (2014-2015) should the project promoters wish to take this offer up. They also confirmed that they were in a position to offer an uplift of 25% in the funding available to interested projects. In both instances, offers were based on the project being able to draw in the appropriate levels of match funding.

1.6 Members will recall that the offer of 25% uplift has led to some projects having difficulty in being able to get agreement from their match funder to provide the additional funding to allow them to draw down the extra money from DEL.

1.7 Many Belfast-based ESF projects are match-funded by the Department of Social Development (DSD). The office confirmed that, while it is in a position to commit the match-funding at the previous levels of expenditure in the original letters of offer, it is not in a position to provide the match-

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funding for the increased amount (i.e. to meet the 25% uplift offer from DEL). This remains the case for 2014-2015.

- 1.8 These offers are based on the project being able to draw in the appropriate levels of match funding. Without funding, the six programmes will be unable to operate.
- 1.9 Members will also be aware that officers have been engaging with DEL to identify a way in which the match funding provided by the council and other public sector bodies can be used to contribute to targeted delivery, as opposed to on a case-by-case basis as is currently the way of working. Some progress is being made in this regard and it is anticipated that this will help the council measure more directly the impact of our interventions of the key employment and skills challenges in the city.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The six projects that are seeking support from Belfast City Council for the next financial year 2014-2015 are:

- Ashton Community Trust: Women's Training Project
- Ashton Community Trust: Progress to Employment
- Lenadoon Community Forum – Neighbourhood Training for Employment
- Time Associates/Belfast Metropolitan College – Learn to Earn
- Upper Springfield Development Trust – Jobs on the Move
- Belfast City Council – HARTE

2.2 Ashton Community Trust – Women's Training Project

The Women's Training Project focuses on improving the employability of those women experiencing significant employment gaps, lone parents, those returning to the labour market and women with little or no qualifications. The project aims to offer women training which will increase basic and intermediate skills and a mentor to support clients through one-to-one support and advice and guidance. There is also a team member employed to support those not in employment, education and training (NEET). This was introduced as part of the match funding provided through council.

- 2.3 In the first three quarters of 2013-2014, 124 participants received accredited training and 38 went into employment of which 15 were NEETs clients. Outputs for the period 2014-

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2015 are envisaged to remain the same figures and the programme will continue to work with NEET clients.

2.4 The amount of funding offered by DEL to Women's Training Project in the 2014-2015 financial year (including the uplift) is £101,461. At present, DSD have committed to providing match funding of £38,868.98. This leaves a shortfall of £13,856.02 to allow the full amount to be drawn down.

2.5 Ashton Community Trust – Progress to Employment project

The Progress to Employment programme provides participants with access to accredited training and resources that will improve their skills and improve their chances of a more sustainable future in employment. It focuses on training to match participants' skills with employer's requirements. A mentor further supports clients through one-to-one support and advice and guidance.

2.6 In the first three quarters of the financial year 2013-2014, 314 participants availed of training and support, 121 undertook accredited training and 96 entered into employment (40 were NEET clients), surpassing targets set. Outputs for the period 2014-2015 are projected to remain the same as 2013-2014. The programme will continue to target the NEET category.

2.7 It is envisaged that the targets will be maintained for the final year of the project. A match funding request of £33,642.65 has been received by Belfast City Council to contribute to the project, which has an overall value of £373,850 for the coming financial year.

2.8 Lenadoon Community Forum - Neighbourhood Training for Employment

The progress report received from Lenadoon Community Forum indicates that the project is on course to achieve its targets in terms of engaging with individuals and placing them into employment, training or further education. Participants have undertaken courses in Numeracy and Literacy Levels 2 (GCSE grade C equivalent), Text/Word Processing Suite Levels 1-3, Business Administration, Sage Payroll Level 2, Computerised Payroll Levels 1 and 2. To date this year, 265 people have been recruited, 163 have gained recognised qualifications, 28 have gone into further education and 22 into employment. Outputs for the coming year are expected to remain in line with the results delivered in the current year.

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2.9 In April 2014 after four years decanted to various sites, the Lenadoon Community Forum will move into a new building and the Training For Employment Project will be operate in a brand new IT suite and training room. This is a good opportunity to engage new participants and bring together services such as childcare and counselling under one roof. As well as serving Lenadoon residents, participants who have availed of services in the past reside in the Suffolk and Dunmurry communities. The new building is adjacent to the interface and this will ensure greater access to services for residents from all sections of the community.

2.10 In order to roll out the training support in this coming financial year, the project promoters have asked the council to provide match funding of £12,010 towards a project with an overall value of £124,000.

2.11 Time Associates/Belfast Metropolitan College – Learn to Earn

Time Associates' 2013-2014 progress report to date indicates that the Learn to Earn project engaged with 43 participants (annual target 32). Of these, 14 found employment or went into self-employment and the participants amassed a total of 162 qualifications as part of their engagement in the programme. These include CCEA Exploring Enterprise; ILM Team Leader Award, CIEH Food Hygiene and Health Safety certificate. The project is on course to achieving all project outputs and in the quarter four forecasts, a further 50 qualifications will bring the total to 212. This year also seen the project expand its employer engagement activities with strong links being established with the Ten Square group and Odyssey Arena.

2.12 In the coming financial year, project promoters anticipate that they will recruit at least 32 participants who will collectively achieve in excess of 150 qualifications. 14 of the participants will find employment and 10 will go into further education. In order to achieve these results, they are seeking match funding of £6,000 from Belfast City Council.

2.13 Upper Springfield Development Trust – Jobs on the Move

The progress report received from USDT indicates that the project is on course to exceed its targets in terms of engaging with individuals and placing them into employment. Project promoters have worked with 265 individuals, helping 48 into employment and an additional 105 have undertaken accredited training up to December 2013.

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2.14 Within this financial year, a number of participants have undertaken work placement and training with the council as part of pre-recruitment programmes. Eight posts have been ring-fenced for individuals from that group (recruited following a competitive interview process). Client completed 'Roots to Wings' programme with Hendersons, Strive to Work pre-employment programme with First Source and Stream and undertook work placements with Marks & Spencer, negotiation of work placements as part of the employability working group with Belfast HSC Trust.

2.15 In the coming year, it is planned that the project will provide one-to-one mentoring and support to 300 participants, helping at least 10% of those find employment within the project. Match funding from council of £30,000 is being sought for this project, as a contribution to a project with an overall value of £246,462.

2.16 Belfast City Council/Lisburn City Council – HARTE

Between April and December 2013, 41 participants completed the HARTE programme. 41 people gained employment (figures include some people from year two of the programme who have just received employment), 32 people gained Level Two qualifications in industry recognised fields such as customer care, health and safety, food hygiene, World Host and team leadership. Participants have gone on to 'next steps' training including 'service of food at a table' and 'preparing and serving wines'.

2.17 In August 2013 to coincide with the World Police and Fire Games, 14 trainees from the HARTE programme took up the challenge of running HARTE@theMET pop up restaurant at the Belfast Met Titanic Quarter Campus. Programme participants were involved in all aspects of this intervention which included marketing, menu preparation and planning. Trainees cooked and served over 900 'covers'. They put to use the hospitality skills that they received training in including good customer service, catering and beverage services.

2.18 As a result of this valuable work experience, six people have gained full-time employment. A new relationship was formed with the Odyssey Arena who organised a recruitment drive for past and present HARTE participants. Seven participants gained part-time casual employment.

2.19 From April 2011 to December 2013, HARTE has performed strongly against targets as per letter of offer with DEL and the

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agreement with Belfast City Council It shows that HARTE has surpassed its target in six areas. There are strong mentoring, employer engagement and job search elements in the HARTE programme. Contact is maintained not only with participants on the current year of a programme, but also with past HARTE participants. They are contacted and invited to attend interviews with employers when opportunities arise. This ensures that participants receive help and support they need to progress in the labour market. This service comes at no additional cost to the project.

2.20 In the coming year, four HARTE programmes are planned, involving 60 long term unemployed people. Participants will be provided with accredited training and will be given dedicated pre-employment support and mentoring to help them find a job within the relevant field. The project will require match funding of £25,000 from Belfast City Council for the coming year, with £15,000 coming from Lisburn City Council. The overall project cost is £142,000.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 The total match funding requirements for the projects in the coming financial year are £120,508.67.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to provide match-funding to:

- Women's Training Project: £13,856.02
- Progress to Employment: £33,642.65
- Neighbourhood Training for Employment: £12,010
- Learn2earn: £6,000
- Jobs on the Move: £30,000
- HARTE: £25,000"

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that a report would be submitted in due course which would outline a range of options on how the scope of the scheme could be enhanced to attract additional applicants from across the City.

Belfast Business Awards

The Director reported that a request for funding in the sum of £10,000 had been received from the organisers of the 2014 Belfast Business Awards. He reminded the Committee that the awards were delivered by Belfast City Centre Management and, should the Committee accede to the request, the Council would be afforded a range of benefits, including significant publicity and networking opportunities.

A Member reminded the Committee that it had agreed in 2013 not to provide funding towards the awards. That decision had been taken since there existed a

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plethora of similar-type events and it would be prudent for the Council to assess the benefits which had been accrued in providing funding in previous years.

Accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Councillor Webb,

That the Committee agrees not to accede to the request for funding.

On a vote by show of hands, nine Members voted for the proposal and eight against and it was declared carried.

Spring Continental Market

The Committee was advised that the counts associated with the Local Government Elections would be held in the City Hall on 23rd and 24th May. As such, the annual Spring Continental Market had been rescheduled and would take place from Friday, 16th till Monday, 19th May inclusive. The Director pointed out that the rescheduling had meant that the market would not be able to operate on the Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May, which was traditionally its busiest day. The Director recommended, therefore, that, as a goodwill gesture to traders, the market be permitted to operate on an additional day, that is, Thursday, 15th May.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Former Visteon Site - Feasibility Study

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

- 1.1 Following a meetings with various groups, Councillor Attwood has requested that the Council commission a Feasibility Study for the former Ford Visteon Site on Black’s Road. The purpose of the feasibility study is to consider the optimal use of the site to support future city development.**
- 1.2 In support of the request, the member highlighted that the Minister of Enterprise Trade and Investment on 20 January 2014, stated:**

‘The situation with land that is zoned for economic development is this, and Invest NI is very clear on the issue, and this is what we will be saying to the Minister of the Environment, the planning department or whoever comes to us for advice: we are generally opposed to the loss of land that is being used, or was last used, for industry to non-industrial users. That is our policy’.

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2 Key Issues

- 2.1 In 2007, outline planning permission was granted for a proposed mixed use scheme on part of the site (Z/2006/2339/O). Approval of reserved matters was granted in September 2009 for 210 residential units and a business park development consisting of 3,345sqm of class B uses (Z/2008/0803/RM). Both applications have now expired.
- 2.2 The current planning application was submitted to the DOE on 11 December 2013 for development of the site. The proposal involves demolition of existing buildings and proposed comprehensive mixed-use development comprising 244 social and private/affordable residential units (with access from Black's Road) with associated public open space /linear park. The proposal also involves a non-residential element comprising of a community centre and class B1b/B1c/B2 uses (call centre, research and development, and light industrial uses) with associated parking and access from Finaghy Road North.
- 2.3 The site is zoned as existing business/industry in the draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015. However, the PAC report following the draft BMAP Public Local Inquiry recommended that site is left un-zoned as white lands.
- 2.4 In light of the site's planning history and the uncertainty around its future zoning, it is suggested that a broader feasibility study would allow consideration of what could be the optimal use of the site with a broader range of alternative explored in the context of the wider industrial / commercial land supply across the city.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 No specific allocation for this type of study was included within the 2014-15 Department budgets. Provision could be made from currently unallocated BMAP budgets should the Committee resolve to support the feasibility proposal.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are requested to consider the potential to commission a feasibility study of the potential for alternative uses for the Visteon Site.”

The Committee agreed to commission a feasibility study as outlined at a cost not to exceed £15,000. It was agreed also that officers from within the Department

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would liaise with representatives from other bodies and agencies with a view to establishing a co-ordinated approach to any feasibility study conducted in relation to the site.

Consultation Responses

Economic Inactivity

The Committee was advised that the Department for Employment and Learning and the Department for Enterprise Trade and Investment, in partnership with the Department for Social Development, Invest NI and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, had issued for consultation a strategic framework document which sought to co-ordinate a strategy to tackle economic inactivity.

The framework, which was entitled 'Enabling Success', sought to support individuals seeking employment and to create a diverse, skilled and active working-age population. Its strategic objective was to establish the conditions which would enable an employment rate of over 70% to be achieved by 2023. That aim would be achieved through a reduction in the proportion of the working-age population classified as economically inactive.

The Committee endorsed the response, a full copy of which was available on the Council's Mod.gov website.

Review of Apprenticeships

The Committee was advised that the Department for Employment and Learning had issued for consultation a review document which outlined a number of proposed changes to the current apprenticeships' scheme, a full copy of the response was published on the Council's Mod.gov website.

The Director reported that the proposals which had been outlined within the document represented a significant departure from current arrangements. He pointed out that the review had re-evaluated the pre-requisite educational requirements for eligibility under the apprenticeships' scheme and had proposed that it should be aimed specifically at individuals who had attained educational achievements at 'Level 3', that is, the equivalent of 'A' Levels, or above.

The Committee endorsed the Council's response, subject to it being amended to reflect the following in respect of question three, viz., "*Do you agree that the apprenticeships system should commence at 'Level 3' and above?*"

"The Council would not be supportive of any measure which would seek to exclude a significant proportion of the local population on the basis of educational attainment. The Council is opposed to any amendment to the current apprenticeships scheme which would seek to discriminate purely on the basis of educational attainment."

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Eurocities – Update

Annual Subscription

The Director reminded the Committee that the Council had been a member of the Eurocities Network since the early 1990s. He outlined the benefits which membership of that network had brought to the Council and how it had been able to influence and contribute to policy debate within the European Commission and Parliament. He reported that the Council's annual membership subscription to that network for the financial year 2014/2015 would be €15,820 and pointed out that this figure had remained unchanged since 2009. Accordingly, he sought the Committee's authority to pay the subscription as outlined.

The Committee granted the authority sought.

Annual Conference

The Director informed the Committee that the annual Eurocities Conference would take place in Munich from 5th till 7th November. He explained that the theme for the event would be 'Sustainable Cities' and provided an overview of the keynote speakers, together with the range of topics which would be explored at the various sessions and workshops. He added that the highlight of the conference, which would be attended by over 400 delegates, would be the Mayors' Debate which would explore the issue of political renewal in cities. He indicated that the conference would provide valuable opportunities for the Council's representatives to discuss with key partners the range of funding opportunities which could be applied for through future European initiatives.

The Committee authorised the attendance at the conference of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, together with the Director, or their nominees, the total cost of which would be approximately £4,000.

Northern Ireland Assembly Barroso Task Force Working Group

The Committee endorsed a response to the above-mentioned matter, which related to the work which had been undertaken by the Barroso Task Force Working Group to improve Northern Ireland's economic competitiveness and to create sustainable employment. A full copy of that response was available on the Council's Mod.gov Website.

Halifax Inward Visit

The Committee was advised that the Lord Mayor would be hosting the Mayor of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mr. J. Savage, between 3rd and 5th April. The Director reported that the visit of Mayor Savage, who was originally from Belfast, would present an opportunity to promote links between Belfast and North America and, as part of that visit, a number of political and business meetings had been arranged to foster co-operation with the City of Halifax. The keynote event of the visit would be a formal

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diner/reception in the Belfast Castle, which would be hosted by the Lord Mayor, for the delegation and key business leaders.

