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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**TO; THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR,
ALDERMEN 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 July, 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 2nd June (Pages 3 - 12)
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 19th June (Pages 13 - 84)
8. Parks and Leisure Committee of 12th June (Pages 85 - 120)
9. Development Committee of 17th June (Pages 121 - 152)
10. Health and Environmental Services Committee of 4th June (Pages 153 - 202)
11. Licensing Committee of 18th June (Pages 203 - 226)
12. Town Planning Committee of 5th June (Pages 227 - 232)
13. Town Planning Committee of 19th June (Pages 233 - 236)
14. Town Planning Committee of 23rd June (Pages 237 - 238)
15. Notices of Motion
 - a) Voluntary and Community Sectors (Pages 239 - 240)
 - b) International Men's Day (Pages 241 - 242)

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

Suzanne Wylie

Chief Executive

Council

ANNUAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 2nd June, 2014
at the hour of 4.00 o'clock 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, Ekin, McCoubrey,
Robinson, Rodgers and Stoker; and
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, Ó Donnghaile, Reynolds,
Spence, 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.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman R. Patterson and Councillor Newton.

Filming and Recording of Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from a number of broadcasting companies seeking permission to film and record the election and installation of the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor. He asked that the Council indicate whether it wished to accede to those requests.

The Council granted the permission sought.

Expressions of Sympathy

Several Members expressed their deepest sympathy to the family of Alderman Hugh Smyth and highlighted the significant contribution which he had made to the Council and the citizens of Belfast as an Elected Member since 1972.

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The Lord Mayor expressed his regret at the recent death of the father of Alderman R. Patterson and, on behalf of the Council, extended to the Alderman and her family circle his condolences and deepest sympathy.

Expressions of Thanks

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Ó Muilleoir) reviewed his year in Office and expressed his appreciation for the support which he had received from his family, the Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman Stalford), the High Sheriff (Councillor L. Patterson) and the former High Sheriff (Councillor Kingston). He thanked also the staff who had assisted him over the course of the year and expressed his appreciation for the support which he had received from the Members.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman Stalford) reviewed his year in Office and thanked the Lord Mayor, the High Sheriff (Councillor L. Patterson) and the former High Sheriff (Councillor Kingston) for their support during that time. He placed on record his appreciation for the support which he had received from his family and the Members throughout his term and for the advice and assistance which had been provided by staff.

Tributes

Representatives of each of the Political Parties on the Council paid tribute to the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had fulfilled their duties during their year in office.

Election of Lord Mayor

Nominations were invited for the Office of Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Council term.

Councillor Mallon was proposed by Councillor Attwood and seconded by Councillor Hanna.

Accordingly, it was

Resolved – That Councillor Nichola Mallon be and is hereby elected Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast for the period to end on 31st March, 2015.

Councillor Mallon, having been conducted to the dais by Councillors Attwood and Hanna, was installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Councillor Mallon, in the Chair.)

Councillor Mallon thanked the Members for the honour which they had bestowed upon her by electing her to the Office of Lord Mayor and paid tribute to the previous Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had undertaken their duties.

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Election of Deputy Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the post of Deputy Lord Mayor for the remainder of the Council term.

Councillor Hendron was proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Kelly.

Accordingly, it was

Resolved – That Councillor Maire Hendron be and is hereby elected Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast for the period to end on 31st March, 2015.

Councillor Hendron, having been conducted to the dais by Councillors Jones and Kelly, was installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She then thanked the Members for her election.

Appointment of Aldermen

The Council considered the question of the election from amongst the Members to fill the vacancies of up to three Aldermen which had arisen due to the death of former Alderman Smyth and the resignation of former Aldermen Humphrey and Newton.

It was

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron) and

Resolved – That Councillors Kingston, L. Patterson and Webb be elected as Aldermen for the period to end on 31st March, 2015.

Minutes

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Mallon),
Seconded by Councillor Keenan and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 1st May be taken as read and signed as correct.

Appointment of Members to Standing Committees

The Council considered the appointment of Members to the Standing Committees and it was

Resolved – That the Standing Committees as set out below, having been constituted to conform with Acts of Parliament, Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Council, be and they are hereby appointed for the period to end on 31st March, 2015:

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd June, 2014**

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

DUP Seats 7

Alderman M. Campbell	Alderman R. Patterson
Alderman Robinson	Councillor Haire
Councillor Kennedy	Councillor Newton
Councillor Reynolds	

SF Seats 7

Councillor Carson	Councillor M.E. Campbell
Councillor Clarke	Councillor Corr
Councillor Hargey	Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín
Councillor McVeigh	

SDLP Seats 3

Councillor Attwood	Councillor McCarthy
Councillor Mullan	

ALL Seats 2

Councillor Hendron	Councillor Jones
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UUP Seats 1

Alderman Browne

**Meeting of Council,
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Development Committee

DUP Seats 7

Alderman M. Campbell	Alderman Kingston
Alderman Stalford	Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Reynolds	Councillor Spence
Councillor Verner	

SF Seats 6

Councillor Beattie	Councillor Hargey
Councillor Magee	Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín
Councillor Ó Donnghaile	Councillor Ó Muilleoir

SDLP Seats 3

Councillor Convery	Councillor Keenan
Councillor Kelly	

ALL Seats 2

Alderman Ekin	Alderman Webb
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UUP Seats 1

Alderman Stoker

PUP Seats 1

Councillor Kyle

Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd June, 2014

Health and Environmental Services Committee

DUP Seats 6

Alderman Kingston	Alderman McCoubrey
Alderman L. Patterson	Councillor Hussey
Councillor McKee	Councillor Thompson

SF Seats 6

Councillor Austin	Councillor M.E. Campbell
Councillor Clarke	Councillor Corr
Councillor Garrett	Councillor Magee

SDLP Seats 3

Councillor Keenan	Councillor Kelly
Councillor McCarthy	

ALL Seats 3

Councillor Curran	Councillor Jones
Councillor McNamee	

UUP Seats 1

Alderman Stoker

PUP Seats 1

Councillor Kyle

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd June, 2014**

Licensing Committee

DUP Seats 6

Alderman McCoubrey	Alderman R. Patterson
Alderman Stalford	Councillor Hussey
Councillor Reynolds	Councillor Spence

SF Seats 6

Councillor M. E. Campbell	Councillor Clarke
Councillor Cunningham	Councillor Groves
Councillor Magee	Councillor Ó Donnghaile

SDLP Seats 3

Councillor Attwood	Councillor Keenan
Councillor Mullan	

ALL Seats 2

Alderman Ekin	Alderman Webb
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UUP Seats 2

Alderman Browne	Alderman Rodgers
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PUP Seats 1

Councillor Hutchinson

Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd June, 2014

Parks and Leisure Committee

DUP Seats 6

Alderman Robinson	Councillor Haire
Councillor Hussey	Councillor McKee
Councillor Thompson	Councillor Verner

SF Seats 6

Councillor Beattie	Councillor Corr
Councillor Cunningham	Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín
Councillor McCabe	Councillor O'Donngaile

SDLP Seats 4

Councillor Attwood	Councillor Convery
Councillor Hanna	Councillor Mullan

ALL Seats 2

Councillor Hendron	Councillor McNamee
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UUP Seats 1

Alderman Rodgers

PUP Seats 1

Councillor Kyle

**Meeting of Council,
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Town Planning Committee

DUP Seats 6

Alderman M. Campbell	Alderman McCoubrey
Councillor L. Patterson	Alderman R. Patterson
Councillor Haire	Councillor Newton

SF Seats 6

Councillor Austin	Councillor Beattie
Councillor Carson	Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Garrett	Councillor McCabe

SDLP Seats 3

Councillor Hanna	Councillor McCarthy
Councillor Mullan	

ALL Seats 3

Councillor Curran	Councillor Hendron
Councillor Jones	

UUP Seats 1

Alderman Rodgers

PUP Seats 1

Councillor Hutchinson

**Meeting of Council,
Monday, 2nd June, 2014**

**Appointment of Chairmen and
Deputy Chairmen of Standing Committees**

The Council considered the appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees and it was

Resolved – That, in accordance with Standing Order 42, the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees as set out below are hereby appointed for the period to end on 31st March, 2015:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairmanships</u>	<u>Deputy Chairmanships</u>
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	DUP Councillor Reynolds	SF Councillor Carson
Development Committee	SF Councillor Hargey	DUP Councillor Spence
Health and Environmental Services Committee	SF Councillor Corr	SDLP Councillor Keenan
Licensing Committee	All Alderman Ekin	SF Councillor M. E. Campbell
Parks and Leisure Committee	DUP Councillor McKee	SF Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín
Town Planning Committee	SDLP Councillor Hanna	DUP Alderman M. Campbell

Mr. P. McNaney

The Members were informed that this would be the last meeting of the Council which would be attended by Mr. Peter McNaney, Chief Executive, as he would be leaving the Council at the end of the month after twenty-nine years of service.

Representatives of each of the Political Parties highlighted the contribution which he had made to the Council and the City during that time and wished him well in the future.

The Chief Executive thanked the Members for their kind remarks.

Lord Mayor
Chairman

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Thursday, 19th June, 2014

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Reynolds (Chairman);
Aldermen Robinson, Brown and Campbell;
Councillors Attwood, Campbell, Carson, Clarke, Corr,
Haire, Hargey, Hendron, Jones, McCarthy,
McVeigh, Mullan and Newton.

In attendance: Mrs S. Wylie, Chief Executive (Designate);
Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. A. Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure;
Mr. J. McGrillen, Director of Development;
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mrs. J. Minne, Assistant Chief Executive/
Head of Human Resources;
Mr. S. McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman R. Patterson and Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 4th and 25th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st May.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jones declared interest in Item 4a Request for the Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality in so far as he was treasurer of the Glentoran Community Trust.

Investment Programme

Leisure Transformation Programme – Capital Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Relevant background information

1.1 In January 2013 to inform future decisions SP&R adopted the following principles regarding leisure provision in the city: Quality;

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Thursday 19th June, 2014

Focus on health and well-being outcomes; Value for money; Balanced investment and accessibility; Partnership; and Affordability.

- 1.2 Subsequently, at its meeting in June 2013, SP&R set a £105m capital expenditure affordability limit for the Leisure Transformation Programme. Committee agreed to the indicative phasing of capital transformation:
- Phase 1: Investment Programme (Windsor/Olympia; Andersonstown; Girdwood)
 - Phase 2: Reform of Local Government (e.g. Avoniel; Castlereagh; Lagmore/Poleglass/Colin)
 - Phase 3: One Public Estate (e.g. Ballysillan; Ozone; Shankill; Loughside; Whiterock)
- 1.3 At its meeting in April 2014 SP&R agreed the affordability limit for Phase II projects at £23.5m. Members will recall in March 2013 that SP&R granted authority for officers to facilitate in depth engagement with strategic stakeholders to explore co-investment opportunities under the leisure transformation programme.

2 Key issues

- 2.1 Following Committee's recommendation to engage with strategic partners, a number of pieces of work are being prepared to inform decisions to be taken by Committee over the coming months. Detailed design work is underway for phase 1 of the capital programme and engagement and scoping for phase 2, to identify strategic opportunities in east and outer west Belfast. The following sections outline an update on discussions and actions to date in relation to Phase 2.

2.2 Outer West

Some initial high level discussions have taken place around the future of leisure provision in the Twinbrook and Colin areas, specifically around the potential redevelopment of Brook Activity Centre, transferring under Local Government Reform and the opportunities presented in the Colin Town Centre Masterplan. A survey is being completed on the Brook Activity Centre to determine its physical condition.

Next steps

A feasibility study has been commissioned to identify a range of options for future leisure provision in Outer West Belfast. The study will include: an analysis of current leisure provision (both local authority and private); redevelopment/refurbishment options; exploration of potential sites for redevelopment; and provide a critical path including a comprehensive funding strategy. The study should

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also make reference to the Colin Town Centre Masterplan, produced by the Department for Social Development.

It is planned that Area Working Group representatives will be fully involved in this process, including the appraisal of options, prior to presentation to Committee for investment decisions. Following this, there will then be a period of consultation and proposal development.

2.3 Inner East Belfast

Belfast Education & Library Board (BELB) has facilitated engagement with elected members, community representatives and potential strategic partners. This is due to an imminent strategic opportunity in relation to the potential rationalisation and re-development of two primary schools in the inner East area.

BELB are currently finalising an economic appraisal for the rationalisation of Avoniel and Elmgrove primary schools and one preparing a development proposal for the minister's consideration. Council officers have been working with BELB to identify potential linkages, community benefits and co-investment opportunities from any proposed development at the Avoniel Primary School site. BELB's economic appraisal is currently looking at a number of options including:

1. Do nothing
2. Do minimum (essential maintenance at both existing schools)
3. Extend and refurbish Elmgrove PS
4. Extend and refurbish Avoniel PS either by:
 - (a) using existing site; or
 - (b) by partial use of the existing Avoniel Leisure Centre site
5. New build on Avoniel Leisure Centre site

BELB have recently advised that the Economic Appraisal is indicating that the preferred option is development of a new school on the Avoniel School site to facilitate pupils from the current Avoniel and Elmgrove schools. This preferred option is likely to include an area of Council owned land where the Council's Play Centre and playground are currently located. BELB's initial overall site layout proposals, which are very indicative at this stage, provide for relocation of these facilities. It should be emphasised however that these are schematic layouts only as prepared by BELB and if the current proposals do progress then this will need to be considered in much more detail.