The Committee agreed to contribute £5,000 for the provision of hospitality during the Mayor's visit.

New York - Business Mission

The Committee was advised that the Lord Mayor would be leading, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Chamber of Trade and Commerce, a trade mission to New York, on a date to be determined in May, to coincide with the annual New York/New Belfast Conference. The Director reported that the visit would seek to enhance trade links between North York and Belfast and would present an opportunity to promote Belfast's reputation as a destination for inward investment. The Director outlined also the range of key political and business leaders who would host meetings with the Lord Mayor. Accordingly, he recommended that that the Committee agree to authorise the attendance of an officer on the visit to provide administrative support for the Lord Mayor. It was noted that the Lord Mayor would undertake the visit at no cost to the Council.

The Committee agreed that the Director (or his nominee) be authorised to accompany the Lord Mayor on the New York visit at a cost not to exceed £2,500.

Shenyang - Inward Visit

The Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 20th August, 2013, it had agreed that, as part of the Council's International Relations Strategy, it should seek to strengthen the linkages between Belfast and the City of Shenyang in China. He indicated that a request has been received from Shenyang requesting that the Council consider hosting a delegation of senior officials in July, 2014. The delegation from Shenyang would seek to establish and enhance opportunities for inward and outward investment between the two cities. As part of the itinerary for the visit, the delegation would be received by the Council's civic dignitaries, together with a range of key business people from throughout the City.

The Director sought the Committee's permission to incur expenditure in the sum of £3,000 towards the hospitality costs associated with the hosting the delegation, provision for which had been made within the Department's budgets.

The Committee granted the authority which had been sought.

Social Sofas - Public Art Proposal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 At the December meeting, Councillor Beattie outlined plans for the production of a community mosaic artwork, 'Social**

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sofas', within the Beechmount area. Committee agreed that officers from within the Development Department would undertake an update to be submitted to a future meeting.

1.2 'Social sofa' sculptures are large concrete benches covered in a mosaic designed and made by an artist in partnership with local community groups. The aim of the project, which started in the Netherlands and has been rolled out in Holland and China, is to create functional and attractive public seating that can become a meeting point for local residents.

1.3 Officers from the Tourism, Culture and Arts (TCA) Unit have carried out further research in to the feasibility of this project, including the option to extend the project across the city. The findings of this research are detailed below.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Budget

It is estimated that the cost of developing, commissioning, fabricating and installing one sofa is £18,700, made up of £4,800 for commissioning and £13,900 for production.

2.2 Economies of scale mean that some savings can be made by delivering a citywide project. The total cost of five sofas would be £84,400, made up of £18,400 for commissioning and £66,000 for production.

2.3 Funding

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) has indicated that the project would not be suitable for Re-imaging funding, which offers up to 100 per cent of projects costs and was the original, intended funding source. However, ACNI has indicated that it may be suitable for their general public art funding, which is due to open imminently.

2.4 ACNI funding must follow a two-stage best practice delivery model:

- Stage 1: Commissioning. The minimum grant available is £10,001, and the maximum is £25,000.
- Stage 2: Production. The minimum grant available is £10,001, and the maximum is £75,000.

2.5 Applications from public sector bodies such as the Council need to demonstrate a minimum of 50 per cent in-cash partnership funding. Applications made by voluntary and community organisations need to demonstrate a minimum of between 10 and 25 per cent partnership funding depending on the amount of funding applied for.

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2.6 Delivery mechanism

The Council's Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit does not have the resources to directly deliver public art projects, and the cost of hiring a public art coordinator is included in costs.

2.7 Social sofas is a trademarked concept. Best practice and the terms and conditions of ACNI funding require that the artists are procured by select or open competition. In order to widen the number of artists and increase competition and the quality of responses, it is recommended that the artist's brief be widened to include all artist-led street furniture.

2.8 Stakeholders

A number of arts and community organisations have already expressed an interest in this project including Belfast Conflict Resolution Centre, Upper Springfield Development Trust, the Spectrum Centre and Community Arts Partnership.

2.9 A number of agencies across Belfast, including the PSNI, have raised concerns to public seating as it may encourage loitering and anti-social behaviour. However, if founded on robust community consultation and engagement and with careful selection of sites, it is felt that this project could engender ownership and mitigate against anti-social behaviour.

2.10 Maintenance, liability and insurance

There are two options for the ownership of the sculpture(s):

1. The sculpture is owned by the partner community group, which is responsible for maintenance, liability, insurance and permissions. In most cases, planning permission will be required for installation on ground not owned or maintained by the Council.
2. The sculpture is owned by the Council. Maintenance requirements can be specified in the project brief and applications can be assessed against this, minimising cost. This is option is most feasible if the sculpture is to be placed on Council-owned and -maintained land, for example, parks. It is unlikely the sculpture would therefore require planning permission.

2.11 Options

The requirement for 50 per cent match funding and a minimum available grant of £10,001 means that the Council could not apply for funding for one sofa or for the

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commissioning cost of five sofas (the cost is less than £20,000 in both cases).

- 2.12 The Council could apply for funding for the production of five sofas. The contribution required from the Council would be £51,400 (£18,400 for commissioning and £33,000 match funding for the production).
- 2.13 The Council could appoint a suitably qualified external organisation to develop and deliver the programme. The successful contractor would be responsible for sourcing additional funding. A commitment of a minimum of £4,220 would help lever the remaining funding from ACNI.
- 2.14 The Council could work with interested community groups to develop applications for funding. Projects may apply for match revenue funding from the Council via the arts and heritage project fund.
- 2.15 A detailed exploration of options is included at appendix 1. The preferred option is option 4: Council contracts a third-party to develop the project.
- 2.16 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree the preferred option.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

A range of options are presented at appendix 1. The preferred option would cost £5,000 which is included in the 2014/15 draft budget estimates.

3.2 Human Resources

Depending on the option selected, the majority of the work load would be outsourced to a third party. Ongoing advice and guidance could be offered within the TCA Unit's current work plan.

3.3 Assets

Depending on the location and ownership of the sculpture(s), the assets may be owned by the Council, which would be responsible for ongoing revenue costs.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

- 4.1 Equality and good relations implications in relation to this policy are still under consideration. Further updates will be sent to the Equality and Diversity Officer in due course.

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5 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report and agree the preferred option.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

(All members of staff present at the meeting, with the exception of the Director and the Democratic Services Officer, remained outside the room whilst this item was under discussion.)

With the permission of the Committee, the Director tabled a report which sought its authority to undertake, by way of an internal trawl, a recruitment exercise for the appointment for the post of Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, on a twelve month interim basis. He reminded the Committee that the previous post-holder had left the Council on 10th March and, after consulting with the Corporate Management Team, it had been deemed advisable to seek to fill the post on the terms outlined.

The Committee granted approval to the Director to commence a recruitment exercise for the post and agreed that the selection panel would comprise of the Chairman (Councillor Hargey) and the Deputy Chairman (Councillor Spence), together with Councillor Webb, the Director of Development and one other Director. The Committee delegated authority also to the selection panel to appoint a suitable candidate at the conclusion of that process.

Chairman

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MEETING OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Councillor L. Patterson);
Councillors Austin, M. E. Campbell, Clarke,
Curran, Garrett, Hussey, Jones, Keenan,
Kingston, Magee, McCarthy, McKee,
and Thompson.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Wylie, Director of Health and
Environmental Services;
Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;
Mr. S. Skimin, Head of Cleansing Services;
Mrs. S. Toland, Head of Environmental Health;
Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen McCoubrey and Stoker and on behalf of Councillors Kelly, Kyle and McNamee.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Meeting of the Committee in May

The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had, given that the Local Government Elections were due to take place on 22nd May, agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled

The Committee agreed not to hold any meetings in May and agreed further that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources and, if necessary, the Chairman of the Health and Environmental Services Committees, to take any urgent

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decisions in accordance with the procedures which were routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

Finance Report – Quarter Three

The Committee considered a report which summarised the Department's financial performance as at the end of the third quarter of the financial year, that is, 31st December, 2013. The Director reported that, at the end of the third quarter, an underspend of £547,000 had been identified, which had been due largely to additional income received but also through staff vacancies and savings which had been realised in advertising and training. She added that it was forecast that the Department would be underspent by £483,000 at the year-end, which would again be due to the same factors.

The Director drew the Committee's attention to two performance indicators, the first of which related to procurement compliance. The Department, she reported, had achieved an 86.5% compliance rate in this regard, against a 90% target, which was above the corporate average and represented a 5% improvement on the previous financial year. In addition, the Department's compliance, when measured against the indicator which recorded the time taken for marking the receipt of goods, stood at 73%, which was 2% below target, but above the corporate average.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Departmental Plan for 2014-2015

The Committee considered the Departmental Plan for 2014/2015. The Director provided an overview of the Plan, which set out the key actions arising from the Corporate Plan and the Investment Programme, which the Department would be delivering over the course of the year, together with key Departmental actions, performance indicators and financial information. The Plan provided also a mechanism to enable the Committee and senior managers to performance manage the work of the Department. Additionally, the Plan would assist in decision-making and the allocation of resources in accordance with agreed objectives and activities. Regular updates on the Plan and its key projects would, as part of the corporate performance management framework, be submitted to the Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Committee approved the Departmental Plan for 2014/2015, a full copy of which was made available on the Council's Mod.gov website, the principal aspects are set out hereunder:

“2.2 The Plan sets out:

- **Financial information relating to the departmental estimates;**
- **The key departmental actions and projects (including those which will contribute to Local Government Reform and the Investment Programme); and**
- **Key departmental performance indicators and annual target**

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- 2.3** The plan provides a mechanism to enable the Committee and senior managers to project and performance manage the key work of the department in line with the Corporate Plan and Investment Programme. It should also assist managers and officers in the department to make decisions and allocate resources in line with the agreed objectives and activities.
- 2.4** Members should note that, whilst performance targets have been included for all performance indicators, a number are marked as iterative as it is not possible to set meaningful targets for some indicators until the current year's performance targets have been recorded. These targets are marked in the body of the report and will be reviewed after the year-end figures are available. Please note, however, that Committee will be notified of any changes to the targets.
- 2.5** Committee is asked to note that a number of the actions contained within the departmental plan are local government reform related. Whilst these actions will be undertaken by the Health and Environmental Services department, Members are asked to note that from June 2014, following the commencement of the Shadow Council period, these actions will form part of the Shadow Council's corporate plan.
- 2.6** The next twelve months will be challenging time for the department as it undertakes a significant programme of work in preparation for Local Government Reform, while at the same timing continuing to provide a wide range of public facing high quality services to the residents of the city. The department will be leading on a number of key strands of work including:
- taking a corporate lead on preparing the organisation for service convergence resulting from the extension of the Belfast boundary;
 - taking a lead role in preparing the council for the new duty of Community Planning to enable it to have begun the community planning process by April 2015; including the associated development of our approach to area working; and
 - the transfer of a number of functions from central government, including responsibility for off street car parking and a number of housing functions.
- 2.7** The Department will also be working to ensure that the large number of customer facing services that it is responsible for are delivered to the new areas coming into the expanded Belfast while at the same time ensuring that existing citizens and business continue to receive a high quality service"

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Food Banks and Corporate Poverty Initiatives

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 At the February meeting of the Council, in accordance with a Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Mullan proposed:

‘This Council notes with concern the increase in the number of food banks and other food poverty initiatives established by church groups and charities in the city, often working in partnership with local community organisations. The Council has already committed extra financial support for advice services across the city and agrees to work, through the Council’s anti-poverty initiative, in partnership with relevant agencies, charities and faith-based groups to establish agreed structures for the provision of advice and support to those who find themselves in need of this urgent help.’

1.2 The Motion was seconded by Councillor Convery. In accordance with Standing Order 11(e), the Lord Mayor confirmed that the matter would be referred without discussion to the Health and Environmental Services Committee. This paper provides a background on the council’s and other agencies’ approaches to tackling food poverty and information on next steps following the Lord Mayor’s recent civic forum on tackling poverty together.

2 Key Issues

2.1 There is evidence that individuals and families are increasingly at risk of poverty across Northern Ireland. The latest projections calculated by the Institute of Fiscal Studies on behalf of OFMdFM suggest that over the next six years the percentage of children in relative poverty in the region will increase substantially from 23.6% to 29.7%. Poverty amongst working-age non-parents is also projected to continue its gradual upward trend of the last 30 years. (A likely explanation for the projected increase is the substantially reduced forecasts for employment growth in Northern Ireland).

The impact of poverty is well documented with households having to cope with a range of issues including home heating, finances and food poverty. The specific issue of food poverty has been a characteristic of the recent economic downturn, with the growth of food-banks the focus of particular media attention with a debate over their

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significance. The latest report commissioned by DEFRA indicates that the increase in such banks has been demand-driven (i.e., there is no evidence that the increased supply of food-banks is generating its own demand). Critical factors driving people to such banks are on-going problems of low income, rising food (and other) costs and increasing indebtedness. Evidence suggests that most households tend to adopt a number of strategies (changing shopping and eating habits; cutting back on other outgoings; and turning to family and friends for help) before resorting to direct food aid.

Belfast food initiatives

- 2.3 Locally, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for developing a coordinated approach to addressing food poverty. The FSA have a series of medium-term outcomes (2016 to 2019) to ensure local support, resources and facilities are available to those experiencing food poverty.
- 2.4 Along with others, including the Public Health Agency, the FSA supports the Council for the Homeless and its 'FareShare' project in Belfast and its 'SafeFood' depot at Weaver's Court. FareShare sources quality, surplus food and drink from retailers and manufacturers and redistributes it to local charities feeding hungry and vulnerable people in the community.
- 2.5 Alongside FareShare, there are a number of other charitable and church-based projects tackling food poverty in Belfast. For example, 'Storehouse' links with other charities and agencies throughout Belfast to provide people with a package that a family or individual will need for three days. These packages are provided either in response to a one-off request or as continued support over 4-5 weeks.
- 2.6 The Trussell Trust partners with churches and communities to run over 400 food banks across the UK with three banks operating in the Greater Belfast area. Members will also no doubt be aware of the important work of the Society of St Vincent De Paul and Salvation Army who continue to offer families and individuals in need a range of critical locally-based support services.

Role of the Council

- 2.7 While not our direct responsibility, the council offers a range of support to those struggling with food poverty in the city. Currently, this includes our significant financial support for the

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city's five advice consortia and our support for the citywide tribunal service; our Growing Communities strategy and its support for community gardens and allotments; our contribution to the 'Love Food Hate' Waste campaign which encourages households to make better use of food and reduce food bills; and our continuing contribution (alongside the PHA and Belfast Trust) to the Belfast Strategic Partnership which has a cross-cutting theme to tackle poverty.

2.8 The Council is also exploring opportunities with the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMdFM) to consider how we can contribute to the Government's Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework for tackling poverty and inequality in Belfast.

2.9 The Health and Environmental Services Committee agreed in August, 2013, to become an active partner in the Belfast Food Network's bid for the city to be one of the six 'Sustainable Food Cities'. Having won the bid the Network are now establishing a programme of work from April 2014 to address obesity, food poverty and climate change with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing, creating new businesses and jobs and reducing our impact on the environment.

2.10 Lord Mayor's civic forum on tackling poverty

As Members will also be aware, the Lord Mayor hosted a civic forum on tackling poverty in January of this year. The conference focused on how the statutory and voluntary sectors can work better together to address issues of poverty. While acknowledging the significant work already taking place across the city, the forum which was attended by over 200 delegates sought to identify new ways of working. Delegates focused on specifically on issues of food, fuel and finance, and the opportunities for addressing the root causes of poverty by considering the role of business and jobs.