It is suggested that BELB's proposals offer a potential strategic opportunity for the Council to maximise its investment in the future provision of a fit-for purpose leisure estate for Inner East Belfast, and

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the wider benefits it could have in terms of improved health, education and social inclusion outcomes.

Next steps

The Council is currently undertaking a feasibility study for future leisure provision for Inner East Belfast. Should the current proposals be the preferred option for both BELB and the Council, detailed design and development work to maximise synergies and co-location opportunities would be undertaken.

In order for BELB to complete their EA and secure money from the Department of Education for their proposed development, they have asked the Council to consider the disposal to them of the area of land as shown edged red on the attached plan at Appendix 1.

Officers have advised BELB that a recommendation cannot be made to Members at this stage for disposal of the land in the absence of more detail on the Council's own proposals for future leisure provision in Inner East Belfast. The feasibility study that is currently underway will consider the options available to the Council but until these have been considered the Council would not wish to place itself in a position whereby they agree to dispose of land that may potentially be required for continued leisure or community provision on the Avoniel site.

However, in order to inform both the BELB and BCC decision making process, a valuation of the subject land and assessment of the costs for relocating the play-centre and playground could now be obtained. This will be used for the purposes of the BELB Economic Appraisal but on the basis that no decision has yet been made by the Council as to whether or not to dispose of the land. Upon completion of the Council's feasibility study the Council will be better placed to make a decision on whether any of the land is surplus to Council requirements.

2.4 Castlereagh

Preliminary discussions have taken place with Belfast Metropolitan College regarding their planned re-development of the campus at Montgomery Road. Given the proximity of the Robinson Centre, due to transfer to the Council on 1 April 2015, officers have explored the potential of integrating leisure provision into the new college campus. There would be advantages to this, particularly as a large number of sports studies students are located at the campus currently. Belfast Metropolitan College has proceeded with the development of an Outline Business Case, presented to the Department of Employment and Learning in February 2014. They are seeking authority to proceed to the next stage and to identify funding streams for the development in the context of the next

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Comprehensive Spending Review. In the Outline Business Case, they have included an option which includes the potential for leisure provision. This allows the Council a future opportunity to formally consider a decision to co-invest in an integrated campus. However it should be noted that this scheme is at a very early stage of consideration. A survey is being completed on the Robinson Centre to determine its physical condition, as well as examining the contractual arrangements currently in place for gym provision.

2.5 Conclusion

Each of the capital proposals, as outlined above, give the Council the opportunity to fulfil its strategic objectives for the Leisure Transformation Programme, as outlined at 1.1. Officers will continue to proactively engage with partners over the coming weeks, with the intention to bring feasible proposals for Members' consideration in late summer/early autumn, within the affordability limits established by the SP&R Committee.

3.0 Resource Implications

Financial Implications: A valuation and assessment of costs will determine the financial implications associated with the BELB proposals that include Council lands.

Asset Implications: Unknown at present – to be determined as part of the feasibility studies underway and **Human Resource Implications:** Staff resource from Parks & Leisure and Property & Projects.

4.0 Equality Implications

To be screened when Phase II capital programme is considered by Committee

5.0 Recommendations

Members are requested:

- i. To note the update as outlined above in relation to Phase 2 of the Leisure Transformation Programme; and
- ii. Authorise officers to obtain a valuation of the Council's land adjoining the Avoniel Leisure Centre site, as referred to above, and an assessment of the costs for relocation of the Council facilities currently located on the subject lands. This is subject to the valuation and assessment of costs being used to inform the BELB Economic Appraisal process but on

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the basis that no decision has been made by the Council as to whether or not to dispose of the land.”

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Department for Social Development –
Capital Programme/Funding - Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 **Relevant Background Information**

1.1 **Members will be aware that responsibility for Urban Regeneration and Community Development will transfer to the new Councils on 1 April 2015.**

1.2 **Whilst DSD will retain responsibility for the overarching policy on urban regeneration and community development, and will be responsible for regionally significant interventions, the transfer will incorporate four main areas:**

- **Area Based Regeneration – Neighbourhood Renewal, Masterplans and Frameworks**
- **Physical Development – Comprehensive Development, Public Realm / Environmental Improvements and Urban Development Grants (UDGs)**
- **Community Development – Community Support Programmes, Belfast Area Partnerships & Community Investment Fund**
- **Transfer and Maintenance of Assets – This consists of the current DSD land bank, public spaces, the management and maintenance of the Lagan Weir and the management of the river between the Lagan and Stranmillis Weirs**

1.3 **In order to facilitate effective change management, a two stage transfer process has been agreed through the former Statutory Transition Committee and with DSD:**

- **Transition – to focus on the practical arrangements/decisions necessary for Council to maintain and deliver agreed transferred services and resources on 1 April 2015. This will provide service continuity and allow planning to take place for transformation over the 2015-2017 period.**

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- Transformation – to focus on developing the future vision, outcomes and delivery models for urban regeneration and community development and to align with the Community Planning process, post 2017.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 In preparation for the transfer of functions, DSD has formulated a resource allocation model to distribute its current resources across the 11 new Councils. This distribution model is principally based on urban population and levels of deprivation. A prospective budget reduction of 4% across the NI Executive Departments was also factored into the model.
- 2.2 Under this Regional Allocation Model the new Belfast City Council area will receive a total allocation of £20,418,000(indicative at present) as set out in Table 1 below. The allocation will however transfer as part of the rate and it will be for the new Council to decide how this money is ultimately allocated.

Table 1: DSD Allocation for Belfast City Council:

Component	Draft Allocation
Tackling Disadvantage	£8,700,000
Physical Regeneration Component	£5,585,000
Community Development	£1,715,000
<i>Total Programme</i>	<i>£16,000,000</i>
Laganside (ring-fenced for Belfast)	£2,592,000
Salary and GAE costs	£1,826,000
Total Allocation	£20,418,000

- 2.3 Over the last number of weeks, Council officers have been conducting a due diligence exercise which has involved analysing the average DSD expenditure in the new Council areas over the past seven financial years. This analysis is set out in the table below which clearly indicates that Belfast is the only area which will experience a reduction in the level of resource allocation in comparison to previous years. It should be noted however that expenditure (particularly capital) varies significantly from year to year in some areas.

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Table 2: Summary of DSD's Historic Spend within new Council Cluster Areas:

New Council Cluster	REGIONAL BUDGET MODEL ALLOCATION (£,000s)	Average Spend 2007-2014 (£,000)	SURPLUS/ DEFICIT compared to Average (£,000s)
Antrim & Newtownabbey	£4,532	£1,026	£3,506
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	£6,663	£5,314	£1,349
Belfast	£20,418	£26,952	-£6,534
Causeway Coast & Glens	£4,890	£2,352	£2,538
Derry & Strabane	£7,453	£7,248	£205
Fermanagh & Omagh	£2,568	£1,931	£637
Lisburn & Castlereagh	£3,495	£3,188	£307
Mid & East Antrim	£4,609	£1,619	£2,990
Mid Ulster	£3,467	£1,687	£1,780
Newry, Mourne & Down	£4,989	£4,029	£960
North Down & Ards	£5,043	£1,891	£3,152

- 2.4 In addition to the analysis above, Council officers working alongside DSD officials have identified that some £15.7m will be spent in supporting neighbourhood renewal and community development activity in Belfast during the 2014/15 financial year. The STC, recognising the fact that there was no time to put a new delivery model in place prior to transfer, previously agreed that the current levels of revenue support would be made available between 2015-2017 to meet the needs of communities across the city and to address the chronic levels of deprivation in 14 Neighbourhood Renewal areas.
- 2.5 Almost £2.6m has been allocated to Belfast for the Lagan Weir. Officers estimate however that the annual cost is likely to be £2.7m (consisting of £1.95m annual maintenance and £750,000 towards the sinking fund). The sinking fund provides the resources for seven yearly dredging and replacement of the rams every ten years.
- 2.6 Officers also estimate that the current sinking fund has a shortfall of circa £3.5m which would require a one off capital injection from DSD.
- 2.7 If one assumes that the salary allocation of £1.82m for posts associated with the services transferring from DSD to the Council are realistic (current DSD salary costs in Belfast are circa £2.6m), there will only be £300k available for the delivery of capital projects.
- 2.8 The consequences of this and a number of associated recommendations are set out in an associated report prepared by the Director of Property & Projects attached to this report.

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Transitional Funding

- 2.9 One of the principles of Local Government Reform is that functions should transfer at 'nil cost' to Councils. The due diligence work done to date demonstrates that whilst this might apply for 10 of the new Councils, Belfast City Council will lose out substantially in comparison to expenditure in previous years.
- 2.10 There is clearly a case therefore for transitional funding to be made available to Belfast City Council for the 2015-17 period given the likely reduction in resources, the fact that 8 out of 10 of the most deprived wards in NI are in Belfast and 14 out the 36 Neighbourhood Renewal Areas are in the new Belfast city Council Area.
- 2.11 A 2 year Transitional Funding period would allow the Council to provide appropriate support to communities whilst giving time to restructure service delivery and align resources with the new Community Planning Process.
- 2.12 BCC officers are currently preparing a case for Transitional Funding to be presented to DSD at a future meeting with the Minister as a follow up to the previous meeting with Party Leaders on 28 April 2014

Projects of Regional Significance

- 2.13 When the Party Leaders previously met with the DSD Minister on 28 April 2014, Members made the case that there were a number of physical projects currently being progressed by DSD which the Council could not possibly fund from the resources due to be allocated under the Regional Allocation Model. In particular, Members referenced the next phase of Belfast Streets Ahead (BSA3) which alone has a projected cost of £37m.
- 2.14 At the Minister's suggestion Council officers, in consultation with DSD officials, are currently working on a policy paper which will set out the key principles that could define 'Projects of Regional Significance'.

This policy will consider specific references to Projects of Regional Significance within NI Executive policy documents including the DRD Regional Development Strategy and DSD's own Urban Regeneration and Community Development Framework. Officers will also draw on examples elsewhere, particularly in Scotland and Australia.

The policy will be based on two key principles:

- Scale – i.e. where the scale of the project is such that it would be unreasonable to expect the funding to

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee,
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come from the notional allocation from DSD to Local Government e.g. Streets Ahead 3

- Impact – i.e. where the project is associated with schemes which will have impact and benefit beyond the Council's boundaries eg the relocation of the University of Ulster, Transportation Hub, Rapid Transit, York Street Interchange and the National Stadia

2.15 It is intended that this policy would apply to the whole of local government across a range of Executive Departments and deal with existing and future large scale projects.

2.16 It is intended that this paper would be presented to the DSD Minister and potentially the DFP Minister requesting that there should be an ongoing process for defining major projects as regionally significant which would enable them to be financed by the Executive (many delivered in partnership with Local Government).

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Council officers are currently working with DSD officials to extend revenue funding to existing recipients of DSD grants for the period up to 31 March 2017 in line with the decision previously taken by the Statutory Transition Committee.

3.2 In the absence of Transitional Funding or funding for Projects of Regional Significance there will be little, if any finance available to support capital projects currently being taken forward by DSD.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations implications identified at present.

5 Recommendations

5.1 Agree to the development of position papers to support requests for both Transitional Funding and funding for Projects of Regional Significance, including University Ulster/Royal Exchange/BSA3, National Stadia and Belfast Rapid Transit;

Seek a further meeting with the DSD Minister to make the case for Transitional Funding for the period 2015 -2017 and the allocation of resources for Projects of Regional Significance.”

Appendix 1

1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Members will be aware that as part of the Local Government Reform, the Council will become the regeneration authority for the city. This will result in the transfer from DSD of a significant number of assets and liabilities; funding for capital projects; masterplans and regeneration plans; contracts and non property assets. The DSD transferring functions cover 3 broad areas including;

- **Area Based Regeneration – including Neighbourhood Renewal (physical and revenue) projects; Belfast Area Partnerships, Masterplans & Frameworks**
- **Physical Development – Comprehensive Development, Public Realm/Environmental Improvements and Urban Development Grants (UDGs)**
- **Community Development – Community Support Programmes & Community Investment Fund**

1.2 Members will be aware that a proposed budget of £20.418M has been identified, within the proposed regional Allocation Model for the new Belfast City Council, to cover the delivery of the transferring regeneration functions. This is to cover the delivery of any physical projects; ongoing revenue projects; the costs associated with managing and maintaining all transferring assets; contractual commitments; human resource and administrative costs. This model was considered by the Statutory Transition Committee at its meeting on 15 Jan 2014.

1.3 Implications arising out of this paper have an impact on some of the Council's emerging BIF and LIF projects – these are outlined in the 'Area Working Update' report which is also on the agenda for discussion at today's Committee and also potentially on some Capital Programme projects that DSD were supporting.

2.0 Current status

2.1 As outlined above, a proposed budget allocation of just over £20m will be transferring to the Council to cover the transferring regeneration functions (both revenue and capital). A substantial amount of this has been will be required to support ongoing neighbourhood renewal (revenue) projects while other money from the allocation has to be set aside for the Lagan, asset related expenditure and to cover staffing costs. This level of commitment to existing activity leaves a very limited potential to support physical / capital projects development. Specifically at least around £15m is

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required in terms of revenue spending, £2.5m for the Laganside assets and almost £2m staffing costs leaving minimal capital expenditure.