2.11 Conference delegates agreed that the council should work with our partners in the BSP to develop a shared plan of action for addressing symptoms and causes of poverty in the city. This action plan, which will include a number of proposals around addressing elements of food poverty, forms part of the work agreed by Development Committee to take forward the council's poverty agenda by creating greater coordination and integration of practical actions with our partners. Officers from Development Department and Health and Environmental Services are currently working to analyse feedback from the conference and to draft a plan for approval.

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3 Resource Implications

3.1 None at present.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage. However all new policy and strategy work detailed within the plan will be subject to equality screening in line with the Council's standard processes.

5 Recommendation

5.1 To note the contents of the report and that the issue of food poverty will be incorporated into the shared action plan to address symptoms and causes of food poverty in Belfast."

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Application for the Erection of a Dual-Language Street Sign

The Head of Building Control reported that the undernoted application to erect an additional street nameplate in a language other than English had been received by the Council:

<u>Street Name</u>	<u>Second Street Name</u>	<u>Language</u>
Hillhead Court	Cúirt an Mhullaigh	Irish

He explained that, in accordance with Council policy, a survey of Hillhead Court had been conducted which had determined that in excess of two-thirds of the residents living in the street had been in favour of the additional nameplate.

The Committee approved the erection of dual-language street sign at the aforementioned location.

Student Housing Strategy – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Strategic Study of the Holylands and wider university area was approved by Committee on 26th March, 2012 and adopted by Council on 2nd April. The recommendations of the study were two-fold:

- To grow Belfast's reputation as a Learning City and destination of choice for students requires a city-wide

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strategy for student housing that will promote choice and fit-for-purpose accommodation; and

- To restore the Holylands by gradually reintroducing affordable, single household accommodation and improving the quality of the environment, whilst working towards developing an approach to managing the area.

- 1.2 An action plan to take forward these recommendations was presented within the final Strategic Study report. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on progress with these actions.
- 1.3 Updates on the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods team (which replaced wardens), the potential for a dedicated on street safety service in the Holylands and planning for St Patrick's Day period 2014 are also provided within this report.

2.0 Key Issues

Making Belfast a Destination of Choice for Students

- 2.1 As agreed by the Committee, the Council has been leading a Student Housing joint team (including DSD, SIB, DoE and NIHE) in developing a Framework for Student Housing in the city. A stakeholder engagement exercise was completed in Autumn 2013 and a final Framework document, to set the strategic context and agenda for student housing in the city, articulating the need for more purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) within the city, and providing suggested planning criteria to be applied to such developments, will be completed before the end of March 2014.
- 2.2 The Council continues to work with partners including SIB, DSD, DFP and DEL on developing a business case to assess the viability of PBSA, requirements and options for the public sector to support delivery. Further updates on this work will be presented when the business case is completed.

Restoring the Functional Integrity of the Holyland

- 2.3 The Council has been working with partners in the Holyland Interagency Group, including LANI, PACT and Students Union, to review the local PACT structure, and to implement a new neighbourhood management approach for the area. A revised PACT structure has been agreed and an initial meeting of the new PACT and neighbourhood management arrangements took place on 25th February 2014.

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- 2.4 The Council has continued to develop a programme of environmental improvement works with partners (including DRD, Probation Board NI, University of Ulster Students Union, Queens University and Botanic Primary School) including repair/refurbishment of a wall and railings at Horsey Hill/Stranmillis Embankment, community artwork and some soft landscaping/planted areas. Resources for this work have been identified through prioritisation of existing budgets/work programmes and the works are due for completion before end of March 2014.
- 2.5 DSD was approached to consider the potential for implementing recommendations in relation to introducing a 'new homes from old places' initiative in the area, namely to identify a housing association that would acquire properties and make these available to single households. Disappointingly DSD has stated that this is no longer feasible at this current time due to lack of demand from potential tenants, and the high costs of acquiring/converting properties (which have historically received public sector funding in the form of HMO grants). Furthermore, the potential impacts of forthcoming Welfare reforms will create a demand for HMO type accommodation and therefore DSD considers that such an approach could not be justified at this time. DSD have stated that this may be reviewed in the future.
- 2.6 DRD/Transport NI introduced one way traffic flows to several streets in the area on 3 February 2014, between Rugby Avenue and Agincourt Avenue. DRD has also completed initial consultations on developing a residents parking scheme in the area and continue to work towards publishing proposals later this year.

Safer Neighbourhoods - Update

- 2.7 Following the decision of the Health and Environmental Services Committee on 17th September 2012, a Safer Neighbourhood Officer team has been established, comprising 8 Safer Neighbourhood Officers in total deployed by the DPCSPs (2 each) to North, South, East and West areas of the city. Safer Neighbourhood Officers undertake the following roles:
- Working with locally elected representatives to resolve local problems;
 - Joint enforcement of on-street drinking on Friday and Saturday nights or at key public events as required;
 - Support for on street enforcement (clean neighbourhoods);

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- Providing assistance to residents and community organisations;
 - Linking in with existing structures to support local engagement.
- 2.8 Deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Officers is also targeted to the Wider University Area at key times of the year including the Freshers period, Halloween and St Patrick's Day. Development of a Dedicated On-Street Safety Service for the Holyland
- 2.9 The Council continues to negotiate with the Higher Education Institutions on development of an alternative safety service for the area (led by the HEIs but facilitated by the Council). Negotiations are now at an advanced stage and a further update on proposed arrangements will be brought to Committee in the coming months.

St Patrick's Day 2014 preparations

- 2.10 Multiagency planning arrangements (with PSNI, Queens University, University of Ulster and Belfast Met) for St Patrick's day are being fully progressed in line with recent years. All 3 Higher Education Institutions have agreed to take 2 reading days on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th March, 2014. In the last couple of years, an extended break has reduced the numbers of students in the area and associated issues over the St Patrick's holiday period. Nonetheless, a comprehensive operational plan co-ordinated by the Council (and supported by key Council services) will be in place to address community safety issues including on street drinking, noise, antisocial behaviour and litter.
- 3.0 **Resource Implications**
- 3.1 Human Resources – In terms of supporting the delivery of the Study, this is through existing Council staff, with no additional costs to the ratepayer.
- 3.2 Financial – There are likely to be financial costs associated with the implementation of the student housing strategy; however, the scale of these costs will be determined during the development process when testing the viability of purpose built student accommodation and opportunities to source external funding will be considered.

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4.0 Equality Implications

4.1 Equality and Good Relations considerations are being considered in the development of the student housing framework for the city.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.”

The Head of Environmental Health provided an overview of the report. She outlined the extent of the planning and housing powers which the Council would assume as a result of the Reform of Local Government which could assist it in the regulation of houses of multiple occupancy across Belfast.

A Member stated that, in the period since the Student Housing Strategy had been published, the statutory bodies had not engaged meaningfully with the Council regarding its implementation. He pointed out that antisocial behaviour within the Holyland's area remained at critical levels and, in the absence of a multi-agency approach to the matter, the City-wide proposals, as set out within the Strategy, could not be implemented.

In response to a Member's question, the Head of Environmental Health undertook to update the Committee regarding the Council's Safer Neighbourhood Officer Scheme, particularly how it related to the corporate approach to tackling antisocial behaviour across the City.

After further discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Landlord Registrations Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

1.1 The Department for Social Development has introduced the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, which will become operational on 25th February 2014.

1.2 The introduction of landlord registration for the first time in Northern Ireland is seen as a positive step in the regulation of the private rental sector. The purpose of the landlord registration is to create a register of all private landlords. It will give local councils the means to communicate and work with private landlords, allow them to ensure that landlords comply with the law and, where necessary, take enforcement action.

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- 1.3 The Department has appointed a registrar who is in charge of the information and may disclose it, on request, to:
- a district council to enable or assist it to carry out its legal duties;
 - the Department of Finance and Personnel Northern Ireland to help it to carry out its legal duties for rating purposes;
 - the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the purposes of administering housing benefit and the regulation of Houses in Multiple Occupation (the latter to be transferred to councils from April 2015).
- 1.4 Landlords of any new tenancy commencing after 24th February 2014 must register immediately. All other landlords must register before 24th February 2015.
- 1.5 The offence of the failure of a landlord to register carries a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500. If a landlord is found guilty of providing false information a maximum fine on conviction of £2,500 is applicable. If a landlord fails to provide evidence of registration a maximum fine on conviction of £500 can be given.
- 1.6 Payment of a fixed penalty will discharge any liability for prosecution. These fixed penalties must be determined by the Council and cannot exceed £500 for the offence of non-registration and providing false information, and £100 for the offence of failing to provide evidence of registration.

2 Key Issues

- Landlords of any new tenancies created after 24th February 2014 must register with the registrar.
- All other landlords must register before 24th February 2015.
- The register will allow tenants, neighbours and local councils to identify if landlords are registered.
- The register will provide information on the number of landlords in Northern Ireland and allow landlords to receive regular updates on the duties and responsibilities of landlords and tenants.
- The registrar will help provide education and support to landlords.
- It will improve tenants' confidence in their landlords and increase landlords' accountability by promoting good practice and ensuring appropriate advice and assistance is available.

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- A landlord will only pay one fee regardless of the number of properties owned; the online registration fee is £70.00 and the paper/non electronic based registration fee is £80.00. A landlord is exempt from the registration fee if they have paid to register a house in multiple occupation which is registered under the House in Multiple Occupation Registration Scheme.
- Fixed penalties can be issued for the 3 offences and the income can only be used for the purposes of the council's functions under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006.
- The sub-group of the Chief Environmental Health Officers have recommended that the setting of fixed penalties should be consistent across Northern Ireland and agreed that the fixed penalty for failure to register be set at £500, the fixed penalty for providing false information be set at £500 and the fixed penalty for failure to provide evidence of registration be set at £100
- It is anticipated that the enforcing council will be the council within which the tenancy is located.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 The enforcement of the provisions of the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 will be accommodated within existing resources.

3.2 The level of potential income from fixed penalty notices cannot be readily estimated in advance but its use is restricted to the Council's functions under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006.

5 Recommendations

- 1) note the requirements of the Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014
- 2) agree that the fixed penalty for failure to register be set at £500
- 3) agree that the fixed penalty for providing false information be set at £500 and
- 4) agree that the fixed penalty for failure to provide evidence of registration be set at £100"

The Head Environmental Health clarified a range of matters arising from the report. She outlined the rationale which had been utilised in setting a charge in respect of the fixed penalties, with the maximum level being determined within the legislation. She pointed out that the scheme, in itself, would not resolve issues regarding improving

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the standard of housing, but that it was seen by Department for Social Development as an initial step towards the better regulation of that sector.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and endorsed the fixed-penalty charges as outlined.

**Update on the Work of Belfast (District)
Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Relevant Background Information

1.1 Members will be aware that the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), and the four District PCSPs, were formally established in May, 2012. These are facilitated by the Council and overseen regionally by a Joint Committee consisting of representatives from the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Membership is made up of elected representatives, independent members (publicly appointed) and statutory (and voluntary) organisations which play a role in tackling crime and antisocial behaviour.

1.2 The (D)PCSPs are awarded an annual allocation of funding by the Joint Committee which must support both running costs and service delivery. In the 2013/2014 financial year the PCSP determined that £500,000 of their available allocation (totalling £775,000) should be directed towards service delivery at a local level. Accordingly, the four DPCSPs developed Area Based Action Plans which included a series of initiatives which they have supported over the course of 2013/2014. Members will also be aware that £122,500 of the Health and Environmental Services Department’s revenue estimates was allocated to the Principal PCSP to support service delivery at a strategic, city-wide level. The Department of Justice seeks to encourage that match funded is levered in to support the work of PCSPs

1.3 (D)PCSPs aim to make our community safer. They do this by focussing on the policing and community safety issues that matter most in local areas. They:

- consult and engage with the local community on the issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety. The Policing Committee has a distinct responsibility to provide views to the relevant District Commander and the Policing Board on policing matters;**
- identify and prioritise the particular issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled;**

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- monitor - a Policing Committee comprising the Political and Independent Members will monitor the performance of the police and work to gain the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime; and
- deliver a reduction in crime and enhance community safety in our district, directly through our own interventions, through the work of our delivery groups or through support for the work of others.

1.4 The Joint Committee has recently asked the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland (CJNI) to conduct review of (D)PCSPs after their first two years of operation, which is due to be completed by June 2014. All (D)PCSP members and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to contribute towards the review.

2 Key Issues

2013/2014

2.1 In 2013/2014, the (D)PCSPs have successfully delivered a series of community safety and policing initiatives across the city. Some examples of this work include:

Strategic Contribution

2.2 The role of Belfast PCSP is to develop a strategic citywide response to policing and community safety needs. Some examples of this work are:

1) Human Trafficking – Belfast PCSP took the lead along with Belfast City Council, PSNI Serious Organised Crime Branch and the Department of Justice in raising awareness within Belfast of Human Trafficking. This took the form of an event for frontline service providers across the city with 200 representatives from the hospitality industry, taxi drivers, council officers and postal workers attending. The event was designed to improve knowledge among front line workers of the “tell tale” signs of human trafficking to improve detection. It is expected due to the success of this first event that a similar event will take place in the 2014/2015 year to reach more people. Belfast PCSP is the only partnership across Northern Ireland to take strategic ownership of this issue and is actively engaging with partners with a view to developing a collaborative approach for Belfast. This approach is being supported by Minister for Justice David Ford, OFMDFM Junior Ministers Jonathan Bell and Jennifer McCann and the National Crime Agency.

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- 2) **Drug Dealing – Belfast PCSP has also taken strategic ownership of an inter-agency approach to reducing drug dealing. An advisory group of PCSP members, PSNI, Crimestoppers and service providers developed a campaign to reduce drug dealing by encouraging people to report to Crimestoppers. The campaign is designed to demonstrate the impact drug dealing has on communities, families and young people and is being distributed across Belfast on billboards, taxis and buses along with a social media video and radio campaign. The campaign has already reached many thousands of people in Belfast alone. Belfast PCSP is also the lead partner in rolling the campaign out to other PCSP's across Northern Ireland.**

- 3) **Night Time Economy – Belfast PCSP recognises the excellent work undertaken by individual organisations in relation to night time economy and associated issues. However, the PCSP believes that a more integrated approach will ultimately result in an improved service. As such, Belfast PCSP secured the co-operation of all previous “Get Home Safe Scheme” partners to undertake a formal review of the scheme and to make recommendations on how to improve co-ordination. That review is complete with a unanimous decision by all partners that they believe Belfast PCSP should provide strategic leadership of the development of a citywide strategy to deal with night time economy safety issues and that the partnership previously known as the Get Home Safe Partnership would reconvene on a permanent basis to operationally manage the strategy.**

- 4) **Crime Prevention Event and Youth Awards – Belfast PCSP delivered a citywide Crime Prevention and Safety Event in December 2013 with around 1000 participants from across the city. Additionally, Belfast PCSP delivered its annual Youth Awards, opened by the Minister for Justice David Ford to 200 young people from post primary schools across Belfast.**

Responding to Local Need

- 2.3 **District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSP's) in each of the four areas of Belfast (North, South, East and West) are in place to respond to local community safety need and ensuring local accountability of policing. DPCSP's have undertaken this in a number of ways. For**

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each DPCSP one example of this work has been outlined below. However, there are also many other examples.

- 2.4 **North DPCSP** - North Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated the inter-agency response to supporting victims of domestic violence within the area. This has taken the form of a three strand approach. Firstly supporting the development of further “Safe Places” within North Belfast where victims of domestic violence can safely access services, secondly by providing practical crime prevention equipment for victims and finally by hosting a public event to raise awareness of the issue and to promote local service providers.
- 2.5 **South DPCSP** – South Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated the delivery of bespoke training to bar and door staff in licensed premises within South Belfast. This initiative is designed to help those members of staff identify vulnerable members of the public which may be as a result of alcohol or drug use and how to access support services. The initiative is supported by Pubs of Ulster and PSNI and was attended by over 160 bar and door staff from across the area.
- 2.6 **East DPCSP** – East Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated in partnership with the community, the inter-agency response to long term anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Avoniel Leisure Centre. This has involved securing youth work support from within the community to build relationships with the young people involved, delivering a community clean up and an intergenerational event to raise awareness of the consequences of anti-social behaviour amongst the young people involved.
- 2.7 **West DPCSP** – West Belfast DPCSP has co-ordinated the multi-agency response to ongoing community tensions and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the Broadway roundabout with no disorder reported this year by the community or statutory agencies. This initiative has been viewed as so successful by all stakeholders that early planning is taking place for 2014 and the approach taken in Broadway is being replicated in the Ballymurphy area of West Belfast in response to criminality and anti-social behaviour.

Supporting Local Delivery

- 2.8 **Small grants for local groups** – 41 groups were supported to provide services at a local level, representing an investment of around £212,000 in our city with the aim of improving cooperation between communities and local police; as well

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as supporting initiatives which offer positive opportunities and prevent people from becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour. Some of the initiatives that the Partnerships supported include midnight soccer, midnight boxing, dance, football skills programmes, arts and culture schemes, education campaigns, cross community and intergenerational projects and community programmes alongside policing teams.

2014 onwards

- 2.9 The (D)PCSPs are currently developing action plans for the 2014-2015 period for submission to the Joint Committee. While these plans will focus primarily on the allocation of the Joint Committee's funding, they will also outline the DPCSPs work with neighbourhoods and organisations across the city that does not require a specific additional resource allocation.
- 2.10 In the coming year (D)PCSP's will continue to engage with the public as well as addressing the community safety priorities within each area and it is likely that these will include issues such as anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol, burglary, hate crime, violent crime and fear of crime.
- 2.11 The Principal PCSP also intends to further develop its role, focussing on the need to disseminate good practice, support city-wide initiatives and also support the strategic delivery and monitoring of policing.

The Council's allocation of £122,500 towards service delivery as determined by the PCSP has already been agreed as part of the overall revenue estimates. Members may however wish to comment on the priorities identified for this funding by the PCSP i.e. addressing alcohol and drug misuse and antisocial behaviour.

- 2.12 The boundary extensions under Local Government Reform will clearly have an impact on the membership and geographies of the new PCSP and DPCSPs. We are currently working with the Joint Committee to plan a process for moving to a new structure with proportionate resourcing arrangements.

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3. Resource Implications

Financial Resources

- 3.1 £122,500 of service delivery costs per annum until March, 2015. This has already been agreed via the revenue estimates. It is an extension of the financial commitment made previously to the work of the former Community Safety Partnership and District Policing Partnership.**

5. Recommendations

- **to consider any parameters/guidance the Committee would wish to give by way of priorities for spend such as antisocial behaviour and alcohol or drug misuse; and**
- **note that a report on a review of the (D)PCSPs will be brought before the Committee at a later date, which will include an update on the implications and plans for the boundary changes.**

During discussion, the Head of Environmental Health gave an overview of the work which had been undertaken – and which would be carried out – by the Council to extend the work of the current Belfast (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. She advised Members that the Joint Committee of the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board would be carrying out a recruitment exercise during the autumn for the appointment of Independent Members with a view to having that exercise completed by April, 2015.

She pointed out that the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships had taken advice from the aforementioned Joint Committee and it had been advised that similar arrangements would put in place to those which the Council used during the ‘purdah’ period in respect of its meetings.

A number of Members suggested that the future role and remit of the Belfast (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships should be reconsidered. It was suggested, particularly, that the principal Partnership lacked a strategic overview. As such, it was pointed out that the anticipated levels of member engagement and participation had not been realised.

After discussion, during which the Director outlined the process by which the views of Members would be incorporated within the review of the Belfast (District) Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, which would be overseen by the Department of Justice, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Amendment to Traffic Regulation Orders (Northern Ireland) 2013

The Committee was reminded that the Council had, at its Annual Meeting on 3rd June, 2013, passed a resolution in respect of the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation

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(East Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013; and had, at its meeting on 6th January, 2014, passed a Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013. The purpose of those Orders was to prohibit the use, except in certain circumstances, by pedestrians and vehicles of specified streets so that alleygates could be erected.

The Head of Environmental Health reported that, subsequent to the meeting of the Council of 3rd June, 2013, it had been noted that an Order relating to a gate to the rear of 88 to 94 Templemore Avenue in East Belfast had been omitted in error. In addition, in respect of South Belfast, amendments were required for four sites for which the expected level of responses to public consultation had not been received during the original process. However, subsequent consultation exercises had been undertaken and the required response levels had since been attained.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council that, at its meeting on 1st April, it agrees to pass resolutions to amend the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (East Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013; and amend the Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation (South Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013, in respect of the following sites:

- to the rear of 44 to 116 Fitzroy Avenue;
- to the rear of 118 to 140 Fitzroy Avenue and to the side of 40 Fitzroy Avenue;
- to the rear of 26 to 102 University Avenue and to the side of 54-56 University Avenue;
- to the rear of 2 to 16 Cadogan Street and to the side of 2 and 16 Cadogan Street; and
- to the rear of 88 to 94 Templemore Avenue.

Contract for the Collection and Disposal of Hazardous Wastes

The Committee was reminded that the Waste Management Service had, since May, 2005, provided a service for the collection and disposal of a range of asbestos materials from domestic households within the City, the current contract for which had been awarded in 2010. In addition, the Council had collected and disposed of other such hazardous waste which had been dumped illegally, or brought to the Council's Household Recycling Centres. The Head of Waste Management reported that such work was carried out on the Council's behalf by a single licensed contractor who disposed of the asbestos in accordance with the provisions of the Hazardous Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the relevant duty of care legislation.

He explained that the contract for the service was due to expire and it was deemed appropriate to undertake a tendering exercise for the future delivery of the service. Accordingly, he sought the Committee's approval to commence a tendering exercise for the collection and disposal of household and illegally dumped asbestos materials and hazardous waste. He estimated cost of the service would be in the region of £50,000 per annum, provision for which had been made within the Service's revenue estimates.

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The Committee granted the approval sought to commence the tendering exercise and granted, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, authority to the Director to award the contract at the conclusion of the process.

Update on ReNEW Programme

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th January, 2013, it had granted approval for the Council to participate in the Resource Innovation Network for European Waste (ReNEW) project. That project, which was funded under the INTERREG IVB programme, was being led by The Queen's University of Belfast's QUESTOR Centre.

The Head of Waste Management provided an update in respect of the Programme. He indicated that the Council had developed a survey which would identify the key drivers and barriers to innovation in materials recovered in each of the four European Member States involved in the project. He indicated that the data would shortly be collated and would then be used to inform further research on how the Council could contribute to initiatives within the Programme. He added that the Council had been working with Questor to deliver these initiatives as part of the programme and that might entail the use of students or consultants to assist in that work.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and authorised the Director to nominate appropriate officers to represent the Council at up to three meetings of the ReNEW partnership per year.

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management - National Conference

The Head of Waste Management informed the Committee that the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management, in association with the Environmental Services Association, would be holding its annual Conference and Exhibition in the Royal College of Surgeons in London from 18th until 19th June. He indicated that the Conference fee for Affiliate Members was £550, provision for which had been made within the Department's revenue estimates. Accordingly, he recommended that the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director and the Head of Waste Management (or their nominees) be authorised to attend the Conference.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Proposed Mattress Recycling Service

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

- “1 Purpose of Report**
1.1 The Service is seeking approval to commence a procurement exercise for the provision of a mattress recycling service.

2 Background

- 2.1** Approximately 3,000 mattresses are disposed of annually at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). These items are problematic in terms of disposal at landfill and at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) due to their physical nature and multitude of component materials. Historically, despite a number of expressions of interest, a consistent service provider which can recycle this type of waste has not materialised.
- 2.2** Recent market soundings suggest that this may have changed and there now may be a number of potential providers for the treatment of mattresses. The Service is keen to tackle this bulky and problematic waste stream which it is estimated could contribute up to 100 tonnes per annum of recyclables and assist with the delivery of the '*Towards Zero Waste*' Action Plan (ZWAP).
- 2.3** Within ZWAP there are a number of targets that apply to the prospect of recycling mattresses:
- Improving recycling opportunities at recycling centres
 - Develop new recycling campaigns and community based recycling schemes
 - Increase the amount of recyclables collected from existing waste collections.
- 2.4** In November 2013, the Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) concluded a piece of research to review technologies and techniques available for cleaning mattresses for re-use. This research looked into the viability of cleaning mattresses to produce a fully recycled product which could re-enter the supply chain for a second lifecycle as a fully integral unit.
- 2.5** The benefits were marginal and the results of the cleaning showed that the cost in most cases outweighed the benefits. Only high-end quality mattresses, and price, would have the sufficient residual value to warrant the cost outlay. That said there is the issue of where the product could be resold. Traditionally such products are re-sold through charity outlets or reuse organisations. The price for the cleaned mattress would in all likelihood be more than the price at which a person could secure a new mattress from the current retail sector, therefore there would not be any advantage.
- 2.6** Based on the WRAP report, it is unlikely that the cost benefits and the market would accept cleaned mattresses. Recycling therefore is the next logical phase of the mattress lifecycle.

2.7 Additionally, the establishment of this service will reduce the potential for unscrupulous activity in the second hand/reconditioned mattress market where mattresses can be '*remanufactured*' before being returned to the market. Unfortunately, the remanufacturing process can sometimes involve a simple casing being placed around the old mattress and glued shut to prevent re-opening. Previously, this has resulted in old, soiled mattresses re-entering the market which are unlikely to even be fire retardant treated.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The Service is keen to explore the opportunities for the recycling of mattresses disposed of at the HRCs. It is proposed that a procurement exercise is initiated in order to recycle around 3,000 mattresses a year which could contribute 100 tonnes of recyclables to the recycling targets. Once this service has been established, the Council could then look to expand the service to include the mattresses collected as part of the bulky household waste collections.

3.2 At present the mattresses received at the recycling centres are placed in the residual waste skips and then transported to a MRF for treatment where, on average, 40% of the material is recycled. It is estimated that the percentage of recyclables extracted from this waste stream could be as high as 90% if the items are deconstructed manually rather than undergoing a shredding operation. (Once separated into its component parts the individual items such as springs, coverings, foams and insulators would be recycled.)

3.3 This type of process could be suited to a '*supported factory*' (i.e. a facility with more than 50% of the workforce is registered as disabled). It is the intention of the Service to limit this contract to those providers which run '*supported factories*', a condition which is permissible under the OJEU procurement framework.

3.4 This proposal has the potential for to deliver not only a benefit to the Council in terms of meeting a need (i.e. to increase diversion from landfill and increase recycling) but could also to add social value to the process and thereby tie in with the principles of the Council's Investment Programme.

3.5 The proposal further provides for a positive impact on the Council's Disability Action Plan by engaging with people with a disability.

4 Resource Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

Based on treating the 3,000 mattresses received at the HRCs, and on market intelligence, it is estimated that the value of this service will be approximately £25,000 per annum. When the alternative treatment method is factored in, the net cost to the Council is estimated at £15,000 per annum.

The Service is proposing a 3 year contract with the possibility of one year's extension subject to satisfactory performance as this will provide a level of certainty to the project to make it more economically viable for the contractor. Agreeing to such a term would also permit the Council to apply to the DOE under its Rethink Waste Capital fund for the initial set-up costs.

4.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource issues associated with this report.

4.3 Asset and Other Implications

No asset or other considerations associated with this report.

5 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

6 Recommendation

6.1 The Committee is requested to:

- approve a procurement exercise for the treatment and recycling of mattresses which will be restricted to '*supported factories*' for a period of three years, with the potential for a one year extension subject to satisfactory performance, and
- delegate authority to the Director of Health and Environmental Services to exercise her authority under the Scheme of Delegation to award the contract to the most economically advantageous tender."

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The Committee granted the approval sought to commence the tendering exercise and granted, in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, authority to the Director to award the contract at the conclusion of that process.

Public Convenience Provision Strategy – Update

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 6th February, it had considered a report regarding the British Toilet Association's recommendations which had arisen from its study for a future Public Convenience Provision Strategy for Belfast.

The Head of Waste Management pointed out that 15 recommendations had been made for the Council's consideration. He explained that the Service had categorised those recommendations into short, medium and long-term, with the short-term recommendations to be completed by the end of March, 2014, and the medium-term ones by the end of December, 2014. The recommendations are set out hereunder:

Short-Term

- to review the baseline study and to identify and identify other Council facilities which could be made available to the public;
- to conduct a cost-benefit analysis re: the introduction of charging to eradicate social misuse and vandalism;
- to conduct a cost-benefit analysis to consider employing attendants at key locations; and
- to develop appropriate cleaning, maintenance and security schedules.

Medium Term

- to consider the installation of composting toilets at remote locations; and
- to reassign and develop existing properties or locations.

The Head of Waste Management indicated that the British Toilet Association had been commissioned to carry out further work in respect of the short-term recommendations. He indicated that, on completion of the work associated with the short and medium term recommendations, the Service would be in a better position to consider its longer-term objectives on the Strategy and the Committee would be apprised in due course.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted further that updates on the findings of the British Toilet Association's work would be submitted in due course.

Tender for the Treatment and Disposal of Residual Waste

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek an extension to the existing tender for the treatment and disposal of residual waste. This will allow the Council to comply with the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) legislation for 2014/15.

2 Background

2.1 The EU Landfill Directive (1999/31/EU) requires Member States to reduce the amount of biodegradable waste sent to landfill within target limits up to 2020. These requirements are reflected in the NI Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) Regulations introduced by the DOE. This sets annually reducing NILAS allowances available to councils, with Belfast allowances reducing from 45,652 this financial year to 43,218 tonnes in 2014/15.

2.2 There is provision within the scheme to fine councils up to £150 per tonne for exceeding the annually reducing allowances and there is also a mechanism in place within arc21 whereby councils can transfer allowances between councils to avoid such fines (up to a maximum arc21 area tonnage).

2.3 Members will be aware that the arc21 regional waste group is in the process of procuring major plant to treat the municipal residual waste stream in the longer term. It is anticipated that the procurement exercise will be concluded by December 2014. This contract would also provide for interim treatment arrangements until the new plant is built.

2.4 Given the ongoing complexity of the arc21 procurement exercise and the associated delays, the Council initiated its own, short term, residual waste treatment contract in December 2012 in order to deliver NILAS compliance and increase recycling. In March 2013, Members agreed to extend this contract for 2013/2014.

2.5 Throughout the course of the year, the Waste Management Service has been directing the contractor in terms of the split of material going for treatment or landfill to ensure that the contract remains within the budgetary constraints of the Department.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The Council has a short term contract in place for the treatment of residual waste. The primary purpose of this

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contract is to ensure compliance with the NILAS regulations, however it also makes a notable contribution to the city's recycling rate.