2.2 DSD officials have shared their long lists of proposed capital projects for funding under Neighbourhood Renewal and Public Realm/Environmental Improvement Schemes with Council officials. The proposed commitment under Neighbourhood Renewal Capital alone is over £10million for project costs up to 16/17 whilst there is nearly £40million of potential Public Realm/Environmental Impact schemes, based on initial outline budgets. This excludes any commitment to Masterplans, Strategic projects etc.

2.3 It is clear that the transferring budget allocation is significantly less than the financial commitment required to progress all the physical projects currently being developed or proposed by DSD. In the context of the proposed Allocation Model settlement and the initial levels of projected budget commitments the scope for the Council to carry out physical projects will be limited. The Council will not be in a position to continue the investment at the current levels or deliver the numbers of projects that help enhance quality of life, reanimate the city and attract investment and economic activity and will require Members to take some challenging prioritisation decisions. This paper is to assist DSD in making a realistic bid for monies this year and a further paper will be going to the Shadow SP&R in regard to potential additional transition funding and addressing some large projects via regional funding.

3.0 Neighbourhood Renewal Capital Projects – Proposed prioritisation

3.1 There are a number of DSD projects that the Council needs to consider now to ensure that budgets are confirmed and to maximise links with other funding streams, particularly those where the Council has an interest or where they relate to citywide strategic projects.

3.2 Council officers have considered the detailed list of proposed Neighbourhood Renewal Capital projects and have categorised and assessed these on a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) basis to reflect their potential and to highlight what stage they have reached– on the basis of:

1. Projects which are likely to be completed by March 2015 and will have no ongoing implications for the Council
2. Projects which may have implications for the Council post 2015 but where there is overlap with emerging Council supported projects including potential BIF/LIF/SIF projects; and

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3. Projects which are not developed enough to incur any significant expenditure by DSD this year and therefore no investment decision is possible / required at this stage.

A more detailed explanation of the RAG status and how this was awarded is outlined in appendix 1.

4.0 1. Projects which should be completed by March 2015

- 4.1 On the basis of the information and discussions to date with DSD officials, the following existing BCC projects in Table 1 should be completed with all spend committed by the by end of MARCH 2015 and therefore should have no ongoing implications for the Council. A risk always remains that schemes will not finish on time with a potential liability for Council.

Table 1 – Projects which should complete by March 2015

Area	Project	Description	Total Cost	DSD 14/15	Other funding	RAG
West	Sarsfields GAC	Site development works	£160k	£80,000	LIF - £80k	
North	Girdwood Park	Infrastructure Works	£11.7m	£6,200,000	BCC-SEUPB	
Centre	Lagan Weir	Footbridge Replacement	£3.68m	£3,680,000	Lagan River Study/ Gateway	
DSD COMMITMENT 14/15				£9,880,000		

- 4.2 Members are asked to note however, that although the assumption is that none of these projects will have an impact on the Council post March 2015, there is always the possibility as with any capital project that they may be delays in procurement and/or unforeseen circumstances that will have an impact on the delivery timescale. Members are asked to note therefore that a risk assessment on the potential for slippage is currently underway in conjunction with DSD to ascertain the potential implications for the 2015/16 financial year and ways to offset this risk.
- 4.3 Members are also asked to note that discussions are ongoing at Ministerial level in respect of transitional arrangements in respect of

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projects that may have an implication post 2015. This will include the potential for a transition funding which could address the expectations and challenges identified in 2.3 above and will be reported to the Shadow SP&R Committee.

- 4.4** Members are asked to note that a number of projects which could potentially result in financial commitments beyond March 2015 have been identified and that these therefore may have a subsequent capital implication for the Council (further agreement will also be required from Shadow Committee). As part of the baseline process DSD had profiled potential expenditure on a number of projects beyond 31st March 2015. However, under LGR restrictions DSD cannot commit to funding projects post 2015 without the agreement of the appropriate Council. The projects below (Tables 2, 3 & 4) have been identified as overlapping with emerging Council supported projects including LIF, potential BIF and SIF projects. DSD have sought confirmation that these projects can be progressed now and that these will form part of the Council's forward work programme in order to enable the continuation of developmental activity and to provide continuity in ongoing physical investment across the city.

Table 2 – BCC Projects Included in DSD June Monitoring Round Bid

Area	Description	Description	Total Cost	DSD 14/15	Other Funder	RAG
West	Cluain Ard community facility	Refurbishment and upgrade	£360k	£90,000	£75,000 LIF (through DD) DCAL, CISTE	
West	St Mary's CBS	Pitch development	£1.4m	£600,000	BIF – Not yet agreed	
POTENTIAL DSD COMMITMENT				£690,000		

Table 3 – Projects Potentially Funded from Slippage if Deliverable 2014/15

Area	Description	Description			Other Funder	RAG
South	FASA (Shaftesbury Sq)	Refurbishment of new premises	£350k	£200,000	£150,000 LIF SIF 0 for a wider project – not approved	
Shankill	N I Alternatives	Relocation to Woodvale Road	£180k	£180,000	N/A	
East	Ballymac Friendship Trust	Refurbishment of existing centre	£200K	£200,000	Project is in for SIF for a new build project	
West	Frank Gillen Centre	Expansion of parking area and EI scheme.	£50k	£50,000	Linked to LIF & West Intervention	

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West	Whiterock Community centre	Creation of new public space, play area and MUGA	Up to max	£618,000	Capital Prog	
POTENTIAL DSD COMMITMENT				£1,248,000		

Table 4 – Projects not included in DSD Bid Proposal

Area	Description	Description			Other Funder (Potential)	RAG
West	St John's Bosco	Refurbishment and upgrade of facility on Conway Street			Sport NI Special Boxing Fund	
North	North Belfast WISP	Refurbishment of existing facility			LIF SIF	
North	Westland Community Group	Replacement of temporary community facility building.			LIF SIF	
South	Stranmillis Gateway	Bridge and lock			BIF – Not yet agreed	
West	Davitts GAC	Sports facility			BCC	
West	Radio Failte	Irish language radio station			BCC Ciste/DCAL	
Shankill	Welcome Church	Community			BCC	
North	Midland Boxing Club	Boxing club			BCC/DCAL	
Shankill	St Andrews	Community			BCC	

4.5 The above information is based on information received from DSD at the time of writing. Council Officers believe some further movement may be possible re the status of the projects with DSD. However, there is very limited time to agree a definitive list with DSD if a June monitoring round bid is to be made and money secured. Members are asked to agree that Council Officers work with DSD on the basis of the above tables and try and get as big a commitment as possible. Obviously a number of projects will not be funded by DSD and Members now need to think through future priorities and how they might be funded given Council's upcoming regeneration role. This may include changes to the LIF/BIF funding regimes which is also highlighted in the Area Working paper.

5.0 Other proposed Neighbourhood Renewal projects

5.1 Members should be aware that the tables in this report relate only to projects linked to Council funding and the DSD bid will include a number of other projects both in Belfast and in the incoming areas, although a lot of these are related to public realm works.

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5.2 There are also a number of proposed Neighbourhood Renewal capital projects on DSD's lists for which there is no requirement for an immediate decision as the projects are not yet developed up enough to incur expenditure by DSD within the current financial year. Members are asked to note that DSD will not be able to develop these projects to a stage where significant expenditure is possible and if ANY of these projects are progressed now any associated capital implications will be the responsibility of the Council. It is therefore recommended that none of these projects are progressed in the interim and that these be further considered in the context of the Council policy or priorities that may define a Forward Work Plan for physical projects for post 2015, which will take account of affordability limits for investment going forward.

6.0 Public Realm/Environmental Improvement Projects

6.1 Members are asked to note that DSD are continuing work on a range of Public Realm/Environmental Schemes (PREI) which are all due to complete by the end of March 2015. A list of these is attached at Appendix B. No decisions are required on these projects as work is currently underway and there should be no financial implications for the Council post March 2015.

6.2 In addition to these, 21 other PREI schemes have been worked up by DSD. Most of them have been worked up to design Stage C and initial consultation has been undertaken on a number of them. DSD are continuing to work the other schemes up to this stage. However Members are asked to note that none of these schemes are contractually committed for delivery. These PREI schemes have an estimated cost of over £37million between now and 2016/17 if they were progressed. This is only for delivery – Members should note that there may also be an ongoing maintenance implication from these types of projects.

6.3 This would have significant capital consequences for the Council and it is therefore recommended that the Council does not commit to any of the PREI schemes that could potentially have an implication post 2015 as the Director of Finance & Resources is unable at this stage to confirm that these schemes would be within the affordability limits of the Council given the ongoing rate calculations and outcome of the rate setting process. It is therefore proposed that whilst these schemes MAY be considered once available funding has been clarified (post 2015 and in the context of the Council's forward work plan for physical projects) an appropriate policy frameworks for prioritising these schemes will be required. Members are asked if they agree with this proposed recommendation.

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7.0 Masterplans

7.1 Members are asked to note that a range of Masterplans will also transfer over from DSD. While some of these may need to be revisited given the time which has elapsed from their publication others are more recent and have a Delivery Executive and/or an Implementation governance structure in place including for example the recently formed DSD/BCC Delivery Executive for Glen 10, a proposed implementation delivery structure for the Greater Ballysillan Masterplan while project boards are also currently in place for the Queen's Quay project, Shaftesbury Square, South West Gateway etc which raises expectations that projects are going to be delivered. However Members are asked to note that no specific DSD funding has been profiled against the implementation of these Masterplans. It is envisaged that the range of masterplans will need to be reconsidered in the context of the Council's new Planning / Community Planning processes going forward

8.0 Urban Development Grants (UDGs)

8.1 Members will be aware that DSD currently funds a range of projects under its Urban Development Grants funding stream. These are discretionary grants used for promoting job creation, inward investment and environmental improvement by developing vacant or underused sites.

8.2 The current total expenditure profile on UDGs from now to 2016/17 is just over £4million. Again there is no direct associated budget line for these. 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. Members are asked to note that the application process for Urban Development Grants (UDG's) remains open and DSD are continuing to deal with new applications.

8.3 It is therefore proposed that a recommendation is made that this funding stream is closed to new applications from now and that the Members are asked to note that UDG is a discretionary funding stream and as such the Council has no obligation to continue with it post transfer. Further consideration can be given to the reinstatement of such funding as circumstances allow in future years.

9.0 Equality Implications

This would have been considered by DSD and proposals are based on finance and deliverability given the short period left before March 2015.

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10.0 Recommendations

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

Overall

- note that the funding allocation which is transferring across from DSD does not match the levels of financial commitment required to progress all the physical projects currently underway or proposed by DSD and that this will require Members to take some challenging prioritisation decisions.

Neighbourhood Renewal Capital Projects

Projects due to complete by 31st March 2015

- note that a risk assessment on the potential for slippage/over run of these types of projects is underway with DSD to ascertain the potential implications for post March 2015.
- Agree that Council Officers work with DSD on the basis of projects identified in Tables 2, 3 & 4 to maximise DSD expenditure in Belfast as much as possible for 2014/15. There will be no definite list of projects until DSD monitoring bid is completed.

Public Realm/Environmental Improvement (PREI) projects

- note that there a number of schemes currently underway which are due to complete by March 15
- Note that over 20 other PREI schemes have been worked up by DSD but that none of these are contractually committed for delivery
- agree that the Council does not commit to any of the proposed PREI schemes that could potentially have an implication post 2015 as these would have significant implications for the Council and the Director of Finance & Resources is unable at this stage to confirm that these schemes would be within the affordability limits of the Council.
- It is proposed that these schemes MAY be considered once available funding has been clarified (post 2015 and in the context of the Council's new capital

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programme) and the appropriate policy frameworks for prioritising these schemes are agreed

Masterplans

- **note that there are a number of project boards and delivery structures in place for existing Masterplans which raises expectations that projects will be delivered but that no specific DSD funding has been profiled against the implementation of these Masterplan**
- **these will have to be reconsidered in the context of the Council's new Planning / Community Planning processes going forward**

Urban Development Grants (UDGs)

- **agree if a recommendation is made to DSD at a Ministerial level that this funding stream is closed to new applications from now on and that the ongoing liabilities associated with this funding stream up to now remain with DSD"**

During discussion, the Members expressed the need to put pressure on the Department for Social Development in relation to the Transitional allocation model for funding and to seek to have additional mechanisms for accessing further funds for capital projects in Belfast. A further Member expressed the urgency of completing the proposal papers referred to in the report and requested that those be presented to the Members at the earliest opportunity.

In response the Chief Executive Designate explained that the Proposal papers had almost been completed, however, as they were being developed it had become clear that additional work on economic returns would be required to be undertaken and that the papers would be completed by the end of the month so that a meeting could take place with the Minister (DSD) as soon as possible.

After further discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendations as set out in paragraph 5 of the report and paragraph 10 of the appendix.

Neighbourhood Renewal Projects

Area Working Update

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

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“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. The final decisions on what projects to invest in under BIF lies with the SP&R Committee.
- 1.2 It is recommended that this report is read in conjunction with the report on DSD projects which is also on the agenda for discussion at Committee today as these are closely interlinked.

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 is attached at Appendix 1. Members have previously agreed an approval process for all BIF projects which reflects the Stage Approval process that all capital projects must go through whereby decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R Committee in its role as investment decision maker.
- 2.2 Members will recall that a detailed report on area working was taken to SP&R in March 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.
- 2.3 Importantly Members will also 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. Members will be aware that DSD funding will cease to exist next March and this will have an impact on the match funding requirement. There are a number of projects where DSD are identified as a potential funder and where funding has been profiled in principle but not yet committed.
- 2.4 In April SP&R Committee agreed to move a number of BIF projects to Stage 2 (development of an OBC) due to their state of readiness, potential funding being available etc. These included Stranmillis Gateway (part of the wider Lagan Corridor project), St. Comgall's and the development of a pitch at St. Mary's CBS. Members are asked to note that two of these projects are dependent on securing DSD in

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order to meet the BIF criteria of securing 50% match funding and DSD have asked for confirmation from the Council that these projects will be part of the Council's forward work plan in order to bid for funding for these projects -

Project	Project details	Overall Cost	BIF funding sought	Match funding
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 - £600k – not secured St. Mary's - £200k
Stranmillis Gateway (part of the Lagan Corridor project)	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 £1m DSD £80k

However there are a number of issues which Members are asked to consider in relation to these projects. These are outlined below

2.7 St. Mary's CBS Pitch Development

Members are asked to note that:

- The St. Mary's proposal is dependent on receiving £600k from DSD. At the moment this money is not yet committed. DSD have indicated that they could bid for this money if they get commitment from the Council that this project will be part of the Council's Forward Work Plan (*Members are asked to refer to the 'DSD –Capital Project Update report' which is also on the agenda for discussion today*)
- The Council would look to front-load DSD monies on this project, however if the 600k from DSD is not spent by the end of March 2015 then this will have implications for the 50% match funding criteria of BIF
- DSD have indicated that one of their likely conditions of funding will be that the Council deliver this project due to the limited capacity of the school to do this.

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This will have resource implications for the Council in terms of overall project delivery.

- Planning permission is in place for this however there needs to be further work in terms of design. The delivery programme will need to be tested to see if £600k of work can be delivered in time for the end of March deadline. Members are asked to note that the delivery timescale for this project is already tight and this is without the possibility of any procurement challenges and/or any other unforeseen circumstances which could delay the delivery timeline – again if this was delayed this would have an impact on the match funding requirement
- a key component of this project will be to develop a secured community access agreement for the facility – this is not yet in place and will require further consultation with the school, Parks & Leisure Department and Legal Services.
- The trustees of the school have written asking that BCC undertake delivery and stating that they are keen to work with BCC/DSD to restore the above issues.

2.5 Stranmillis Gateway

Members are asked to note that -

- The Stranmillis Gateway project is not currently at a state of readiness where it can be delivered. Work is currently underway on an Economic Appraisal and working up detailed design in order to allow the project to be fully costed.
- DSD have indicated that they would be happy to fund the costs of these pieces of work. At the moment this money is not yet committed. DSD have indicated that they could bid for this money if they get commitment from the Council that this project will be part of the Council's Forward Work Plan (*Members are asked to refer to the 'DSD –Capital Project Update report' which is also on the agenda for discussion today*).
- Members are asked to note that it is envisaged that both the EA and the design work for this project will be completed by the Autumn time and so it is likely that the DSD monies (if secured) could all be spent this year

2.8 Members are therefore asked to -

- consider if they agree IN PRINCIPLE that the above projects can be progressed – Members are asked to note that this will dependent on getting confirmation from DSD that monies can be secured for these projects and that all monies can be committed and

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spent this year – particularly in the case of St. Mary's CBS where if this cannot be committed then this will have implications for the 50% match funding criteria

- note that in the case of the St. Mary's CBS project that this will commit the Council to a £600k investment under BIF – again it is stressed that this would be contingent on getting confirmation from DSD that their monies can be secured and
- note that the St. Mary's CBS project would be required to be delivered by the Council and that there are a number of other outstanding issues to be resolved in terms of this project ie community access agreement.

2.9 Members are asked to note that work is continuing on the development of the OBC for St. Comgall's and that the Council is working closely with Falls Community Council and OFMDFM on this project.

3.0 Belfast Investment Fund – Additional projects

3.1 The East AWG has recommended that an additional project, the development of a new community facility by Bloomfield Community Association, be added to the emerging BIF list. Members are asked to consider if they wish to progress the project as recommended by the East AWG to be moved to Stage 1 (i.e. the development of an SOC) which will test its feasibility in the first instance. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute a final decision to invest in any project.

3.2 An emerging BIF project proposed via the West AWG is for the development of a community facility at Blackmountain however it was not possible for this to be progressed due to land ownership issues. Members are asked to note that the Council has been informed that they may now be opportunity to acquire this land and Members approve is sought to authorise officers to enter into negotiations to acquire this land using BIF funding.

4.0 Belfast Investment Fund – Going forward

4.1 As outlined above, the Council will become the regeneration authority for the city from 1st April 2015 taking over responsibility for this function from DSD. DSD funding was a key mechanism for many projects for securing the 50% match funding which is required under the current BIF criteria. Members are also aware that the Council's boundary is changing which will see it take in additional 50,000 people. There is a need for the Council to start planning in terms of investment for the new enhanced geographical boundaries of the Council. At present none of the current proposed BIF proposals are within the new boundaries of the enhanced city council area.

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- 4.2 Members will also appreciate that many of the BIF projects which have been proposed have not been given a strategic context nor detailed their overall benefit at a city wide level. Under LGR the Council will also become responsible for developing a community plan for the city and as part of this the new Transformational Committee will be looking at the roles, responsibilities and governance arrangements for the new Area Working Groups. Furthermore, future DSD regeneration funding to BCC will be allocated in line with community plans and regeneration policy.
- 4.3 Members will also be aware that all LIF is due to complete at the end of the current Council term (end of March 2015). LIF has been a key mechanism for helping Members engage at a local level and for helping to progress smaller neighbourhood projects. There will be further slippage in LIF spending as some joint projects with DSD do not go forward.
- 4.4 In light of the above and the changing context of local government roles and responsibilities and the new areas, Members are asked to consider if it is now timely to look at the objectives and criteria of BIF and consider if there is scope for BIF and LIF to be realigned with future DSD funding as a neighbourhood regeneration fund in the future. Members are asked to note that if they agree to this that further consultation and work with Members will be undertaken in the coming months

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 – St. Mary’s CBS pitch project and Stranmillis Gateway

- consider if they agree IN PRINCIPLE that the above projects can be progressed – Members are asked to note that this will depend on getting confirmation from DSD that their monies can be secured and also that their monies can be committed and spent this year – particularly in the case of St. Mary’s CBS where if this cannot be committed then this will have implications for the 50% match funding criteria.
- St. Mary’s – note that this will commit the Council to a £600k investment under BIF – again it is stressed that this would be contingent on getting confirmation from

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DSD that their £600K can be secured and committed by end of March 15

- **note however that this project would be required to be delivered by the Council and that the delivery programme for this project (in order to get £600k worth of work completed by end of March) is already very tight**

Belfast Investment Fund – Additional projects

- **consider if they wish to progress the project as recommended by the East Area Working Group (new community facility for Bloomfield Community Association) to be moved to Stage 1 (development of an SOC) which will test its feasibility in the first instance**
- **agree if they wish to authorise officers to enter into negotiations to acquire land at Blackmountain**

Belfast Investment Fund – Going forward

- **Consider if, in the context of the Council becoming the regeneration authority from 1st April 2015, its new role as being responsible for developing a community plan for the city and its enhanced boundaries, that the objectives and criteria of BIF should be re-examined and consider the scope for BIF and LIF to be repackaged as a wider neighbourhood regeneration fund. Members are asked to note that if they agree to this that further consultation and work with Members will be undertaken in the coming months.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Notice of Motion – Real Jobs

The Committee was reminded that on 6th January the following Notice of Motion had been considered by the Council:

“This Council recognises the increasing social and economic hardship experienced by people in our communities as a result of growing unemployment and cuts to welfare benefits. The Council accepts that it has a duty to use the powers available to it (including but not limited to planning, regulation and procurement powers), to generate positive outcomes for the most marginalised in our communities and hereby commits to including at every available opportunity a ‘Real Jobs’ clause in contracts tendered by the Council to procure goods, services and capital works. The ‘Real Jobs’ clause will guarantee ring fenced, fully paid jobs and apprenticeships for the long-term unemployed (12+ months).”

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The motion had been referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee when it had been agreed that a report on the matter should be submitted in due course. The Director of Property and Projects explained that, since January, a number of actions had been undertaken in order to progress the Real Jobs motion, these had included:

- The Standards of existing social causes had been amended to reflect the requirement of the motion as opportunities arose;
- The intent of the motion had been captured in capital works tenders for the Waterfront Hall, Connswater Greenway Phase II, the Innovations Centre, the Girdwood Hub and the Olympia Leisure Centre;
- 1226 employment weeks have been secured in upcoming contracts which had been ring-fenced entirely for people who had been out of work for over 12 months; and
- Employment weeks were used as that ensured contractors were required to fulfil the minimum number of weeks, whereas, by specifying job numbers there was not the same certainty about duration of employment.

He pointed out that issues remained with the apprenticeships aspects of contracts as there was often a mismatch between contract duration and the length of time taken to complete an apprenticeship. However, officers were currently looking at models of how that had been addressed elsewhere, for example, in Manchester. Another consideration was the need to comply with the requirement of partners/funders in respect of contractual matters, and again, ways of dealing with that issue were being explored.

The Director of Property and Projects stated that work was under way to develop a social clauses policy which would include addressing the issues set out and which would improve also consideration of the "living wage" proposal which had been agreed by the Council earlier in the year. A full report on progress would be submitted to the Committee in September. As a direct employer the Council had made considerable progress in respect to supporting people into employment, including the long-term unemployed. Over the past two years the Council had:

- Delivered 601 job opportunities and provided 526 work experience placements;
- Ring-fenced five permanent administrative posts to the long-term unemployed/economically inactive and provided a two week pre-employment programme for 40 long-term unemployed/economically inactive participants to help them apply for the 5 ring-fenced posts;

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- Delivered a similar programme for seasonal cleansing operative positions, inviting 30 people to participate and helping them apply for five ring-fenced posts;
- Provided 16 one year paid industrial placements for students at local universities;
- Created 10 new Apprenticeships;
- Committed £300,000 to a bursary scheme to help those aged 16-24 into further education, training and employment and awarded approximately £93,000 to date to 432 young people; and
- Part funded European Social Fund funded programmes which had resulted in 1,551 people gaining recognised qualifications/accreditation and 604 people moving into employment.

The Council had been recognised recently for its work in supporting the long-term unemployed by the Business in the Community Organisation when it had received a Northern Ireland Impact Award.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Corporate Plan and Performance Management

Annual Report 2013/2014

The Committee was reminded that on an annual basis the Council produced a Corporate Plan which outlined its priority actions for the coming year. Departmental plans were developed also which provided details on how those priorities would be delivered through key services and projects. In 2012 the Council had produced also an Investment Programme which outlined the Council's commitments to developing the City and supporting the local economy up to 2015. The Annual Report provided an update on how the organisation had performed against all those plans during 2013/2014.

The Committee approved the contents of the Annual Report for 2013/2014.

Democratic Services and Governance

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

(Councillor Jones left the meeting whilst this item was under consideration.)