- 3.2 In 2013, the contractor, NWP Recycling, treated 68,000 tonnes at its two facilities in Portadown and Glenside. This resulted in:
- the diversion of around 21,200 tonnes of biodegradable waste from landfill;
 - delivery on the Council's Zero Waste Action Plan commitment to '*Use treatment facilities to recover waste from the black bins which could have been recycled at home*' by contributing 3% to the household recycling rate;
 - meeting legislative obligations regarding landfill restrictions;
 - demonstrating '*best endeavours*' under the NILAS regulations; and
 - applying the waste hierarchy of recycling and energy recovery, before landfill
 - disposal.
- 3.3 Recent projections indicate that existing contract will enable the Council to meet its NILAS obligations for 2013/2014 without the requirement to request transfer of allowances from the constituent councils of arc21.
- 3.4 Members previously agreed that this initial, short-term contract should be extended for the 2013/14 financial year in order to meet NILAS obligations and make a contribution to the city's recycling rate.
- 3.5 Last month SP&R agreed to make financial provision for a contingent liability so that the arc21 procurement exercise could continue but in the event that this exercise is not successful, the Service will need to commence a new procurement exercise for the provision of a longer term residual waste treatment contract. This would then be the subject of a separate report to Committee in due course.
- 3.6 By extending the existing NILAS contingency contract again, the Council will meet its NILAS obligations in 2014/15, without recourse to the transfer of allowances protocol.
- 3.7 The current NILAS contingency contract provides the option of renewal subject to the arc21 contract not being in place, satisfactory performance of the contractor and compliance with any relevant legislative changes. Having discussed the present situation with Legal Services, their advice is that the

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contract should now be extended on a monthly basis, hereinafter subject to appropriate management review of contract performance in order to provide suitable flexibility should a further interim procurement be necessary.

- 3.8 Should this extension not be approved, the Council would have to revert to landfill as the primary disposal route. This would result in the Council exceeding the NILAS allowance by an estimated 11,000 tonnes. It would also mean that the Council would require NILAS allowance transfers from the arc21 councils. It would also likely lead to a reduction of Belfast's recycling rate of at least 3%.
- 3.9 The Council would also have to commence a procurement exercise for the provision of a haulage service as this service is provided by NWP under the present contract.
- 3.10 If Members approve this course of action, given the value of the contract extensions, a similar report will also be taken to the Statutory Transition Committee.

4 **Resource Implications**

4.1 **Financial Implications**

The costs of extending this contract have been allowed for within the Service's revenue estimates.

4.2 **Human Resources**

There are no human resource issues associated with this report.

4.3 **Asset and Other Implications**

There are no asset or other implications associated with this report.

5 **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

- 5.1 There are no relevant equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

6 **Recommendation**

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to extend the existing NILAS contingency contract on a rolling one month basis, subject to appropriate management review of contractual performance."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Rethink Waste Submissions

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform Members of the Council’s applications to the DOE Rethink Waste Capital Fund for 2014/2015 which were submitted recently.

2 Background

2.1 The DOE launched the Rethink Waste Capital Fund for Councils 2014/2015 late last year. The fund was established to support councils in increasing and sustaining diversion of household and local authority collected municipal waste from landfill through recycling and re-use and through the improvement of the quality of recyclates.

2.2 This in turn will contribute to meeting statutory recycling targets and support the resource efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in ‘*Delivering Resource Efficiency*’ (the NI Waste Management Strategy) and the waste management plans of the regional waste management groups.

2.3 The available fund for 2014/2015 is £1.27 million and any projects introduced are expected to be in place by 31st March, 2015. The fund has highlighted a number of priority materials such as; source segregated food waste, mixed plastic packaging, textiles, paper, card and non-ferrous metals, however other materials are not necessarily excluded.

2.4 This particular fund is only for capital items and schemes proposed for funding must:

- **Address household waste and local authority collected municipal waste**
- **Be additional to existing provision**
- **Fit with the strategic aims of the council and/or Waste Management groups and follow a good practice approach.**
- **Come with a firm budgetary commitment from the council to meet the ongoing revenue costs of delivering the service in the medium to long term (min. 3 years)**

2.5 The 2014/2015 fund is operating as a scheduled open call for bids. There will be periodic assessment of bids received by the notified cut-off dates of 10 February, 24 March, 12 May, 16 June and 28 July.

2.6 All the applications are assessed by a panel chaired by the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) who administers the scheme on behalf of the DOE. The panel will assess each project on the value for money over the life of the project against a number of criteria including:

- Additional tonnage diverted from landfill/recycled/re-used and any associated CO2 savings;
- Quality of the design of the proposed project (i.e. good practice);
- Ability to deliver the project;
- Quality of arrangements and security of feedstock;
- End markets for materials;
- Sustainability of the project – budget commitment;
- Health & Safety arrangements.

2.7 Following this process, the successful applicants will discuss and agree funding packages with WRAP. The projects are monitored on an annual basis, for three years, against projected tonnages to ensure value for money is achieved.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The DOE has launched the Rethink Waste Capital Fund for Councils 2014/15. The Service has submitted a number of applications by the first deadline date of 10 February. These proposed projects will contribute directly towards the delivery of the Council's '*Towards Zero Waste Action Plan*' targets and lay the foundations for service integration post Local Government Reform (LGR).

3.2 The applications which have been submitted to the Rethink Waste Fund are as follows;

➤ Kerbside collection of glass

3.3 This project proposes to introduce a separate glass collection in the new Belfast Council blue bin area. It is expected that the project will divert up to 3,300 tonnes of glass and add around 3% per annum to Belfast's recycling rate.

➤ Kerbside collection of food waste by external caddy

3.4 This project proposes to introduce a food waste collection scheme to 5,000 households within the inner city. It is estimated that the project will yield around 0.2% to the Council's recycling rate.

➤ LGR Box to Bin

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- 3.5` This project proposes converting around 2,840 households presently in Castlereagh Borough Council from a kerbside box to a blue comingled bin system with a kerbside box for glass. This new scheme will ensure increased levels of recyclables under the new scheme.

➤ LGR: Standardised approach to kerbside collections, bins and communications

- 3.6 It is vital that under the Local Government Reform when the new households transfer on 1 April 2015, services are maintained at the existing level if not enhanced.

In Lisburn, the residual bin is the blue bin and the recycling bin is a green bin (in North Down, the brown/organic waste bin is green). To arrive at a consistent approach for both householders and collection staff it is proposed that Belfast's colour code (blue = dry recyclables, brown = organic waste, grey = residual waste) be adopted.

At the same time as changing the colour of the bins, it is envisaged that a kerbside box will be provided to householders for the collection of glass. This new scheme will ensure increased levels of recyclables under the new scheme.

➤ Extend commercial waste recycling collections

- 3.7 This proposal has been submitted by Cleansing Services and involves an improved commercial waste recycling service for the collection of dry mixed recyclables, food waste and glass. The project will make it simple for commercial customers to recycle their waste by providing dry mixed recyclables, a separate container for glass and another for food waste. This proposal would significantly improve the level of commercial waste recycling, projected to increase to 3,000 tonnes, with the implementation of this scheme.

4 Resource Implications

Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report but, depending upon which submissions are successful, there will be revenue costs. These will be factored into the Service's budgeting process for 2015/16 once the successful projects have been announced

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the applications submitted to the DOE Rethink Waste Capital fund for 2014/2015."

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The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

International Compost Awareness Week

The Head of Waste Management reminded the Committee that, as part of International Compost Awareness Week, the Council had, in previous years, provided a limited number of bags of compost for collection free of charge at the four Household Recycling Centres in the City. He indicated that the 2014 event would take place from 5th till 11th May and each of the Centres would be provided with approximately 1,000 bags of compost for distribution on a first come, first served basis. He outlined the success and popularity of the initiative and gave an overview of the publicity which the Council would undertake to promote International Compost Awareness Week.

Noted.

Chairman

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 19th March, 2014

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Ekin (Chairman);
Alderman R. Patterson;
Councillors Attwood, M.E. Campbell, Clarke,
Cunningham, Groves, Hussey, Hutchinson,
Jones, Keenan, Magee, Mallon, Ó Donnghaile and
Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;
Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Solicitor; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apology

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman Rodgers.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 19th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 3rd March, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Non-Delegated Matters

Meeting of the Committee in May

The Committee was reminded that the European Parliament and Local Government Elections were scheduled to take place on 22nd May. The Democratic Services Officer reported that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled to allow Members to concentrate on those Elections. He pointed out that the monthly meeting of the Licensing Committee was due to be held on 21st May and he recommended that the Committee agree to cancel that meeting.

The Committee adopted the recommendation and agreed that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and, if necessary, the Licensing Committee, to take any urgent decisions in accordance with the procedures which were routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

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Request to Address the Committee

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th February, it had been provided with details relating to a major incident which had, on the evening of 9th February, taken place at a music event at the Odyssey Complex. That had necessitated action by, amongst others, the Council, the emergency/medical services and the Police Service of Northern Ireland and had attracted significant media attention. The Head of Building Control reported that, subsequently, Mr. R. Fitzpatrick, the Chairman of the Odyssey Trust Company, had convened a meeting of the relevant agencies in order to analyse the circumstances which had contributed to the incident and to identify actions to prevent a recurrence. In addition, he had written to the Chief Executive requesting an opportunity to address the Members on the incident and to identify potential ways in which they could work jointly on the wider issue of alcohol misuse within the City.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that Mr. Fitzpatrick be invited to attend its monthly meeting in April and agreed also that all Members of the Council be invited to the meeting.

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF
THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL AT ITS MEETING ON
1st MAY, 2007 IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 46**

Licences Issued under Delegated Authority

The Committee noted a list of licensing applications which had been granted under the delegated authority of the Director of Health and Environmental Services.

**Application for the Grant of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence –
M Club, 23-31 Bradbury Place**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received for the renewal of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises. The Head of Building Control reported that one objection to the application had been submitted within the twenty-eight day statutory period, which related to noise breakout from the premises. He pointed out that, under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, the Committee, when considering an application, must have regard to any representation which had been received within that period.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to consider the application at its monthly meeting in April and noted that the objector and the applicant would be invited to attend.

**Application for the Grant of a Seven-day Annual Outdoor
Entertainments Licence - Hudson Bar, 10-14 Gresham Street**

The Head of Building Control informed the Members that an application had been submitted for the grant of a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Hudson Bar, 10-14 Gresham Street. He reported that the premises were licensed currently to provide indoor entertainment each night till 3.00 a.m., for up to a

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maximum of 125 patrons. The applicant was now proposing to offer entertainment, in the form of a DJ or through the in-house speaker system, in an open arcade which was located to the rear of the bar and which would accommodate up to a maximum of 300 persons. He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 21st September, 2011, it had agreed that, in future, all applications for Outdoor Entertainments Licences be placed before it for consideration.

He confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. Over the past year, five inspections of the premises had been conducted whilst entertainment had been taking place, none of which had given rise to any issues. He added that there had, over the past year, been a number of complaints arising involving excessive noise from music and patron dispersal. Officers from the Council's Night Time Noise Service had drawn the complaints to the attention of the applicant, despite being satisfied that the noise levels which they had recorded had not impacted adversely upon the complainants. He explained that, given the nature of entertainment provided within the venue, the applicant had been requested to submit an acoustic report outlining the measures to be implemented to minimise disruption to neighbouring residential properties from noise and patron activity. That had since been assessed by the Council's Environmental Protection Unit, which had confirmed that noise generated by entertainment within the arcade area would be within acceptable limits for nearby residential properties. In addition, the applicant had confirmed that regular sound checks would be undertaken after 11.00 p.m. to ensure that noise levels did not exceed those stipulated within the acoustic report.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence in respect of the Hudson Bar, 10-14 Gresham Street.

Application for the Renewal and Variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence – Oh Yeah Music Centre, 15-21 Gordon Street

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that an application had been received for the renewal and variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence in respect of the above-mentioned premises. He reported that entertainment, in the form of a live band, was provided currently from Monday to Saturday till 1.00 a.m., on a Sunday till midnight and, in addition, on the last Saturday of each month till 2.00 a.m. The applicant was now proposing to hold innovative events which would be both commercially and culturally beneficial and, as such, he was seeking to operate till 2.00 a.m. each Saturday night, although he had stated that those events would be limited to a maximum of twenty-four nights per year.

The Head of Building Control confirmed that no written representation had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected. He pointed out that officers of the Building Control Service had, during the past year, visited the premises on three occasions whilst entertainment was being provided, none of which had detected breaches of the Entertainments Licensing legislation. In addition, the Council's Environmental Protection Unit had confirmed that it

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had, over the same period, received no complaints regarding noise disturbance from music or from patron dispersal.

The Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant a renewal and variation of a Seven-day Annual Entertainments Licence, with entertainment being permitted to take place, in future, each Saturday night till 2.00 a.m.

**Application to Hold a Music Event beyond the Hours Permitted –
Custom House Square**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 A request has been received from Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival to hold an 11 day music event in a marquee at Custom House Square, running from 1st May to 11th May 2014.

1.2 The standard days and hours during which Custom House Square is currently licensed to provide entertainment are:

Monday to Sunday: 11.30 a m to 11.00 p m

1.3 In addition, a special condition on the Custom House Square licence allows the licensee to apply for additional hours, later than 11.00 p m, which may or may not be granted dependent upon any noise issues which may have arisen from previous events there.

Previous decisions and extended hours granted

1.4 Members may recall that, in previous years, the Committee has granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 p m for this and other events including Belsonic and Open House Festival.

1.5 There are both a Seven-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a Seven-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence in place for Custom House Square.

1.6 You may recall that objections were received from residents regarding last year’s Outdoor Licence application and you subsequently heard these at your meeting of 17th April, 2013. After consideration, you agreed to restrict outdoor entertainment to no more than 3 nights in any given 7 day period, with an exception being made for Bank or Public holidays when an additional night is permitted in that 7 day period.

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1.7 Whilst no such restrictions were deemed necessary for the Marquee Licence, the following conditions are attached to both Entertainments Licences:

- **A licensee may, 3 months in advance of a proposed event, apply for additional hours to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm. Such applications will be considered by the Licensing Committee and any previous noise issues will be taken into account;**
- **Should an application to provide entertainment beyond 11.00 pm be granted and the Council then receive a significant number of complaints regarding noise or the complaint is of such significant impact, authority be granted to the Director of Health and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Legal Services Manager, to reduce the finishing time for any subsequent nights of the event, in which case the promoter will be required to make contingency arrangements;**
- **All letters forwarded by promoters to residents must advise that, should they have objections or concerns regarding an event providing entertainment beyond 11.00 pm, they contact the Building Control Service.**

1.8 Whilst recognising that such music events contribute to the overall ‘vibrancy’ of the City, it is also the case that noise from these events has the potential to cause widespread disturbance to those living and working in the vicinity.

1.9 Before granting any extension, the Committee has always carefully considered the financial and commercial benefits of such events against the interests of residents within the area and has, on occasions, agreed with respective promoters to reduce the number of nights they had originally intended to go beyond the standard hours of 11.00 p m in order to reduce the impact upon them.

2.0 Key Issues

2.1 The Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival has been taking place for the last 15 years and encompasses a wide programme of events including local, national and international music, literature, comedy and drama. The event is also regarded as being an integral part of the arts and cultural calendar in Belfast.

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- 2.2 This year, the organisers propose to run the event within a marquee at Custom House Square over 11 nights between the 1st May and 11th May. The marquee programme this year includes acts such as Wilko Johnston, Martha Reeves, De La Soul as well as other international and local artists.
- 2.3 In addition to the events being held at Custom House Square there are other smaller events taking place throughout licensed premises within the city centre.
- 2.4 The organisers have requested permission to run the event beyond 11.00 p m to 12.00 a m on 5 of the 11 nights as follows:
- Friday 2nd May
 - Saturday 3rd May (Bank Holiday weekend)
 - Friday 9th May
 - Saturday 10th May
 - Sunday 11th May
- 2.5 A copy of the proposed running order for the festival has been forwarded to the Committee.

Rationale for additional hours

- 2.6 The organisers have advised that the two weekends of the festival are regarded as the busiest evenings of the event and they see more visitors from outside the city and further afield attending these festival events.
- 2.7 They hope that the extended hours will provide their visitors with a memorable festival experience and value for money and allow them to 'make a night of it' by availing of the many local restaurants before attending the concerts.
- 2.8 The organisers have also advised that the extra hour on these weekend nights enables them to add local support acts to the bill and give them the opportunity to support a headline festival act. Being able to support such acts is a priceless opportunity for local bands, helping them to reach new audiences, build experience and ultimately achieve greater success.
- 2.9 As this is not an application to vary the terms of the licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing licence condition, there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.

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- 2.10 A copy of letter from the organiser outlining the background to the event and reasons for requesting the extended hours to 12.00 a m has been forwarded to Members.
- 2.11 Representatives of Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival will be available at the meeting should you wish to seek further information on these proposals.

Health, safety and welfare issues

- 2.12 The organiser has provided a draft version of the Event Management Plan. Officers of the Service are currently assessing this documentation and other supporting information to ensure the technical requirements of the event and licence conditions are complied with. Work is ongoing in this regard.
- 2.13 In compliance with the conditions of the licence, the organisers have also written to each of the residents within the vicinity of the venue and provided them with information about the event and the desired finish time of 12.00 a m on the 5 nights proposed beyond the standard hours of the licence. They have also highlighted to residents that the 12.00 a m finish time is still subject to approval by the Committee. At the time of writing this report no objections or concerns have been raised by residents to the proposals.
- 2.14 A copy of the letter sent to residents has been forwarded to Members.
- 2.15 Officers of the Building Control Service have carried out during performance inspections over the duration of this event in previous years and have always found the organisers to be professional in their approach and have had no issues with the health, safety and welfare management of the event during that time.

Noise issues

- 2.16 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment for the Festival.
- 2.17 In view of the apartment developments situated in close proximity to the proposed Festival Marquee, the EPU feels it is important to protect the night time period between 11.00 p m and 7.00 a m for residents.

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- 2.18 Last year, a total of 7 complaints were received over the course of the 11 nights. Complaints were as a result of noise outbreak from the marquee and, under the terms of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment (NI) Act 2011, a Warning Notice had to be served on the Event Manager on Friday 10th May, 2013 for failure to reduce noise in the required time. The event ran to midnight on 5 of the 11 nights of the Festival last year.
- 2.19 Members may recall that in previous years a small number of complaints were received. In 2012, one complaint was received which related to the dismantling of the marquee rather than music disturbance, However, it is noted that in 2012 all events finished by 11.00 p m.
- 2.20 In 2011, when the event did finish after 11.00 p m on a number of nights, one complaint was received after 11.00 p m regarding alleged noise disturbance from music.
- 2.21 Members are advised that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives Council officers additional enforcement powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 p m and are requested to consider the request for later finish times on five occasions over the event in light of this.
- 2.22 An officer from EPU will be available at your meeting to advise on any concerns regarding the proposed event and any potential noise impact it may have on nearby residents.

PSNI

- 2.23 The PSNI has been consulted in relation to the application and have no objection or concerns with the event.

3.0 Resource Implications

Financial

- 3.1 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing budgets.

Human Resources

None.

Asset and Other Implications

None.

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4.0 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations issues.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Having considered this information and any representations received, you are then required to determine, subject to all technical requirements being met:

- 1. if any or all of the proposed 5 nights for the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival in May, 2014 should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence and, if so;**
- 2. determine an appropriate finishing time for each of the proposed extended nights of the event.”**

During discussion, a Member reminded the Committee that it had, at its meeting on 17th April, 2013, considered a similar application from the Department for Social Development, the licensee of Custom House Square. He pointed out that a representative of that Department had, at that meeting, indicated that he would be willing to develop an appropriate policy to deal with events taking place at that venue and he sought clarification on whether that had been completed.

In response, the Head of Building Control undertook to raise the matter with the Department for Social Development.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to permit entertainment to take place in a marquee in Custom House Square, as part of the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, till midnight on Friday, 2nd, Saturday, 3rd, Friday, 9th, Saturday, 10th and Sunday, 11th May, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers and with the following conditions remaining on the Licence:

- i. should the Council receive a significant number of complaints regarding noise or the complaint is of such significant impact, authority may be granted to the Director of Health and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Town Solicitor to reduce the finishing time for any subsequent nights of the event, in which case, the promoter will be required to make contingency arrangements; and
- ii. all letters forwarded by promoters to residents must advise that, should they have objections or concerns regarding an event providing entertainment beyond 11.00 p.m., they should contact the Building Control Service.

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**Application for the Provisional Grant of an Amusement Permit –
Mavericks, 28 Bradbury Place**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Members are reminded that, at your meeting on 22nd January 2014, you agreed that a special meeting be held to consider an application for the grant of an Amusement Permit under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Mavericks 28 Bradbury Place Belfast, BT7 1RQ	WK/2013/01 90	Mr Gareth McCausland Belfast Leisure Company Ltd.

- 1.2 The application is for a total of 45 gaming machines of which all 45 machines are to pay out a maximum all cash prize of £25.00. In the case of premises that have machines with a maximum cash prize of £25.00 admission is restricted to persons aged 18.
- 1.3 The proposed opening hours of the premises, as specified on the application, are:
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Monday to Saturday | 10.00 a m to 11.30 p m |
| Sunday | 11.30 a m to 11.30 p m |
- 1.4 The proposed amusement arcade is to be located in Bradbury Place within a block of one, two and three storey terraced buildings. The property was formerly occupied as a McDonald's fast food outlet.
- 1.5 They propose to operate the business in conjunction with a Coffee Shop, which will operate from the front of the premises as you enter through the front doors. The Amusement Arcade will operate beyond this area and is within a separate enclosed area.
- 1.6 A location map has been forwarded to Members

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2 **Key Issues**

2.1 **Members are reminded that the Licensing Committee is responsible for determining all applications relating to the grant of Amusement Permits.**

Objections

2.2 **As a result of the public notices of application the Service has received one objection to the application.**

2.3 **A summary of the objection is as follows:**

- the suitability of the applicant; as the objector has concerns with regards to the applicants knowledge, experience and ability to run the property having due regard to the legal requirements pursuant to the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (NI) Order 1985.
- there are a significant number of premises/businesses with the benefit of amusement permits in the locality of the applicant's premises and as a consequence there is no need for an additional business of this nature.

2.4 **A copy of the letter of objection has been forwarded to the Committee.**

2.5 **Upon receipt of the objection, clarification was sought regarding the objector's concern over the suitability of the applicant. In response, the objector states that they do not have any specific concerns regarding the applicant's experience to run an amusement arcade but, given the intricacies of the legislation regarding stakes and prizes, they wish to ensure that the Council make the appropriate enquiries to determine that the applicant does indeed have the required experience.**

2.6 **This additional correspondence has been circulated to the Committee.**

2.7 **The objector and their legal representative will be in attendance to appear before and be heard by the Committee.**

Applicant

2.8 **The Service has informed the applicant of the objection and provided him with a copy of the written representation with**

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the details identifying the objector redacted. They acknowledged the objection and have advised that Mr McCausland has the knowledge, experience and ability to run the property including meeting the legal requirements under the legislation.

2.9 They have also indicated that the property meets the required criteria of the Council's Amusement Permit Policy. A copy of the letter of objection has been circulated to the Committee.

2.10 Mr McCausland and his representatives will be in attendance to appear before and be heard by the Committee.

PSNI

2.11 The PSNI has not objected to the application. In addition to the representation received from the PSNI, it has also provided the following information:

- i. it is not aware of any criminal convictions for the applicants.
- ii. it is not in possession of complaints regarding the applicants.
- iii. the Police Service has not been called to any incidents at 28 Bradbury Place in regards to this applicant.
- iv. It is not aware of an amusement permit application being made by the applicant for premise elsewhere before.

2.12 A copy of the PSNI correspondence has been circulated to Members.

Health, safety, welfare and technical requirements

2.13 The applicant has confirmed that a Building Regulations application will be made for any alterations required to the premises. Members should note that, if you are minded to grant the application, it must be upon condition that all works required to comply with both Building Regulations and Amusement Permit technical requirements are completed to the satisfaction of the Service.

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Planning matters

- 2.14 An application was made to the Planning Service on the 31st May 2013 for a change of use from a Fast Food Outlet to a Coffee Shop and Amusement Arcade on the Ground Floor only. The application was subsequently granted approval on the 23rd September 2013.
- 2.15 As part of the planning consultation process, Officers of the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) and Building Control Service commented on the planning application. EPU recommended that the following condition be attached to the planning approval to ensure that adjacent commercial premises are not adversely affected by noise from the development:
- the walls and floors of the amusement arcade shall be lined with a suitable sound insulation material to provide a noise reduction value of 60dB(A) in adjacent premises.
- 2.14 In addition to the above condition, EPU also recommended that certain informatives be attached should planning permission be granted. Members are advised that enforcement action cannot be taken should the applicant not comply with them.
- 2.17 A copy of the planning approval has been circulated to the Committee.
- 2.18 Members may recall that in an important Court of Appeal decision in June 1999 it was confirmed that the Council, in determining applications for amusement permits, may take into account planning considerations but should be slow to differ from the views of the Planning Authority.
- 2.19 The Court also confirmed that the Council can take into account matters such as location, structure, character and impact on neighbours and the surrounding area.

Amusement Permit Policy

- 2.20 Members will be aware that an Amusement Permit Policy was ratified at Council on 1st May, 2013. It outlines those matters which may be taken into account in determining any application and indicates that each application must be assessed on its own merits.

2.21 The key Policy objectives are to:-

- i. Promote the retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast;
- ii. Enhance the tourism and cultural appeal of Belfast by protecting its image and built heritage;
- iii. Support and safeguard residential communities in Belfast;
- iv. Protect children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling;
- v. Respect the need to prevent gambling from being a source of crime and disorder.

2.22 The Policy consists of two components which are considered below:

2.23 1. Legal requirements under the 1985 Order

Members must have regard to the legal requirements under the 1985 Order relating to:

(a) The character, reputation and financial standing of the applicant:

2.24 References and additional supporting information for those associated with the application have been circulated to the Committee.

(b) The nature of the premises and activity proposed:

2.25 To ensure that the nature of the premises proposed is suitable for this location Members may consider how the premises are illuminated, the form of advertising and window display, and how notices are displayed on the premises. Whilst the appearance of amusement arcades is considered a Planning matter, Members may still wish to be satisfied that the façade integrates with adjacent frontages.

2.26 The applicant has been asked to provide an elevation drawing showing the proposed façade of the arcade for consideration at your meeting.

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(c) Opinions of the Police:

- 2.27 The Police comments have been sought and are included in paragraph 2.10 of the report.

(d) Submissions from the general public:

- 2.28 The comments from the general public are included in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.5 of the report.

2.29 **2. Assessment criteria for suitability of a location**

There are five criteria set out in the Policy which should typically be considered when assessing the suitability of a location for an amusement arcade. These are detailed below as they relate to this application.

(a) Retail vibrancy and regeneration of Belfast:

- 2.30 The application premises is outside Belfast City Centre Retail Core and is located in the City Centre Remainder. It does not break up any continuous shopping frontage.
Complies with this criterion.

(b) Cumulative build-up of amusement arcades in a particular location:

- 2.31 There are no other amusement arcades on this commercial frontage.
Complies with this criterion.

(c) Impact on the image and profile of Belfast:

- 2.32 The application premises has no neighbouring property which is a tourism asset, nor is it located at a Gateway location.
Complies with this criterion.

(d) Proximity to residential use:

(i) - predominantly residential in character

- 2.33 The application premises is located in the main commercial frontage of Bradbury Place, where there are a mix of uses including restaurants, public houses, and retail units. There are residential buildings in the area, primarily blocks of flats, on streets leading off from Bradbury Place.

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2.34 The application premises is located in the City Centre Remainder, as defined under Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and can therefore be viewed as a 'mixed use' area and not one that is predominantly residential in character.

(ii) – non-residential property that is immediately adjacent to residential property

2.35 The nearest residential properties to the application premises are Flats1-54, Tollgate House, Bradbury Place, which are approximately 20-30m from the application site on the opposite side of the road. These residential properties are not immediately adjacent to the application premises.
Complies with this criterion.

(e) Proximity to schools, youth centres, and residential institutions for vulnerable people:

2.36 There are no schools, youth centres, or residential institutions for vulnerable people within 200m of the application premise.
Complies with this criterion.

Conclusion

2.37 The application premise complies with all assessment criteria for the suitability of the location as laid down in Belfast City Council's Amusement Permit Policy.

2.38 In addition to the above legal requirements and assessment criteria Members may take into account any matter which is deemed relevant. Members may also depart from the Policy where it is appropriate to do so, although it is envisaged that this should only happen in exceptional circumstances.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

3.1 None.

Human Resources

3.2 None.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations issues.

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5 Recommendations

5.1 The current policy, dictated by the governing Order is that the Committee, in considering the application, shall have regard to:

- a. The fitness of the applicant to hold a Permit having regard to his character, reputation and financial standing,**
- b. The fitness of any other person by whom the business to be carried on under the Permit would be managed, or for whose benefit that business would be carried on,**
- c. Representation, if any, from the sub-divisional commander of the Police Service of Northern Ireland in whose sub-division the premises are situated, and**
- d. Representation, if any, as a result of the public notices of advertisement.**

5.2 You are then required to make a decision based on the following options set out under the Order.

5.3 You must refuse the application unless satisfied that:

- a) The applicant is a fit person to hold an Amusement Permit; and**
- b) The applicant will not allow the business proposed to be carried on under the Amusement Permit to be managed by, or carried on for the benefit of, a person other than the applicant who would himself be refused the grant of an Amusement Permit.**

5.4 Thereafter:-

- 1. You may refuse the application after hearing any representations from third parties, or**
- 2. You may grant the application, subject to the mandatory condition that the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character, and**

5.5 In the case of premises that have machines with the maximum cash prize of £25.00 where admission is restricted to persons aged 18 or over that:

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- No persons under 18 are admitted to the premises; and
 - At any entrance to, and inside any such premises there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access to the premises is prohibited to persons aged under 18, and in addition
3. You may also grant the application subject to discretionary conditions outlined in the Order relating to the illumination of the premises, advertising of, and window displays on the premises and the display of information notices.
- 5.6 Should you be of a mind to refuse the application or grant the Permit subject to any discretionary conditions you are required to advise the applicant of your intention to do so.
- 5.7 In this case, you must afford the applicant the opportunity to make representations at a specified Licensing Committee meeting on the matter before making a final determination of the application.
- 5.8 If, subsequent to hearing the applicant, you refuse the application or decide to grant the application subject to discretionary conditions the applicant may appeal that decision to the County Court.”

The Building Control Manager addressed a number of assertions contained within the additional information which had been submitted on behalf of the objector on the day before the meeting. He confirmed that the application related to 45 gaming machines, as opposed to 61 as stated within that document, and that the premises would operate till 11.30 p.m., rather than 1.00 a.m. In terms of the potential to increase the number of machines to 100, he pointed out that the Council had no powers in that regard, however, given the floor space available within the premises, such a number could not be accommodated. In terms of the assertion which had been made that the current application had been the first to be assessed under the Council's new Amusement Permit Policy, he reminded the Committee that the Policy had been used in considering applications for amusement arcades in Donegall Pass and the Stranmillis Road.