The Committee considered the undernoted requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality:

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Organisation/ Body	Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests	Request	Comments	Recommendation
ASTM International	ASTM International Committee Conference Reception and Dinner 24th September, 2014 Approximately 40 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £200
Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland Cancer Registry	Cancer Conference 2014 Welcome to Belfast Reception and Dinner 8th June, 2015 Approximately 500 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500
Queen's University Belfast	21st Annual Meeting of Society in Europe for Simulation Applied to Medicine 25th June, 2015 Approximately 600 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the conference will take place within the city. This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks Approximate cost £500

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Mediation Northern Ireland	Roma Parenting and Employability Award Ceremony 11th July, 2014 Approximately 60 attending	The use of the City Hall	<p>This event would seek to celebrate the achievement of the participants whilst recognising their hard work and commitment to increasing their employability skills.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	The use of the City Hally
Wave Trauma Centre	Trauma Training Learning Pathway Awards 2014 4th September, 2014 Approximately 150 attending	The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	<p>This event seeks to promote the success of those who, due to their experiences during the troubles have returned to education and training through the support of WAVE Trauma Centre.</p> <p>Accredited certificates will be awarded on the night to individuals who have successfully completed Open College Network courses through WAVE.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'Better opportunities for success across the city', 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better services – listening and delivering'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate Cost £375</p>

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Employers for Childcare Charitable Group	<p>Childcare Works Awards 2014</p> <p>24th September, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 100 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 promote the adoption of family friendly working practices and will recognise and reward examples of excellence by businesses and other organisations.</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>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £250</p>
Irish Football Association	<p>Irish FA McDonald's Grassroots Football Awards 2014</p> <p>23rd October, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 150 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	<p>This event seeks to recognise and celebrate all those individuals who have significantly contributed to grassroots football in communities across Northern Ireland. The event will particularly recognise the important role that grassroots football plays in bringing people together to play the game irrespective of race, gender, religion and other barriers which exist within society.</p> <p>The awards will be presented to volunteers, parents, coaches, clubs, caretakers etc who give their time to delivering grassroots football.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City leadership, strong,</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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			fair and together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	
Chartered Institute of Marketing	<p>CIM Ireland Marketing Excellence Awards</p> <p>6th November, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 450 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception	<p>This Awards ceremony seeks to promote the marketing excellence throughout the business community by recognising industry, professional and personal success in marketing and sales.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City leadership, strong, fair and together'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of red/white wine and soft drinks.</p> <p>Approximate cost £500</p>
Flax Trust	<p>Flax Trust Inter-Community Schools Choir Award</p> <p>4th December, 2014</p> <p>Approximately 500 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 inspire communication and integration across the divide. It will provide an opportunity to bring together schools from across North Belfast to demonstrate through music the work which is being carried out to help build cross-community relationships.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key theme of 'City Leadership – strong, fair, together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and in addition would contribute to the Council's thematic area of Children and Young People.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cots £1,250</p>

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<p>The Scout Association</p>	<p>Queen's Scout Award and Chief Scout's Award Certificate Presentation</p> <p>9th January, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 450 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea, coffee and biscuits</p>	<p>This event aims to recognise the achievements of young people who have successfully demonstrated the determination and persistence required to achieve their personal best in terms of effort, commitment and self-reliance.</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>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.</p> <p>Approximate cost £1,125</p>
<p>Chartered Institute of Housing</p>	<p>Chartered Institute of Housing in Northern Ireland Housing Awards 2015</p> <p>27th February, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 250 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p>	<p>This event seeks to recognise the achievements and contribution made by individuals who have contributed to providing affordable housing in thriving and safe communities.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together', Better opportunities for success across the City' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p> <p>Approximate Cost £500</p>

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<p>InterTrade Ireland and The Irish Times</p>	<p>All-Island Innovation Awards 17th April, 2015 Approximately 250 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p>	<p>This event aims to showcase and reward business success and innovation across the island. It will seek to recognise the ground breaking product and service innovations that have an impact on society both economic and social.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and Better opportunities for success across the City'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p> <p>Approximate Cost £500</p>
<p>H&J Martin Limited</p>	<p>H&J Martin Limited 175th Anniversary Dinner 9th October, 2014 Approximately 200 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p>	<p>This event will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the company and their contribution to the life of the City through provision of employment to the citizens of the City. Their reputation for high quality construction has seen the company build the most iconic landmarks in Belfast including the City Hall and the Grand Opera House.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key themes of 'City Leadership, Strong, Fair and Together' and Better opportunities for success across the City'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p> <p>Approximate Cost £500</p>

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<p>Glentoran Community Trust</p>	<p>Vienna Cup Centenary Dinner 1st November, 2014 Approximately 100 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p>	<p>This event will celebrate the centenary of Glentoran winning the Vienna Cup, the first European trophy won by a British team and the only European trophy won by an Irish team. In this decade of centenaries the event will mark that eight members of the winning team were involved in the building of the Titanic and it is also hoped that guests will attend in period costume.</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>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a pre-dinner drinks reception</p> <p>Approximate Cost £500</p>
<p>Organisation of Malayalis in Northern Ireland</p>	<p>'Ponnonam 2014' Celebration Event 7th September, 2014 Approximately 500 attending</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>	<p>Ponnonam 2014 is the celebration of the various cultures within the Indian community for people from the state of Kerala.</p> <p>This programme consists of a series of events which include children's entertainment activities, a special vegetarian lunch and a stage programme showing the talent of the community through song and dance.</p> <p>The aim of the event is to promote cultural diversity and also to</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall</p>

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			<p>forge closer relationships between the Indian community and the citizens of Belfast.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's key themes 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and of 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	
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Additional request

The Committee agreed to the provision of appropriate hospitality for the 36th Ulster Division Commemorative Event on 4th August, 2014.

The Committee adopted the remaining recommendations as set out.

Allowances for the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff

The Committee was reminded that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances for the Lord Mayor, the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff were reviewed annually. The established practice had been that the Personal and Entertainments Allowances should take into account increases in the cost of living by increasing the allowances in line with the Consumer Price Index. The Democratic Services Manager reminded the Committee that, in the last three years, it had considered three options, which were to increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the Consumer Price Index, increase the allowances by a percentage equivalent to the District Rate increase for the year or not to increase the allowances for the year. In the previous three years the Committee had decided not to make any increase in the allowances and, accordingly, the Lord Mayor's Personal and Entertainments Allowances for those years had been maintained at £34,800 and, £25,900 respectively with the Deputy Lord Mayor's and the High Sheriff's Personal and Entertainments Allowances remaining at £6,250 and £735 respectively.

The Committee agreed that the Entertainments Allowances for the Deputy Lord Mayor and the High Sheriff be increased to £1,000 and that no increase be made in the remainder of the Civic Allowances for the year 2014/2015.

Frequency of Meetings

The Committee was reminded that there had been several reports submitted over the past year in order to prepare the organisation for the Shadow Council term which had commenced recently. One of the issues which had been discussed was the call that there would be on Members' time over the period from now until 31st March, 2015 when the existing Term of Office would come to an end. That was

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particularly the case for the 36 Members who were serving both on the existing Council and on the Shadow Council.

The Democratic Services Manager explained that, given that one of the key tasks which the Committee usually spent a considerable amount of time on - namely the discussions around the striking of the District Rate – would this year be a responsibility of the Shadow Council, it was suggested that it might be possible for the existing Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to revert routinely to only holding one meeting each month. He pointed out that officers were currently trying to design a monthly Committee Schedule to incorporate the meetings of the four Shadow Committees into an already busy meeting schedule. It would be important that the schedule of meetings was prepared in such a way as to allow issues which would have to be raised both with the existing Council and with the Shadow Council to happen in an orderly way so that there was not any undue delay in decisions being actioned.

The Committee agreed to revert to a single meeting each month initially for the months of August and September and to review the situation after that time.

Finance/Value-for-Money

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**
- **an update on the communications and engagement activities for capital projects planned for the coming months**

2.0 Relevant Background Information

Capital Programme – Key highlights and Comms Activity - February –May 2014

2.1 Significant progress has been made in the delivery of the capital programme since it was agreed by SP&R Committee. Details of the current status of all Capital Programme projects are attached at Appendix A. Photos of projects are attached at Appendix B. The Property & Projects department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any Council funded capital project.

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2.2 Key highlights since the last quarterly report in February include -

- the completion of the new £680,000 3G pitch in Marrowbone Millennium Park
- the completion of the roll-out of Phase 3 of the Alleygating Programme
- MUGA programme - refurbishment work completed at 6 sites – Finlay Street, Clara Street, Victoria Park, Willowbank, New Lodge and Dover street
- construction work began in April on the new £11.7m Girdwood Hub together with DSD infrastructure works and a new housing development
- Enabling works have commenced on the £29.5million extension to the Waterfront to provide dedicated exhibition and conference facilities
- the opening of the Sam Thompson Bridge in Victoria Park as part of Phase 1 of CCG in April
- the appointment of a contractor for the Public Bike Share Scheme
- work is underway at Drumglass Park
- contract awarded for new pitch at Cliftonville as part of the Bunscoil Ben Mhadign development (subject to legal agreements)
- The Welcome Centre has won two major awards including the '*Best Innovation Award*' at the NITB Tourism Awards and an award at the Royal Society of Ulster Architects Design Awards. The Mary Peter's Track also won the RUSA Design Award in the most contested category.

2.3 Members are asked to note the activity undertaken between February and May in relation to the Capital Programme and the wider Investment Programme including -

- 120 articles placed in local and national media specifically for Investment Programme projects, with 73% generated through proactive activity including a focus on the above projects and; rates freeze for second year in a row; Launch of connection voucher scheme for businesses (Super-connected Belfast) and adoption of living wage
- Ten-page pullout in City Matters magazine (April 2014), reaching 130,000 residents, with detailed case studies and an update on overall progress
- Increase in web traffic, with updates pushed out to almost 400,000 visitors per month
- More social media posts, with Facebook reach now extending to over 100,000 people
- Branded signage installed at high visibility points within capital projects

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- ‘Big Picture’ staff briefing in February 2014, accompanied by regular updates and news items in Intercom, Team Brief, Interlink and TV screens in frontline locations
- Update booklet for elected members, produced ahead of May elections
- A detailed breakdown of all activity is listed in Appendix C, together with an example (Girdwood Hub) of how coverage is generated across our main communications channels.

Key Issues

- 2.4 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.**

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

- 2.4 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 and is advanced to tender preparation stage. Members are asked to note that the costs cited are pre-tender estimates only. These costs will be challenged and assessed at the tender preparation stage.**

Project	Project overview	Proposed Stage	Estimated Gross Cost	Estimated Net cost
Boxer Statues	The design and installation of 3 sculptures in 3 council owned parks across the city which will recognise the contribution of boxing to the city	Stage 3- Tier 1 (Schemes at tender preparation stage)	Up to a max of £247,500	Up to a max of £247,500

Boxer Statues

- 2.5 Members will acknowledge that Belfast has a proud association with the sport of boxing. The city has a long line of amateur and professional champions who have placed Belfast on the**

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international map and represented the city with skill and pride. The scope of the project is the design and installation of three pieces of public art in three locations in the city, specifically:

- Two boxing sculptures, one of the boxer John Caldwell located at Dunville Park and one of Rinty Monaghan located at Buoy Park (Cathedral Gardens) and;
- A boxing themed piece of public art/statue at Woodvale Park to commemorate all boxing heroes of the local area.

- 2.6 The Director of Finance & Resources has recommended that a maximum of £247,500 be allocated to this project for the 3 statues and has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked that officers will continue to proactively explore options for additional match funding for this project in the interim.

3.0 Updates on capital projects

MUGA Programme – Navarra Place

- 3.1 Members will recall that they agreed in January to progress a MUGA Programme. At this stage it was highlighted that a series of condition surveys to inform a rolling programme of refurbishments would be undertaken. Members are asked to note that these are underway and that an update on the MUGA Programme, including a proposed rolling programme for refurbishments, will be brought back to Committee later in the year. In the interim however there is an opportunity for the Council to acquire land at Navarra Place off the Whitewell Rd in Belfast which could be suitable for a MUGA. This land is adjacent to the community centre and an existing playground. Members are therefore asked to give approval to officers to proceed with the acquisition of land at Navarra Place from the NIHE

Fleet Replacement Programme

- 3.2 Members are aware that detailed consultation is underway with Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council in relation to the transfer of assets required on foot of Local Government Reform. In terms of fleet assets, a final list of transferring vehicles has recently been received from both councils, identifying the type and number of assets to be made available. This list includes a number of assets which are quite old, and whose condition might best be characterised as poor. Replacement of these assets will therefore be necessary during the current financial year.

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- 3.3 In addition, Members will be aware that the service levels, standards and processes applied to the current BCC area by Cleansing Services in the delivery of domestic refuse collection and street cleansing could not be delivered using the transferring assets alone, and that consequently there will need to be some additional procurement of assets in order to ensure that service levels to rate-payers in the incoming areas are consistent with those applied elsewhere in the city.
- 3.4 Committee approval is therefore sought to incur expenditure not exceeding £1.7m from non-recurring sources during the 2014/15 financial year in order to ensure that all necessary fleet resources are in place by vesting day, 1st April 2015. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Approval is also sought to initiate the necessary procurement processes and for the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects.

ERDF funded projects – update

- 3.5 Members will be aware that a key component of the Investment Programme was a number of projects which were designed to enhance the city's economic infrastructure. These projects were subject to securing funding from ERDF and the tight timescales for the delivery of these projects has been previously highlighted to Members as all ERDF monies need to be committed and spent by the end of 2015. Members will recall that they previously agreed in June 2013 that these projects would remain at '*Stage 3 – Tier 0 Scheme*' (Schemes at Risk) on the Capital Programme until a letter of offer was received but that in recognition of the tight timescales that they should be progressed to tender stage on the basis that no construction contracts will be awarded until an LOO was received
- 3.6 Members are asked to note that Council officials have been proactively working on a daily basis with officials from InvestNI to facilitate the information needed for the Economic Appraisals for these projects to try and secure the LOOs. This has involved intensive officer time on the collation, analysis and presentation of vast amounts of information back to InvestNI. An update on the current status of the ERDF funded projects is outlined below for Members consideration. To date a letter of offer has only been received for the Waterfront project with the rest still to be received.

North Foreshore - Infrastructure to develop a Green Economy Business Park

- 3.7 It is understood that the North Foreshore project has been signed off by the InvestNI Board and is currently with DFP for final sign-

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off. It is anticipated that the letter of offer should be forwarded to the Council by the end of June. Members will be updated at Committee if the LOO is received by the Committee date. A design team has been procured and work is progressing on this project.

Innovation Centre

- 3.8 A letter of offer is not yet in place for the Innovation centre proposal however it is understood that this may be received in the coming weeks. Members are asked to note that work has been progressing and that the tenders for this project are due to be returned in July. An update on this project will therefore be taken to Committee in August.