He explained that the objector's submission had concentrated solely on criterion (2) of the aforementioned Policy, namely, Cumulative Build-up of Amusement Arcades in a Particular Location, and confirmed that the Building Control Service had taken into account all of the five criteria set out within the document before advising the Planning Service and the Town Planning Committee that the application was in compliance with the Policy. He added that the Planning Service had confirmed that it had, in assessing the application, taken into consideration its Development Control Advice Note 1, which offered guidance around the planning criteria relating to amusement centres, and that this location complied with that Advice Note, in that it was situated in an area of mixed

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commercial use. Finally, he confirmed that the assertion which had been made that the number of gaming machines had increased sharply since the Council had undertaken the research which had formed the basis of its Amusement Permit Policy, was at odds with the Council's view, as a number of arcades had since been closed.

The Committee was advised that Mr. T. Quinn, Braniff Associates, who had assisted the Council in the development of its Amusement Permit Policy, was in attendance in order to address any issues arising from the application and he was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Quinn reminded the Members that the Council's Amusement Permit Policy had been formulated to provide clarity around the process for dealing with Amusement Permit applications. He provided a brief overview of the Policy and confirmed that, in his view, the application complied with the five assessment criteria regarding the suitability of the location, as set out within the document, in terms of, for example, being situated within the greater City Centre area, being the only arcade on that commercial frontage and being situated away from residential properties, schools and youth centres. He reminded the Committee that the purpose of Criterion 2 of the Policy was to promote retail vibrancy and to avoid a clustering of non-retail uses in the retail cores or in district centres.

The Committee was advised that Mr. M. Trimble, representing Oasis Retail Services, the objector to the application, together with Ms. K. Mairs, legal representative and Ms. D. Thompson, MBA Planning, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

Ms. Mairs informed the Members that Oasis Retail Services had been operating gaming centres for more than forty years and that it operated currently ten centres, five of which were based in Belfast. She explained that, whilst her client welcomed the fact that the Council had formulated an Amusement Permit Policy to deal with applications, she was of the view that the second criterion within the document, relating to the cumulative build up of arcades at a particular location, had not been assessed fully, as had been evidenced within the Planning Service Officer's report, which had been made available to the objector. She stated that, whilst her client recognised the need for each application to be assessed on its own merit, there were already 134 gaming machines in and around that area currently and the presence of a further arcade would lead to a saturation in the market.

Ms. Thompson reiterated the point which had been made by Ms. Mairs regarding the cumulative build up of arcades at that location. She made the point that, should this application be granted, it would be likely to lead to further submissions which, based upon the way in which the Council's Amusement Permit Policy had been implemented in this case, the Committee would have no choice but to approve.

Mr. Trimble informed the Committee that Oasis Retail Services had, for many years, been at the forefront of the gaming industry in Northern Ireland and that it was a strong advocate of responsible gaming. He stated that, should the Committee approve the application, it would have an impact on the sustainability of the company's business in that area.

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The Chairman thanked the delegation for their contribution and they retired from the meeting.

Mr. G. McCausland, the applicant, and Mr. G. O'Hare, his legal representative were then admitted to the meeting.

Mr. O'Hare informed the Committee that the amusement centre would be located along a major arterial route on the ground floor of a retail premises which had been vacant for approximately eleven years. He explained that the business would include a coffee shop, which would enhance the vibrancy of the street, and that it would provide the sole entry point to the amusement arcade. The arcade itself would provide 45 gaming machines and would operate only till 11. 30 p.m. each night. He outlined the extensive experience which the applicant had gained over the years in managing other businesses and stressed that he had invested considerable time and effort on all aspects of the application and had sought guidance from, amongst others, solicitors, architects and accountants with a view to maximising the success of the business.

Mr. O'Hare explained that Oasis Retail Services accounted currently for 22% of the gaming machine market in Northern Ireland and that its arcades opened for longer hours than those being proposed by his client. He stressed that his client's application had fulfilled all of the criteria set out within the Council's Amusement Permit Policy and that that had been taken into account by the Planning Service in granting its approval. He pointed out that the arcade would be located away from residential properties, schools and churches and provided an undertaking that only persons who were known to be over twenty-one years of age would be admitted. Mr. O'Hare highlighted the fact that the references which had been submitted in respect of his client's application had confirmed that he was a fit person to hold an Amusement Permit, as required under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, and, accordingly, he requested that the Committee approve the application.

Mr. McCausland and Mr. O'Hare were thanked by the Chairman and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to grant provisionally an Amusement Permit in respect of Mavericks, 28 Bradbury Place, subject to:

- (i) the mandatory condition that the premises are not to be used for an unlawful purpose or as a resort of persons of known bad character;
- (ii) no persons under the age of 18 are admitted to the premises; and
- (iii) at any entrance to, and inside the premises, there are prominently displayed notices indicating that access is prohibited to persons under the age of 18.

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The Committee noted that, in accordance with the undertaking which had been provided at the meeting by the applicant's legal representative, no person under the age of twenty-one years would be admitted to the premises.

Review of Street Trading Licences

Fountain Lane/Fountain Street

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that Mr. Joseph Kerr held currently Stationary Street Trading Licences permitting him to trade at the above-mentioned locations. He explained that, upon being granted those Licences, Mr. Kerr had agreed to pay the requisite Licence fees on a monthly basis by direct debit and that he had, initially, adhered to that arrangement. However, he had failed to make payments since August, 2013, despite being forwarded invoices by the Council's Central Transactions Unit and having agreed, in June 2013, with the Council a payment plan, with a view to him eradicating his arrears. As a result, his debt had continued to increase and, importantly, he had continued to trade at both sites. Council officers had endeavoured, without success, to work with him to resolve the matter and were now unable to make contact with him to address the issue.

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that Section 10 of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 stipulated that, at any time after a Licence had been granted, the Council could, in certain circumstances, revoke a Licence. Such circumstances would include, as in this case, the non-payment, without reasonable explanation, of fees and charges due to the Council. He explained that, should the Committee be minded to revoke Mr. Kerr's Licence, the aforementioned Act required that he be provided with advance notification to that effect and be invited to either make written representation to the Council or to attend a future meeting in person.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to revoke the Stationary Street Licences held by Mr. Joseph Kerr in respect of the designated sites at Fountain Lane and Fountain Street and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding its decision.

Andersonstown/Ladybrook/Suffolk/Turf Lodge

The Committee was advised that Mr. Thomas Seenan had, since 2005, held a Mobile Street Trading Licence permitting him to sell ice cream, confectionery and non-alcoholic beverages in the above-mentioned areas of the City. The Head of Building Control reported that Mr. Seenan had, upon obtaining the Licence, agreed to pay the associated fee on a monthly basis by direct debit and that he had made payments up to 2008. However, in 2009, his direct debit had defaulted and he had fallen into arrears. He had, subsequently, made payment in full, however, since September, 2013, he had made no further payments, despite the matter having been drawn to his attention by the Council's Central Transactions Unit. As a consequence, his arrears had continued to accumulate. He added that routine inspections by Council officers of the areas covered by Mr. Seenan under the terms of his Licence had found no evidence of him trading and that they had been unable to contact him regarding his debt.

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The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that Section 10 of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 stipulated that, at any time after a Licence had been granted, the Council could, in certain circumstances, revoke a Licence. Such circumstances would include, as in this case, the non-payment, without reasonable explanation, of fees and charges due to the Council. He explained that, should the Committee be minded to pursue that course of action, the aforementioned Act required that he be provided with advance notification to that effect and be invited to either make written representation to the Council or to attend a future meeting in person.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to revoke the Mobile Street Licence held by Mr. Thomas Seenan permitting him to trade in the Andersonstown, Ladybrook, Suffolk and Turf Lodge areas and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding its decision.

Malone/Ormeau/Skegoniell/Windsor

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that Mr. Terry Horner had, in 2011, been granted a Mobile Street Trading Licence permitting him to sell ice cream, confectionery and non-alcoholic beverages at the above-mentioned locations. He explained that Mr. Horner had agreed to pay the licence fee on a monthly basis and that he had, initially, made regular payments. However, those had, in 2012, become more sporadic, and, as a result, his account had fallen into arrears. In order to address the issue, he had agreed with the Council's Central Transactions Unit to make a payment to cover his outstanding fees and had come to an arrangement regarding future payments. The Head of Building Control pointed out that the licensee had again been inconsistent in his payment and that his account had been in default since 2013. He provided details of Mr. Horner's current arrears and pointed out that, in spite of those, he had continued to trade, although he had, over the course of the past month, been engaging to a greater extent with Council officers.

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that, under Section 10 of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001, the Council could, at any time after a Licence had been granted, in certain circumstances, revoke a Licence. Such circumstances would include, as in this case, the non-payment, without reasonable explanation, of fees and charges due to the Council. He explained that, should the Committee be minded to revoke Mr. Horner's Licence, the aforementioned Act required that he be provided with advance notification to that effect and be invited to either make written representation to the Council or to attend a future meeting in person.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to revoke the Mobile Street Licence held by Mr. Terry Horner permitting him to trade in the Malone, Ormeau, Skegoneill and Windsor areas and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding its decision.

Chairman

Town Planning Committee

Thursday, 6th March, 2014

MEETING OF TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hanna (Chairman);
The High Sheriff, Councillor L. Patterson;
Aldermen McCoubrey and Rodgers; and Councillors Austin,
Curran, Haire, Hendron, Hutchinson, McCabe, McCarthy
and Mullan.

Also attended: Councillor Spence.

In attendance: Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Section; and
Ms. K. Mills) Divisional
Ms. U. McDonald) Planning Office.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Aldermen Campbell and R. Patterson and Councillors Garrett and Newton.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 6th and 20th February were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council, at its meeting on 3rd March, subject to the omission of those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Haire declared an interest in relation to item 2, George Best Belfast City Airport – Planning Agreement Modification, insofar as he was a member of the Belfast City Airport Forum.

New Member

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed to the meeting Councillor McCabe, who had replaced Councillor M. E. Campbell.

George Best Belfast City Airport – Planning Agreement Modification

(Mrs. S. Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, and Mrs. S. Toland, Head of Environmental Health, attended in connection with this item.)

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The Director of Health and Environmental Services submitted, for the Committee's consideration, the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information.

- 1.1 George Best Belfast City Airport (GBBCA) is located on the southern shore of Belfast Lough adjacent to the A2 Sydenham By-Pass and is a key strategic gateway to the province. The 121 hectare site is situated on reclaimed lands within the Harbour Estate. The site is owned by the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and is leased to GBBCA.**
- 1.2 GBBCA is an asset owned by the EISER Infrastructure Fund. It is a regional airport serving a range of destinations, mainly in Great Britain and Ireland with some European destinations. In 2013, it catered for around 2.54 million passengers, representing approximately 30% of the air traffic to and from Northern Ireland.**
- 1.3 The Airport is a significant local employer and it is estimated that there are around 1,250 full time equivalent staff working across a range of services and facilities, with over a third of these resident within Belfast itself.**
- 1.4 In March 2012, GBBCA submitted a request to the Department of the Environment (DoE) to vary the terms of its 1997 Planning Agreement established under Article 40(A) of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 and modified in 2008. The Airport requested that the seats for sale restriction be removed and replaced with a noise control contour and noise control measures. Members considered this application and a previous response was forwarded to the Department in June 2012.**
- 1.5 Following completion of a public consultation exercise, the Department requested additional information in relation to noise, habitats and traffic. A revised proposal has now been received. This report summarises the key aspects of the revised proposal and officers have prepared a draft response for Members to consider. This is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The revised proposal from the Airport updates and supersedes previous documents.**
- 1.6 GBBCA is the only airport in UK with a departing ‘seats for sale’ restriction employed as a means of regulating noise.**
- 1.7 Noise contours are like geographic contour lines on a map, however, instead of height, they indicate areas that are**

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exposed to specified noise levels over a given time period. In the case of airports, noise contours are typically denoted by the Equivalent Continuous Level (Leq) over the 16-hour daytime period from 07:00 until 23:00. An equivalent continuous level (Leq) of 57dB(A) over the 16-hour daytime period has been identified by the Department for Transport, as the level at which the onset of significant community annoyance is likely; 2003 White Paper 'The Future of Air Transport', chapter 3 - Environmental Impacts.

- 1.8 Increasingly, Planning Authorities across the United Kingdom are moving towards conditions that relate directly to noise exposure, such as noise contour limits, combined with sophisticated ways of monitoring compliance with these limits. Contours can incentivise airports to improve noise management practices so as to allow more passengers to use an airport without increasing the noise burden upon the local community, but only if they are set at an appropriate size.
- 1.9 A local Public Inquiry (PI) is scheduled to take place in order to consider consultation responses. The council will be given an opportunity to participate in this process. Following the PI, a report will be produced for the Minister who will then determine the application, taking account of the information presented by the different parties.
- 1.10 The Minister's stated objective for this process is 'the introduction of an effective noise management system at the Airport which achieves the correct balance between the socio-economic benefits of airport expansion with the need to protect the environment and quality of life for the surrounding community'.
- 1.11 The Council's previous consultation response to the 2012 request highlighted concerns over the size of the proposed noise contour and the potential number of residents that would be affected under the various growth scenarios suggested at that time. The council's response concluded that a smaller contour would better deliver the balance that the Minister is seeking. However, this response is now superseded by the new proposals.
- 1.12 The Minister (DOE) will make the final decision on this application following consideration of the findings of the PI, however as this is a planning agreement between the two parties, the applicant if they do not agree with the Minister's decision, could continue to operate within the

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provisions of the current agreement with the existing 2 million departing 'seats for sale' cap remaining in place.

2 Key Issues.

2.1 The previous information submitted by the applicant included growth forecasts for the Airport up until 2020, together with scenarios for low, medium and high growth. By way of response, the Council stated that more information was needed on how these three forecast scenarios were developed and which scenario was most likely to prevail. This information has now been supplied through the Planning Service.

2.2 The current submission presents a growth scenario based on the potential for the Airport with the 2 million departing 'seats for sale' restriction removed. It is a forecast of demand that takes account of GBBCA's ambition, targets and assessment of the market but, as with any business looking ahead; it cannot be regarded as either inevitable or definitive. The applicant however considers it to be reasonable in the context of perceived growth at other airports and a strategy for 'clawing back' additional business from Dublin Airport.

2.3 The submission also presents a 'fall back' growth scenario calculated on the basis that the planning agreement is not modified as requested and that the existing 'seats for sale' restriction remains in place.

2.4 Air Traffic Forecasts.

The applicant has projected that air passenger traffic will grow by 2.94% over the period 2013 – 2025 with the 'seats for sale' restriction removed. This assessment is comprised of an accepted projection for annualised growth in air passenger traffic for Northern Ireland of 2.1% with the remaining 0.84% (above the projected rate) arising from a combination of: increased flight frequencies to existing destinations; the introduction of new routes to Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Barcelona; increases in flights to leisure destinations and provision for the anticipated 'claw back' of passengers from Dublin Airport.

2.5 The applicant forecasts that this will equate to annual passenger numbers of around 3.72 million by 2025 with a corresponding 47,904 air traffic movements per annum. By way of comparison, the applicant has predicted that should the 'seats for sale' cap remain in place, then the cap will be reached in 2022, with some 2.05 million departing seats for

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sale and an associated 38,436 air traffic movements. This latter forecast is based on the 'Seats for Sale' restriction having an immediate impact on growth and investment decision reducing the overall annualised rate to 1.43% for 2013 to 2022, with no further growth thereafter.

2.6 Economic Impacts

If GBBCA is successful in having the 'seats for sale' restriction removed, and achieves the target growth rate of 2.94% per annum between 2013 and 2025, the Airport estimates that it will have created around 270 additional jobs by 2025.

GBBCA estimates the Gross Value Added (GVA) per job to be around £38,760 per full time equivalent employee and therefore the total additional value to the economy by 2025, should the variation to the planning agreement be granted, to be around £13.2 million. This estimate includes both direct and induced factors. The Council's consultant has confirmed that the applicant has followed a standard approach to estimating the economic impact of the proposed changes to the planning conditions.

2.7 Noise contour data.

The following table summarises data published by GBBCA and indicates the size of the noise contour and the likely population affected based on the Airport Annual Reports for 2013 and the growth forecast scenarios. It should also be noted that the revised noise contour sizes are improvements to the previous forecasts submitted in 2012.

Year of assessment	57dBLa _{eq} , 16h Contour area (Km ²)	Population
2010	6.1	12,500
2013	4.4	7, 200
2025 with SFS	6.5	14,600
2025 No SFS	7.5	18,100

2.8 The draft response states that the Council is supportive of the Airport's ambition for growth and recognises the benefits that expansion will bring to both the city and the region. It is considered that the size of the noise control contour and the conditions contained in any new Article 40 agreement are crucial to ensuring that these benefits are realised whilst providing protection to local communities that will be impacted upon by the Airport's operations. The Council also recognises that GBBCA wishes to achieve this balance. The data provided indicates however, that the removal of the 'seats for sale restriction' will increase the number of people exposed to aviation noise.

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- 2.9 It is important that airports are incentivised to implement continuous improvement in noise management practices required in order to achieve balance between growth and the need to protect the environment and quality of life for the surrounding community. The noise contour size needs to be considered alongside best practice noise management systems and the ambitions to support sustainable economic growth
- 1.10 The draft response therefore reflects support for the Airport's growth aspirations. In addition, it recommends that the PI should examine the Airport's expansion proposals giving consideration to the noise management proposals submitted by the Airport, including the control contour size and any other appropriate measures that may achieve the right balance between the socio-economic benefits of airport expansion with the need to provide reasonable protection to the surrounding community (an outcome that both the applicant and Minister have stated they are seeking).
- 2.11 The consultation period closes on Monday the 3rd March, the Council has therefore advised the Planning Department that our response will be late and forwarded after committee has considered the response but will be subject to full council approval following the April Council meeting.
- 3 **Resource Implications.**
- 3.1 The services of an Aviation Acoustic Consultant and Aviation Economist continue to provide additional advice. The cost has been included within revenue estimates.
- 4 **Equality and Good Relations Considerations**
- 4.1 None.
- 5 **Recommendations**
- 5.1 Members are invited to
- Consider the content of this report and to endorse the attached draft consultation response and agree to forward to the Department of the Environment following committee, advising that it will be subject to full Council approval in April.
 - Agree that the council continues to seek specialist advice."

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Appendix 1 - Draft council response for consideration by Committee

Strategic Planning Division (Headquarters)
Department of the Environment
Millennium House
17 – 25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast.
BT2 7BN

Re: George Best Belfast City Airport Planning Agreement Modification Process.

Dear Sir

As a consultee, Belfast City Council has reviewed the content of the George Best Belfast City Airport 'Request and Related Documents' in support of the Airport's request to vary the terms of its Planning Agreement with the Department of the Environment of 22 January 1997, as modified in 2008, pursuant to Article 40A(1)(a) of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 and would submit the following comments by way of representation response.

Belfast City Council is supportive of George Best Belfast City Airport's aspirations for passenger growth and is cognisant of the benefits that such an expansion will bring in terms of both local employment and added value to the local economy.

The Council also appreciates the need to ensure effective noise management arrangements are in place to ensure that noise levels experienced by exposed communities are kept to lowest levels that can reasonably be managed.

Therefore the Council considers that the size of the noise control contour and the management conditions contained in any new Article 40 agreement are crucial to ensuring that the abovementioned benefits are realised whilst providing reasonable protection to local residents impacted by the Airport's operations. The council also recognises that George Best Belfast City Airport wishes to achieve this balance. The council also welcomes that the airport will continue to commission independent annual reports, through the Department for Regional Development (Air and Sea Ports branch) on its performance against set noise management criteria.

It is important that airports are incentivised to implement continuous improvement in noise management practices required in order to achieve the desired balance. This is the case with some United Kingdom airports which continue to achieve sustainable economic growth whilst at the same time have been able to reduce their noise contours as aircraft become quieter and good noise management practices enhance operations.

For these reasons, Belfast City Council requests that the forthcoming inquiry should examine the Airport's expansion proposals giving consideration to the noise management proposals submitted, including the control contour size and any other appropriate measures that may achieve the right balance between the socio-economic benefits of airport expansion with the need to provide reasonable protection to the

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surrounding community (an outcome that both the applicant and Minister have stated they are seeking).

Should you have any queries regarding these comments, in the first instance please contact Stephen Leonard, Environmental Health Manager (Environmental Protection and Public Health & Housing Unit) on 028 9032 0202 ext 3312.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Claire Hanna
Chairman
Town Planning Committee

The Committee endorsed the aforementioned response to the Department of the Environment.

Routine Correspondence

It was reported that correspondence had been received from various statutory bodies, agencies and other organisations in respect of the undernoted:

Notification from the Roads Service of:

- the Statutory Rule and associated maps in relation to the M1/Trunk Road T3 and M1-M2 Link (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014;
- the removal of a disabled parking bay at 6 Ravenhill Parade;
- the provision of accessible blue badge parking bays at:
 - 101 Tildarg Street; and
 - 22 Wheatfield Crescent;
- the proposed abandonment at Templemore Avenue.

Notification from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive of:

- the extinguishment of public rights of way on portions of footway and roadway to the front of 172 to 178 and 190 to 202 Ballysillan Avenue; portions of footway to the rear of 69 to 71, 77 and 172 to 178 Ballysillan Avenue; and the footway to the side of 196 Ballysillan Avenue;
- the formal notice in relation to the making of a Vesting Order for Moltke Street; and
- the operative date for a Vesting Order at Loughview Terrace and other lands.

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Copies of the letters, maps and orders relating to the above-mentioned matters were made available at the meeting for the information of the Members.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Request for Deputations

The Members were informed that a request had been received from the West Belfast Area Working Group for the Committee to receive deputations from the Fold Housing Group and the Finaghy Road North/Blacks Road Residents at a future meeting to discuss in further detail the application related to the mixed use development at the former Visteon site.

The Committee agreed to receive the deputations as outlined.

Meeting of the Committee during May, 2014

The Committee noted that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had, given that the Local Government Elections were due to take place on 22nd May, agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled to allow Members to concentrate on the forthcoming European Parliament and Local Council Elections.

The Committee agreed not to hold any meetings in May and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairmen of the Strategic Policy and Resources and the Town Planning Committees, to take any urgent decisions, as was routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

Planning Application Z/2013/0637/F
Fascia Sign for Arc Café, Orangefield
Presbyterian Church, 464 Castlereagh Road

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the Area Planning Office in relation to the above-mentioned matter which had indicated that, having considered all the relevant factors, the Planning Service remained of the opinion that the application in respect of the proposed erection of four fascia signs on an existing glazed panel between the ground and first floors was unacceptable and that a decision to refuse would be issued within the near future.

Noted.

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Historic Buildings Lists

**76 South Parade, including garage, outbuilding and gate
78 South Parade, including garage and walling**

The Committee was advised that notification had been received from the Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 42 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order, 1991, and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, in respect of the inclusion of the above-mentioned buildings within that organisation's list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

New Planning Applications

The Committee noted a list of new planning applications which had been received by the Planning Service from 24th January until 21st February.

Appeal Decisions Notified

The Committee noted the outcome of a planning appeal in respect of a mixed use regeneration scheme at land at the existing Department of Regional Development surface car park at Frederick Street.

**Streamlined Planning Applications –
Decisions Issued**

A list of decisions which had been issued by the Planning Service between 13th February and 26th February in respect of streamlined planning applications was noted by the Committee.

Deferred Items Still Under Consideration

A list of deferred items, which were still under consideration by the Planning Office, was noted by the Committee.

Reconsidered Items – Application Withdrawn

At the request of the Planning Service, the undernoted reconsidered item was withdrawn:

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Divisional Planning Manager's Opinion</u>
Lands east of 60 Quarry Road, Mrs. M. E. Patterson	The proposed minor re-siting and change to house type design of an existing approved dwelling on a farm.	Refusal

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**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE
OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL**

Reconsidered Items

The Committee considered further the undernoted planning applications and adopted the recommendations of the Divisional Planning Manager thereon:

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Divisional Planning Manager's Opinion</u>
37 Stormont Park, Mr. W. Atchinson	The demolition of an existing garage and the construction of a new garage with a study above.	Approval
16 Malone Court, Mr. and Mrs. S. Lowery	A 2 storey extension to the rear of the existing dwelling, a single storey extension to the existing detached garage and a pitched roof to replace the existing flat roofed porch.	Approval
33 Massey Avenue, Assembly Coffee Limited	Non-compliance with planning conditions 2 and 3 of Z/2011/0481/F.	Refusal
2 and 4 Foxglove Street, Mr. D. Anderson	A proposed housing development comprising of 3 apartments with garages, storage and enclosed turning facilities	Refusal

Schedule of Planning Applications

The Committee considered the schedule of planning applications which had been submitted by the Divisional Planning Manager in respect of the Council area and agreed to adopt the recommendations contained therein with the exception of those referred to below:

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Divisional Planning Manager's Opinion</u>
Land to the rear of 26 to 30 Belmont Avenue, Mr. S. McCusker	The erection of one, detached dwelling. [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4]	Approval

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Site and Applicant

Lands at the junction of Belmont Road and Pirrie Road, adjacent to 275 Belmont Road,
Henderson Property Group

Proposal

A proposed neighbourhood shop with petrol filling station facilities, automatic telling machine, forecourt canopy and carparking.
[Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5.]

Divisional Planning
Manager's Opinion

Refusal

Chairman

Town Planning Committee

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MEETING OF TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hanna (Chairman);
Aldermen Campbell, McCoubrey and Patterson; and
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Curran, Garrett,
Haire, Hendron, McCabe, McCarthy and Webb.

In attendance: Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr. P. Fitzsimons) Divisional
Ms. U. McDonald) Planning Office.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Mullan and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Routine Correspondence

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the various statutory bodies and agencies in respect of the undernoted matters:

Notification from the Roads Service of:

- the proposed introduction of a traffic calming scheme in Flax Street;
- the proposed amendment to waiting restrictions in King Street Mews;
- the proposed introduction of parking and waiting restrictions in Academy Street, Exchange Street West and Talbot Street; and
- the proposed introduction of a 20 miles per hour speed limit within certain areas of the City Centre.

In respect of the proposals for the introduction of a 20 miles per hour speed limit within certain areas of the City Centre, a number of Members welcomed the pilot scheme as a measure which would address road safety concerns and contribute positively to the local environment.

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The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Roads Service welcoming the introduction of the pilot scheme to limit traffic to 20 miles per hour within certain areas of the City Centre.

Committee Meetings in May

The Committee was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st February, had, given that elections were due to take place on 22nd May, agreed that all Committee meetings in May should be cancelled.

The Committee agreed not to hold any meetings in May and agreed further that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Party Leaders and the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources, and, if necessary, the Chairman of the Town Planning Committee, to take any urgent decisions in accordance with the procedures which were routinely set in place during the recess month of July each year.

Request for Deputations

No requests had been received.

New Planning Applications

The Committee noted a list of planning applications which had been received by the Planning Service from 25th February until 10th March.

Appeal Decisions Notified

The Committee noted the outcome of a planning appeal in respect of a proposal to erect advertising hoardings at 17 Hope Street.

Streamline Planning Applications - Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been issues by the Planning Service between 27th February and the 12th March.

Deferred Items Still Under Consideration

A list of deferred items which were still under consideration by the Planning Office was noted by the Committee.

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 20th March, 2014**

Reconsidered Item - Former Visteon Site

The Committee considered further a planning application in relation to the proposed erection of nine apartments on land at the junction of the service road to the former Visteon factory site and Finaghy Road North, in respect of which the Divisional Planning Manager had offered an opinion to approve.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, with one Member voting against, to adopt the opinion of the Divisional Planning Manager to approve the application.

(As the decision was not unanimous, it was subject to ratification by the Council.)

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE
OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL**

Reconsidered Item

The Committee reconsidered the undernoted planning application and adopted the recommendation of the Divisional Planning Manager thereon:

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Divisional Planning Manager's Opinion</u>
25 to 41 Botanic Avenue Hazeldene Enterprises	Change of use (second floor only) to an amusement arcade (amended description).	Approval

Schedule of Planning Applications

The Committee considered a schedule of planning applications which had been submitted by the Divisional Planning Manager and agreed to adopt the recommendations contained therein with the exception of those referred to below:

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Divisional Planning Manager's Opinion</u>
103 Airport Road Ridgeway	Erection of a 15m tall galvanised steel tower for "Work at Heights" training. [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 3.]	Refusal

**Town Planning Committee,
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2 Bellevue Park at 79 – 83 Antrim Road Helm Housing	Demolition of 4 existing dwellings on site and erection of 4 replacement dwellings with associated landscaping (amended plans) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 3.]	Approval
39 Orpen Road Colin Clear	Proposed new dwelling with parking to the rear of 39 Orpen Road and new access to driveway to the front (amended description and address) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5.]	Refusal
Land Adjacent to 42 Belmont Church Road J. Brady	Erection of dwelling and attached garage (amended scheme) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4 and 5]	

Chairman

Moved by Councillor McCarthy

Pope Francis

“This Council notes that the Irish Seanad, on 19th February, unanimously passed a Motion by Senator David Norris, inviting Pope Francis to visit Ireland.

Should the Holy Father accept that invitation, this Council invites him, as a man of faith, peace and reconciliation, to visit the City of Belfast and calls upon the Northern Ireland Assembly to extend a similar invitation.”

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Moved by Councillor Hendron:

Mr. James Ellis

"This Council recognises the contribution of James Ellis to the image and reputation of Belfast and regrets his passing.

To mark his role as an outstanding ambassador for the City, this Council pays tribute to his memory in a fitting manner and ensures that his career is given prominence in the proposed visitor attraction here in City Hall".

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Moved by Alderman Ekin:

City Planning

“This Council recognises that the consistent message from all the studies carried out for City Council at home and abroad, of progressive regions and cities, is one of good City Planning. This planning considers living and health conditions, economic and transport requirements, education and recreation needs. It helps to create a city that is socially and economically sustainable, and underpins decisions which might be unpopular but are necessary.

With the transfer of planning functions to councils, it is vital that Belfast City Council creates a City Planning capability to develop the City Plan which will set the guidelines for future planning decisions.

We, therefore request the Chairman of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to arrange for officers to urgently prepare proposals for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee regarding the appointment of a Senior Planning Executive (or team) who will bring the experience of best practice from elsewhere and who will constructively guide the Council as it takes on responsibility for planning.”

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Moved by Councillor Ó Donnghaile

Irish Rugby Squad

"This council congratulates the Ireland Rugby Squad on their recent Six Nations win and in particular commends and recognises the contribution of Brian O' Driscoll to the sporting life of Ireland over the last fifteen years.

The Council requests the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to engage with the IRFU to host, at the earliest convenience for both, a reception/event, led by the Lord Mayor, to recognise the team's historic win and afford the people of Belfast the opportunity to express their thanks, appreciation and support for our Ireland Rugby heroes."

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