Creative Hub

- 3.9 Members will recall that they granted approval in February to the acquisition of a building at 19-21 Donegall street to be refurbished to provide premises for the proposed Creative Hub project. This approval was however subject to a letter of offer being in place for the project. This acquisition was due to complete by the start of July. However Members are asked to note that the Economic Appraisal process for this project has been extremely protracted and is still ongoing with the EA process now not due to complete until at least mid July. This will mean it will be at least the late Summer before a letter of offer will be forthcoming. This will have a consequential impact on the timescale to complete the acquisition of the proposed premises and discussions are ongoing with the landlord to seek an extension to the July deadline. Members will be verbally updated of the current status of these negotiations at Committee on 19th.

Belfast Waterfront Conference and Exhibition facilities

- 3.10 Members will recall that in January the Council received a LOO for £18.5million towards the £29.5million extension of the Waterfront to provide dedicated conference and exhibition facilities. As outlined in 2.2 above enabling works for the project are currently underway. Members are asked to note that the tender for the contract for the main works for the Waterfront project are due to be evaluated by 17th June and a verbal update on the outcome of this tender process will be given at Committee at its meeting on the 19th.

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 next quarter (where already planned).

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- Community Information Day at Girdwood Hub – 17 June 2014
- Belfast: Future City conference – 20 June 2014
- Capital investment into school pitches – June 2014
- Award of contract for Belfast Waterfront Conference and Exhibition Centre and start of work on site – end June/early September 2014
- Reopening of Drumglass Park – end June 2014
- Launch of Pitches Strategy – June/July 2014
- Appointment of contractor for Phase 2 of CCG and completion of Phase 1 works – August 2014
- Start of work at Tropical Ravine – Autumn 2014

5.0 Recommendations

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

- Boxer Statues - agree if the proposed Boxer Statues 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. Members are asked to note that the Director of Finance & Resources has recommended that up to £247,500 is the maximum amount available to this project.

Project Updates

MUGA programme

- Note that an update on the MUGA Programme, including a proposed rolling programme for refurbishments, will be brought back to Committee later in the year and that in the interim there is an opportunity for the Council to acquire land at Navarra Place which could be suitable for a MUGA. Members are therefore asked to give approval to officers to proceed with the acquisition of land at Navarra Place from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Fleet Replacement Programme

- Committee approval is sought to incur expenditure not exceeding £1.7m from non-recurring sources during the 2014/15 financial year in order to ensure that all necessary fleet resources to facilitate service

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convergence are in place by 1st April. The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.

- Approval is also sought to initiate the necessary procurement processes and for the delegation of subsequent evaluation and award processes to the Director of Property & Projects.

ERDF funded projects

- note the updates presented in relation to the ERDF funded projects and that verbal updates will be given to Committee on the position in relation to the acquisition of premises at Donegall Street for the Creative Hub and the tender in relation to the Waterfront

Communication and Engagement – Capital Programme projects

- Note that communications and engagement activity which is planned over the coming months.”

The committee adopted the recommendations.

Financial Reporting – Quarter 4 2013/2014

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

“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 18 June 2010 that:

- The Council would produce financial reporting packs for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and each Standing Committee on a quarterly basis
- The Budget and Transformation Panel would also receive monthly financial updates if there were any significant issues to report.

1.2 The reporting pack contains a summary dashboard of the financial indicators and an executive summary explaining the financial performance. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators covering outturn for the year, implications for reserves, payment of creditors and recovery of debt. The reporting of procurement compliance to members was introduced as part of the quarterly financial reporting from quarter 1 2012/2013.

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1.3 The style and layout of the financial reporting pack reflects the discussion and feedback arising from the Members' financial training at the end of September 2010.

1.4 Central Finance and departmental management teams have worked together to develop the information within the reporting packs.

2.0 Key Issues

2.1 Financial Outturn 2013/14

The year end financial position for the Council is an under-spend of £366k (0.3%), which is well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

2.2 As in Quarter 3, the key elements of the under-spend relate to savings in employee costs through unfilled posts and the receipt of additional income primarily within Building Control relating to regulation certificates, entertainment licenses and property certificates. The outturn figure includes £286k of expenditure which was previously classified as capital.

2.3 LPS Rates Finalisation

The year end outturn as reported by LPS is a positive settlement to BCC of £1.667m. The main reason for the positive settlement was a slight growth in the domestic rate base and the positive outcome of the vacant rating inspections undertaken by the Building Control Service. Non Domestic rates income remained static as the additional income from the vacant property inspections helped offset the slight decline in the non-domestic rate base of the City.

2.4 Finance Officers have been working will be working with LPS and the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV) to validate the rate base for the new Council. This will be a key element of the district rate setting process for 2015/16.

2.5 Capital Financing

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

2.6 Capital Expenditure

In the twelve months to 31 March 2014 the Council incurred net expenditure of £6.56m on capital schemes. In addition £5.22m of levered monies was also spent on capital schemes during the year bringing the gross capital expenditure to £11.78m for 2013/14. Non-recurring project expenditure was £1.2m against a budget of £957k,

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with the over spend due to slippage in 2012/13 schemes which were brought forward to 2013/14.

2.7 Reserves Position

At the year end the Council had specified reserves of £7.3m and General Reserves at the end of 2013/14 will sit at £14.27m. However as reported to the Committee in April 2014, the Voluntary Redundancy exercise has been completed as part of the Leisure Transformation Programme. At this stage it is too early to confirm the total VR costs, but it is recommended that members ear mark the year end outturn under spend and the rates finalisation amount to finance the cost of the voluntary redundancies and leisure pension costs. When the final VR and pension costs are confirmed these will reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

2.8 Investment Programme

Committed expenditure approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the 3 year Capital Programme stands at £39.7m, leaving £35.3m of schemes within the 3 year programme at the uncommitted or emerging project stage. A separate report, which will be considered at this meeting, provides an update on the physical progress of projects within the Capital Programme.

2.9 Belfast Investment Fund

At the 31 March 2014 the Belfast Investment Fund stood at £19.2m with a forecast balance of £22m by the end of 2014/15, excluding any additional capital receipts processed during 2014/15.

2.10 Local Investment Fund

Committed expenditure on LIF projects at the year-end totals £4.8m, leaving a balance of £0.2k in the Local Investment Fund.

2.11 Levered Monies

The amount of levered external funding for the Investment Programme which has been agreed in principal increased to £69.9m at the year-end, with £49.8m of these funds confirmed through letters of offer.

2.12 Other Financial Indicators

58.8% of debt was collected within 30 days which was slightly below the target of 60.0% while debt under 90 days old represented 62.7% of total debt as compared to the target of 65.0%. However

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total debt reduced to £3.7m compared to last year's position of £4.2m.

2.13 The average number of creditors paid within 28 days for 2013/14 was 85.8% which was above the target of 85.0% and represented an increase of over 5% during the year. Work continues in this area to meet the Investment Programme commitment of 90% of creditors paid within 28 days by 2014/15.

2.14 Treasury Management

The year-end Treasury Management report has also been circulated.

3.0 Resource Implications

3.1 The year end outturn was an under spend of £366k (0.3%) and general reserves are £14.27m.

4.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

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

5.0 Recommendations

- Members are also asked to note the above report and associated financial reporting pack
- Members approve the ear marking of the year end outturn and the positive rates settlement to finance the voluntary redundancies and leisure pension costs arising from the leisure transformation programme."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Annual Report from the Audit Panel

(Alderman Rogers, Chairman of the Audit Panel, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee noted the contents of a report and the comments of Alderman Rogers in relation to the annual report from the Audit Panel.

Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Panel

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Panel of 10th June.

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Assurance Framework

The Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Committee that the Council was required to produce a complex set of draft accounts for external audit review and, in support of that, to produce an Annual Government Statement which described the Council's governance arrangements and the process for monitoring their effectiveness. He submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which outlined the key elements of the year-end process and the Assurance Framework which the Council had developed over recent years to help ensure that the Council complied with statutory requirements and that Members and senior officers could have effective, ongoing oversight of the Council's governance and assurance arrangements.

The Committee noted the contents of the Council's Assurance Framework.

Belfast City Council Financial Accounts 2013/2014

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the Financial Accounts of the council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for 2013/2014.

The Financial Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

The Financial Report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/14 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 11/14 dated 7th April 2014.

I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department of the Environment and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

The Financial Report includes the Councils Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2013/14, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by Department of the Environment (DOE), NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.

Specifically the AGS sets out:

- **scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance**

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(£8,031,207) which has been set up to repay interest only loans relating to housing stock that transferred to the NIHE. The NIHE currently pay principal and interest on these loans to BCC, with the sinking fund being to repay the principal on maturity.

Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased steadily over the previous 6 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £3.7m at 31 March 2014. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2013	31 March 2014
Less than three months	£3,015,062	£2,339,223
Three to six months	£84,508	£236,153
Six months to one year	£226,735	£302,390
More than one year	£883,437	£854,286
Total	4,209,742	£3,732,052

Creditors

The Department of the Environment has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 60,395 invoices totalling £110,577,429

The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 23 days for the year ended 31 March 2014.

The Council paid 25,026 invoices within 10 days, 51,048 invoices within 30 days, and 9,347 invoices outside of 30 days.

The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process. Payment timescales are also monitored and reported to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on a regular basis.

Annual Governance Statement

The disclosures within the Annual Governance Statement were arrived at after considering the Council's corporate risk register, significant events / issues and the disclosures made by Chief Officers in their individual assurance statements. The significant governance issues for the Council have been considered by the Audit Panel and relate to the following:

- meeting the challenges presented by Local Government Reform;
- failure to sustain and enhance the rate base and manage the rate setting process for the Shadow Council;

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- **failure to attract EU / other external funding and manage and deliver designated capital projects within deadlines and in compliance with funding requirements;**
- **delivery of the Leisure Transformation Programme;**
- **Peace III project;**
- **external fraud risk; and**
- **whistleblowing.**

Resource Implications

Financial

None

Human Resources

None

Asset and Other Implications

None

Recommendation

The Committee is requested to approve the Council's financial accounts and report, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the year ended 31st March, 2014."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Health and Safety Policies and Procedures

The Committee approved the revised Health and Safety Policy and the Health and Safety Responsibilities Code of Practice, copies of which would be made available on the Council's website.

Minutes Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel of 12th June.

Request for Funding – Common Purpose Belfast

The Committee was advised that a request for financial assistance in the sum of £6,000 had been received from Common Purpose Belfast in connection with its 2014 Navigator programme. The money would be used to offer three part-funded places on its Programme for emerging leaders from non-profit organisations in Belfast. Last year the Council's contribution had been used to fund participants from Cancer Focus, Opportunity Youth and African Caribbean Support Organisation Northern Ireland. The programme was designed to draw together local leaders, emerging leaders and senior managers from all walks of life who could potentially play a role in shaping the

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future of Belfast. The Council had supported Common Purpose Belfast since its inception in 1996.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that the application could be considered in the context of Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which provided the Council with discretionary powers to consider agreeing to the request for financial assistance. He indicated that the application met the criteria for the funding in that regard.

Accordingly, it was

Resolved – That expenditure in the sum of £6,000 be approved for the aforementioned Programme under Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, it being the opinion of the Committee 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 benefits so accruing would be commensurate with the payment being made.

The Committee agreed further that any Member of the Council who wished to participate on the Programme be funded from a central budget and not from their Personal Development Plan Budget.

Approval to Seek Tenders

The Committee approved the commencement of tendering exercises and delegated authority to the Director of Property and Projects, in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation, to accept the most advantageous tenders received in respect of the following:

Goods and Services	Estimated Value per Annum	Period of Contract
Ormeau Park, Phase 11, replacement of 350m of railings	£92,000	N/A
Ozone/Tennis Centre, replacement of existing Tennis Court surfaces	£120,000	N/A
Ozone/Tennis Centre, Upgrade lighting to the main tennis courts	£75,000	N/A
Botanic Gardens, alterations to Palm House Heating to accommodate Queens University Belfast CHP Heating System	£61,000	N/A
Templemore Baths, Avoniel Leisure Centre, Whiterock Leisure Centre and Ballysillan Leisure Centre	£165,000	N/A

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Belfast Zoo, High Voltage installation for the site	£350,000	N/A
Digital Services Building, Lift replacement	£50,000	N/A
Legionella Monitoring and Risk management	£45,000	1 year, with 2 years optional renewal

**Northern Ireland Housing Executive Benefit –
Server Requirements**

The Committee was advised that the Council's Digital Services delivered hosting, managed applications and software development services to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to support payment of housing benefit, rates relief and Lone Pensioner Allowances to claimants across the region. The annual income for delivering those services was approximately £1.7 million.

In providing those services, the Council aimed to ensure the timely payment of over £650 million to over 160,000 claimants annually. Given the current economic circumstances, both the amounts being paid and the number of claimants requiring those benefits was increasing each month, putting an additional strain on the infrastructure that was required to support the IT systems and increasing the risk of damage to the Council's reputation if the services were not provided. In order to protect the income generated by Digital Services and the IT services it delivered to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, a refresh of infrastructure was required to ensure that the service quality was maintained. The Committee was advised that, in order to cater for legislative changes affecting Housing Benefit, a new version of the Housing Benefit software had been implemented six months previously. The resultant software upgrade had had a negative effect on the system performance to such an extent that the servers that supported the Housing Benefit system were performing at their limits.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive had also indicated that it would require an additional training environment to be ready for September, 2014. Currently there was not enough server capacity to support that additional requirement. Accordingly, Digital Services was recommending that an investment in ICT infrastructures be made to support the on-going requirements of the Housing Benefit system and to provide capacity to support anticipated future enhancements. Whilst there was some uncertainty regarding the long-term role of the Housing Executive and the impact of Universal Credit, it was expected that the Housing Benefit Service would continue to be carried out for at least the next three years covering the lifespan of the proposed service upgrade.

In order to support the system the following infrastructure enhancements were being proposed:

- (i) replace the current server and storage environment with

Capital Costs

Oracle's SPARC T5-2 server and storage - £90,000

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Revenue Costs

Annual Support and Maintenance - £20,000

Oracle Database and Application Licensing
(to cover an additional processor) - £12,000

- (ii) Use the current live server and storage environment to support disaster recovery, test and training to take as much workload from the live environment as possible.

The Housing Executive had agreed to make a contribution to the costs of providing an improved server environment. It had agreed to pay £45,000 towards capital costs and Digital Services would increase the current payment terms between the Council and the Housing Executive by £32,000 to fully meet the increase in revenue costs.

The Committee authorised the procurement of a new server and storage environment to meet the hosting requirements of delivering the Housing Benefits system for the next three years.

Human Resources

Year-End Absence Rates 2013/2014

The Assistant Chief Executive/Head of Human Resources reported that, at the end of March, 2014, the average number of days' sickness absence per full time employee was 9.90 which meant that the Council had met its March, 2015 target one year early. She informed the Committee that five departments had met their target, viz., the Chief Executive's, Finance and Resources, Development, Parks and Leisure and Property and Projects. In addition, 43.18% of staff had no absence during the year compared to 39% the previous year.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the corporate target for March, 2015 remain at 10 days.

**Potential Industrial Action involving
Belfast City Council Employees**

The Committee was advised that, during June, the Local Government Trade Unions would be balloting their members on industrial action with the result being known by the end of June, 2014. The Assistant Chief Executive/Head of Human Resources stated that it was anticipated that that would result in strike action by UNITE, NIPSA, GMB and SIPTU members which was planned for 10th July, 2014. Should that be the case, the Council would initiate its Industrial Action Contingency Group (IACG), which was chaired by herself and would establish contingency planning arrangements in the event of industrial action. That Group would manage all issues arising from the strike through a planned and co-ordinated approach to ensure that essential services were

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maintained where possible and that communication was on-going with Elected Members, the media and the workforce. The Group would determine exemption arrangements, that is, those individuals or groups of staff who should remain in work during industrial action to minimise disruption to service provision, meet health and safety obligations and provide business continuity in so far as was practicable, for example, Registrars, Malone House and Belfast Castle staff for weddings and civil partnerships, cemetery operatives and health and safety staff. The Group would discuss and seek to agree those exempt staff with the Council's Trade Union Co-ordinators.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives

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

Noted.

Asset Management

Corporate Accommodation Issues

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

(i) Accommodation Strategy

- 1.1 In addition to the City Hall and Cecil Ward Building Members will be aware that the Council lease two city centre office premises (Adelaide Exchange, Lanyon Place) where there is an opportunity to terminate occupation in each by 2017.**
- 1.2 At its meeting of 21st February 2014 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee endorsed a Corporate Accommodation Strategy, informed by an Economic Appraisal undertaken by Deloitte, which identified the preferred option for the Council to acquire, develop and own new offices which should be located in as close proximity as possible to the retained office accommodation in City Hall and Cecil Ward Building.**
- 1.3 The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee was advised at its meeting of 4th April 2014 of an unsuccessful attempt by the Council to acquire the Clarendon House site adjoining the Cecil Ward Building. In this event the Committee approved the undertaking of a further site search to review all alternative accommodation options**

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available for the Council with a further report to be brought back to Committee with an update on any revised options. In the intervening time a number of direct approaches have been received with regard to provision of office accommodation for the Council.

- 1.4 Legal Services have confirmed that there are constraints around the Council's ability to progress direct discussions with developers/contractors to provide office accommodation to a Council specification, in the absence of a public procurement exercise. Therefore the Council will be required to publicly tender for the provision of new offices.

(ii) Interim Office Accommodation

- 1.5 With the effective date for Local Government Reform (LGR) of 1st April 2015 there will be an accommodation requirement for associated staff transferring from both local and central government departments.
- 1.6 Members are aware that whilst the Council's Accommodation Strategy has taken account of the need to factor in additional office space requirement associated with LGR the outworkings of the Strategy will not provide the longer-term solution until the end of 2016.
- 1.7 In order to accommodate this shorter-term staff office requirement as a result of staff transferring under LGR there will be an immediate requirement to procure additional interim accommodation on a short-term basis that would be required until the Council's new offices are provided under the Accommodation Strategy.

(iii) City Hall Accommodation

- 1.8 Following the Council elections the Sinn Féin representation on Belfast City Council has increased to 19 Councillors. Sinn Féin has requested to utilise, for a temporary period, the former Legal Library on the ground floor of City Hall as additional space associated with the Sinn Féin Party Rooms. Currently this room is utilised on an ad hoc basis for meetings.

2 Key Issues

(i) Accommodation Strategy

- 2.1 Based on identified accommodation needs and the specific drivers previously endorsed by Members, the Council now have a Corporate Accommodation Strategy following completion of the Economic Appraisal which recommended the construction and ownership of approximately 100,000 sq feet of purpose built office accommodation

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located in close proximity to both City Hall and the Cecil Ward Building.

- 2.2 Following the failure to secure ownership of the Clarendon House site as advised at the 4th April 2014 meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee, there have been a number of unsolicited approaches made to the Council from the private sector offering to satisfy the Council's office requirement.
- 2.3 Council's Legal Services have confirmed that EU Procurement Regulations prevent any developer directly providing offices to the Council's specification, irrespective of whether they control the site or not, without the Council first of all publically advertising the opportunity, as the courts construe such an arrangement as a Public Works Contract. Legal Services have however confirmed that the acquisition of land and/or buildings on the land is expressly excluded for the EU Procurement Regulations.
- 2.4 The potential now exists to progress the Council's Accommodation Strategy through a public procurement exercise on the basis of a design and build contract. This procurement exercise would entail the Council specifying their accommodation requirements for a shell building and request submissions based on the cost of providing such new offices with the Council assuming outright ownership upon completion. A separate contract could subsequently be procured for fit-out to the Council's specification.
- 2.5 Should Members be minded to progress the Council's Accommodation Strategy through a public procurement exercise for development of offices the selection criteria would be established and drawn from the existing Deloitte Economic Appraisal. This would capture those potential sites where it is understood the private sector is willing to develop offices for the Council, as well as any other sites/proposed developments in the defined area. This tender process would also include the remaining Council's own sites that possess the necessary scope for development which will be determined through individual Planning Assessments.
- 2.6 The defined timeline to have any new office accommodation constructed and available for occupation, driven primarily by break options in the Council's existing leased premises (Adelaide Exchange, Lanyon Place), means that there is approximately 2½ years in which to undertake a public procurement and have the building completed ready for occupation by end of December 2016. Failure to progress the outworkings of the Council's Accommodation Strategy and have new offices available within this timescale will mean that the Council will remain committed to occupying leased accommodation beyond 2020.

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2.7 The Committee is asked to note that evaluation criteria of the tenders will be based on both cost and further specific criteria (location, scale, timeframe etc) drawn from the previous Economic Appraisal recommendations that underpin the Council's Accommodation Strategy. Provision of the Council's new office accommodation is an emerging project in the Capital Programme the cost of which is subvented by redirecting rent/ service charges currently incurred in the Council's leased premises (Adelaide Exchange, Lanyon Place) to a loan.

(ii) Interim Office Accommodation

2.8 There remains ongoing uncertainty around the policy position for 2.8 the transfer of staff accommodation assets associated with LGR transferring functions from the central government departments. It has however emerged that current occupational leases are either expiring immediately prior to April 2015 or arbitrarily extended for a short period beyond this date. These central government decisions on lease end dates do not necessarily relate to the Council's Accommodation Strategy timeframe which is primarily driven by the Council's existing leases in Adelaide Exchange and Lanyon Place which cannot be terminated (without incurring a financial penalty) before 2017.

2.9 There is currently no surplus space remaining within the Council's office estate that could accommodate the estimated number of transferring staff.

2.10 The procurement of sufficient interim office accommodation now will provide flexibility to commence any potential decants of existing staff in order to provide the opportunity to integrate staff associated with transferring functions more fully into the Council's existing structure. This additional office space will also assist any future restructure of the new Council to be developed operationally prior to relocation to new office premises under the Accommodation Strategy.

(iii) City Hall Accommodation

2.11 With the increase in Sinn Féin's representation following the May Council elections Sinn Féin have requested additional Party Room accommodation within City Hall. The former Legal Library, immediately adjacent to their Party Rooms, is currently utilised as meeting room space as and when required and therefore not permanently occupied. Council officers will aim to find alternative meeting space in the interim period.

2.12 As part of the wider review of City Hall, within the context of the Council's Accommodation Strategy, there is scope to revisit the availability of space in the future when detail of the future structure of

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the new Council is known and the longer-term accommodation requirements within City Hall are agreed.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Finance

(i) Accommodation Strategy

In the short-term there are costs associated with undertaking this tender exercise. Thereafter the Director of Finance & Resource will work with the Director of Property & Projects to develop a financing model for the new offices.

(ii) Interim Office Accommodation

Discussions at a regional level are being progressed with DOE and DFP regarding an appropriate funding model in respect of accommodation costs arising from the transfer of functions under LGR.

(iii) City Hall Accommodation

Any costs of refurbishment can be met within existing planned maintenance budget.

3.2 Assets

(i) Accommodation Strategy

Development of new offices within the city centre will provide a regenerative impact in the area. Surrender of the existing leases at Adelaide Exchange and Lanyon Place will also free up good quality city centre office accommodation that is currently in short supply for inward investors or other occupier demand.

Implications for the Council's city centre sites will depend upon whether one of the Council's own sites is selected for development.

(ii) Interim Office Accommodation

Inclusion of additional office space within the Council's estate until such time long-term office accommodation is provided through the Accommodation Strategy.

(iii) City Hall Accommodation

Possible conversion work to assimilate the former Legal Library with the existing Sinn Féin Party Rooms.

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Human Resources

Staff resource required within Property and Projects and Legal Services to progress.

5 Recommendations

5.1 (i) Accommodation Strategy

The Committee is requested to approve the commencement of a tendering exercise to procure new build office accommodation in the city centre on the basis as outlined above. Committee is also requested to give delegated authority to the Director of Property and Projects to award the tender in line with the evaluation criteria with a further report to be brought back to this Committee to provide an appropriate update.

(ii) Interim Office Accommodation

The Committee is requested to note the content of this report and to endorse progressing discussions regarding office accommodation issues arising under LGR that fits with the Council's Accommodation Strategy and which may require an interim accommodation solution with a further report to be brought back to this Committee to provide an appropriate update.

(iii) City Hall Accommodation

The Committee are requested to consider the proposal to temporarily utilise the former Legal Library on the ground floor of City Hall with the existing adjoining Sinn Féin main Party Rooms."

The Committee adopted the recommendation and agreed also to allocate one office for use by all the Independent Members of the Shadow Council on an interim/temporary basis.

**Connswater Community Greenway –
Orangefield Park**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Members approval to commence the process to vest an area of land adjacent to Orangefield Park

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- 1.2 At its meeting on the 26th February 2014 the East Area Working Group considered a report on the proposals in relation to the preliminary steps towards vesting the strip of land at Orangefield Park in connection with the relocation of the Knock River in order to achieve the required flood defences in the area. The East AWG agreed to the proposed vesting of the land as outlined.
- 1.3 At its meeting on the 12th June the Parks and Leisure Committee approved the recommendation to commence the process to vest an area of land adjacent to Orangefield Park, subject to SP&R Committee approval.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Members will be aware that the Knock River has been relocated into Orangefield Park as part of Phase 1 of the FAS/CCG scheme in order to achieve the required flood defences in this area. Under the FAS/CCG proposals the residents's fences or gardens have not been disturbed by the work to relocate the river, however the relocation of the river has created a strip of land, incorporating the flood defences, along the former bed of the river. Half the bed of the former river is owned by the Council but, as outlined below, an owner has not been identified for the other half. The Council, as part of the CCG, has constructed the fence on the current Council's boundary, leaving a strip of land between the resident's rear garden fences and the Council's boundary fence. Clearly this, if left as is, will create issues around responsibility for maintenance and left unattended the land would become overgrown and a source of invasive species, litter and vermin.
- 2.2 The Estates Management Unit has carried out extensive research but has been unable to find out who owns this area of land. It has however been established that the land is not owned by the adjoining residential landowners. Given that a landowner cannot be identified, the only way the Council can acquire the land is by vesting under the Recreation and Youth Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.
- 2.3 In March 2013, prior to the commencement of Phase 1 of the FAS/CCG works the Estates Management Unit contacted all of the residents whose property backs on to the Knock River at this location to let them know that the FAS/CCG contractor would not require access to their gardens and inviting them to make contact to discuss the FAS/CCG proposals. In addition, East Belfast Partnership together with the Council officials and Rivers Agency staff held public meetings to which all residents affected by the FAS/CCG proposals were invited. The public response to the FAS/CCG proposals that the strip of land may be acquired and maintained by the Council has been largely favourable.

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3 Resource Implications

3.1 Finance

The cost of the vesting will be taken from the CCG Land Acquisition funding and while the cost is currently unknown, the land has little or no value due to its location, lack of access and the presence of invasive species.

3.2 Assets

The strip of land, if acquired, will be fenced into Orangefield Park and maintained by Parks staff.

3.3 Human Resources

Officers from Estates and Legal Services will, subject to Members approval, commence action to vest the land.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 None

5 Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to approve the commencement of the process by Legal Services and the Estates Management Unit to vest the land outlined red on the attached plan under the Recreation and Youth Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

City Hall Car Parking

The Committee considered a report in relation to car parking arrangements in the City Hall courtyard and approved the short-term changes as set out in the report in order to facilitate increased Member parking. It was agreed also that a wider, corporate review of car parking be undertaken and a report thereon be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Leases and Licences

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

(i) Proposed licence from DSD at River Terrace

1.1 Following a request from St John Vianney Youth Centre to explore the option of establishing a community led garden on land at River Terrace the Parks and Leisure Committee, at its meeting on 4th

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December 2013, approved the further investigation of the potential for the development of the community garden at River Terrace with a further report to be brought to Committee in due course.

- 1.2 At its meeting on the 12th June 2014 the Parks and Leisure Committee approved the recommendation to take a licence of the land required from DSD to allow the Council to further the investigation of the potential for development of a community garden at River Terrace, subject to terms to be agreed between Legal Services, the Estates Management Unit and the Department of Social Development. The report was further subject to SP&R approval.

(ii) Belfast Zoo – Bat Flight and Release Enclosure

- 1.3 At its meeting on 10th April 2014 the Parks and Leisure Committee approved permission for the NI Bat Group to locate a permanent facility for the flight training and rehabilitation of rescued native bats within the Zoo, thereafter ownership of the enclosure would become vested in the Council.

- 1.4 The Group have secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the cost of constructing this enclosure and the Group will remain responsible for operating and caring for any bats kept in this new facility.

- 1.5 Development of the enclosure would be facilitated by a licence agreement with the Group to permit its construction by a third party which, once satisfactorily completed, ownership of the enclosure will transfer to the Council.

(iii) Lease to Westland Community Group

- 1.6 The Westland Community Group has held a lease for the site on which they erected a portacabin at Westland Road in the Council's Upper Waterworks site since the 27th June 2001.

- 1.7 At its meeting on the 12th June 2014 the Parks and Leisure Committee approved the grant of a new Lease in respect of land at Westland Road/Upper Waterworks to Westland Community Group subject to:-

- i) Terms and conditions to be agreed between Property and Projects/Legal Services and the Westland Community Group.
- ii) Approval of the SP&R Committee in line with Standing Orders.

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1.8 The SP&R Committee at its meeting on the 25th Jan 2013 had endorsed the North Area Working Group recommendation to provide Local Investment Funding of £65,000 to allow the Westland Community Group to build a new community centre on the site of the existing community centre at Westland Road. However, even if this funding is not forthcoming, a renewal of the existing lease is required to allow the Westland Community Group to remain in occupation of their current site.

(iv) Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme

1.9 At its meeting on 25th April 2014, Members of the SR&R Committee granted approval for the Council to enter into appropriate Licences, Land Access Agreements and Street Works Licences in relation to securing a number of bike docking stations in the city centre. A schedule of 24 docking stations were previously identified but on the basis that definitive locations would need to be agreed between the operator and the Council in line with the contract requirements for a total of 30 docking stations. All docking stations have now been identified to complete Phase 1 of the scheme

(v) Loop River Play Centre – Licence Agreement Renewal

1.10 The Council have occupied Courtney Hall, a building owned by the Trustees of the 26th Scout Group and situated on the Cregagh Road since 2007, as alternative accommodation for Loop River Play Centre. Community Services had previously confirmed a continued need for this facility for a programme of activities during the day. A new licence agreement for occupation was approved by the Development Committee on 17th September 2013 and SP&R Committee on 25th October 2013 for a further two years from 1st November 2013. Over recent months Community Services occupational needs have varied and as a consequence approval is sought for payment of revised rents to the Trustees.

2 Key Issues

(i) Proposed licence from DSD at River Terrace

2.1 The land at River Terrace required for the redevelopment as a community garden is owned by DSD. DSD have agreed in principle to grant the Council a licence at nil cost to allow the Council to develop the land as a community garden. It is proposed that the licence remains in place until the land is transferred to the Council on the 1st April 2015 as part of Local Government Reform.

(ii) Belfast Zoo – Bat Flight and Release Enclosure

2.2 The Licence Agreement will be granted to the Group which will, within the terms of the Licence, permit them to engage a contractor to

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construct the enclosure at a defined location previously identified in the Zoo. Specification of the enclosure is subject to the Council's prior approval and its development will be in accordance with the terms of the HLF offer of grant funding.

- 2.3 Ownership of the enclosure will pass to the Council upon completion of its construction and the Licence Agreement will cease to have any further effect. As owners of the asset the Council will assume responsibility for all future maintenance liabilities over the life of the enclosure. There are established access procedures at the Zoo that will permit required day-to-day access for members of the Group to undertake all management and care of the bats kept in the enclosure during normal working hours.

(iii) Lease to Westland Community Group

- 2.4 The current lease to Westland Community Group has expired and although they have been holding over and continuing to pay rent a new lease is now required. A new lease is also required because there is a slight change to the area required for the proposed new modular building, car parking and access. In addition, the SP&R Committee's clarification of LIF Guidance to Members at its meeting on the 22nd June 2012, clarified that a LIF proposal in respect of a Council asset could be eligible if it was subject to a lease of reasonable duration from the Council. The proposed new five year lease will give the Westland Community Group sufficient security of tenure to seek LIF support of £65,000.

(iv) Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme

- 2.5 Committee approval is required to the inclusion of the additional docking station sites in the legal process to enable appropriate Licences, Land Access Agreements and Street Works Licences to be prepared. This will complete the contract requirement for 30 bike docking stations supporting 300 bikes. The precise location of the sites will be agreed with Scheme Operator prior to completing the legal process.

(v) Loop River Play Centre – Licence Agreement Renewal

- 2.6 Due to Community Services changing needs for use of the Premises several new levels of rent have been agreed with the Trustees. The Council currently have exclusive use of part of the building and part-time use of the remainder. Details of the rent are as set out below in the Resources Section.

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3 Resource Implications

Finance and Assets

3.1 (i) Proposed licence from DSD at River Terrace

Parks and Leisure have allocated £50k of capital funds to South Belfast part of which could contribute to the build of a community garden at River Terrace. DSD have agreed to nil rent for the licence, pending transfer of the site to BCC under LGR on 1st April 2015.

3.2 (ii) Belfast Zoo – Bat Flight and Release Enclosure

The cost of construction of the Bat Flight and Release Enclosure will be met by the HLF grant and apart from a minimal annual maintenance outlay there are no utility costs associated with operation of the facility.

Ownership of the enclosure will pass to the Council upon completion of construction. Provision of this enclosure provides a further visitor attraction for the Zoo.

3.3 (iii) Lease to Westland Community Group

The Westland Community Group has agreed to pay a rental amount of £700 per annum for the site. The provision of a new modular building on the site will support the development of community programmes at this location.

3.4 (iv) Belfast Public Bike Hire Scheme

The licence agreements are on the basis of a nil rental. Capital and revenue financial implications were included in the report to the SP&R Committee on 21st March 2014. DRD will meet the full capital cost of the Public Bike Hire Scheme.

3.5 (v) Loop River Play Centre – Licence Agreement Renewal

The new Licence agreement for Courtney Hall would operate with the Council liable for payment of a weekly rent of £220.00 inclusive of heating and electricity from commencement on 1st November 2013. It is then intended that the required hours per week would then be reduced from 24th June 2014 and the rent would reduce to £190.00 per week until licence expiry or termination. The only exception to this is that a four week long summer scheme is planned for July/August 2014 during which exclusive full time use of the Premises would be required, during which the rent payable by the Council would rise to £330.00 per week. In addition to this it is proposed that any extra requirement for time outside the hours

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detailed above would be payable at £5.61 per hour. These costs would be met from within existing Community Services budgets.

Human Resources

3.6 Staff resources from the Estate Management Unit, Parks and Leisure Department and Legal Services will be required to complete all agreements.

4 **Recommendations**

4.1 It is recommended that Members agree:

- (i) To take a Licence from DSD following investigation by the Parks and Leisure Department into the potential for the development of a community garden at River Terrace, subject to terms to be agreed between Legal Services, Estates Management Unit and DSD.
- (ii) To authorise the grant of a Licence to the NI Bat Group in respect of an identified location within the Zoo, subject to the incorporation of terms to be agreed by Legal Services and Estates Management Unit. Thereafter that the Council will assume ownership of the bat enclosure once constructed.
- (iii) To grant a new Lease to Westland Community Group as outlined above subject to terms to be agreed between Legal Services, the Estates Management Unit and Westland Community Group.
- (iv) To the inclusion of the additional bike docking stations which completes the contract requirement for a total of 30 docking stations. Appropriate Licences, Land Access Agreements and Street Works Licences will be entered into in relation to these stations, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 April 2014.
- (v) To the following revised Licence agreement rents for Courtney Hall:-
 - 1. £220 per week from 1st November 2013 until 23rd June 2014.
 - 2. £190 per week from 24th June 2014 until licence expiry or termination.

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- 3. £330 per week during the four week summer scheme in July/August 2014**
- 4. An additional £5.61 per hour for any extra hours which may be required during the proposed term of the licence.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Use of the City Hall and Grounds for the BIG Music Project

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from the BIG Music Project, which was funded by the Big Lottery Fund, for the use of the City Hall and part of the City Hall grounds for an event on Saturday, 18th October, 2014. The Project proposed to organise a one day event that would attract over 2,000 young people through music artist performances. The event would promote opportunities for young people to engage with the music industry, sign up to a music competition and explore a Work Opportunities Programme. It would include concerts, workshops, exhibitions, inspirational speakers and a trade fair.

The Committee approved the use of the City Hall facilities for the BIG Music Project on Saturday, 18th October, 2014, at no cost to the Council.

Council Chamber Seating Arrangements

The Committee deferred consideration of a report in relation to the Council Chamber seating arrangements to enable further discussions to be undertaken and to enable costings in relation to Option 2 to be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Good Relations and Equality

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Good Relations Partnership of 9th June and adopted the recommendation of the Partnership to provide up to £5,000 from the Summer Intervention Fund to the Blackie River Community Group.

Cross-Cutting Issues

IBM Smarter Cities Challenge and the Contribution to Community Planning

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update Members on the IBM's ‘Belfast Smarter Cities challenge’ report. IBM are seeking approval for the publication on their website of either their full report and/or the attached executive summary.**

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1.2 Officers are currently integrating many of the report's recommendations into the council's proposals for Community Planning and urban regeneration in the city. These recommendations have been particularly useful in providing independent expertise on possible approaches to jointly measuring the impact of the work of our new community planning partners.

2.0 Background

2.1 Belfast was awarded an IBM Smart Cities Challenge grant in 2013. A team of six experts travelled to the city to propose more effective approaches to planning and decision-making in the city. The team carried out extensive interviews with elected members, community organisations, academics, community leaders and services providers – particularly those faced with the challenge of tackling deprivation and health inequalities in parts of west and east Belfast.

2.2 IBM's final recommendations seek to address the fundamental issue of how Belfast's statutory and non-statutory partners can work together in a 'smarter' way to tackle persistent, complex social problems.

2.3 The team presented their initial findings at a conference hosted by the Lord Mayor in October 2013 and subsequently prepared a draft report which was presented to Strategic Policy and Resources committee in March 2014. Members deferred a decision on publishing the full report until they received more detail about how the recommendations can be integrated into future governance arrangements for the city.

2.4 In the interim IBM wish to publish an executive summary of the report in order to promote their work and the work of the council to a broader audience.

3.0 Key issues

3.1 IBM's key findings will be of no surprise to Members, nor indeed to anyone else involved in work that seeks to address the major social issues in our city, whether they are issues of poverty, social inequality, crime, segregation or health deprivation. Their findings confirm the broad consensus of their interviewees that such complex, seemingly intractable, problems require well thought out intervention and the sustained and focused application of resources by many different organisations working together at the local, regional and national levels to achieve shared outcomes. They suggest that this not the case in Belfast.

3.2 In summary their main findings note that:

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- I. The problems of deprivation in Belfast are already well known.
 - II. There has been an abundance of interventions and funding especially in the most segregated neighbourhoods.
 - III. There are many short-term, individual interventions taking place with varying levels of success (often anecdotal or qualitative).
 - IV. Measurement strategy focuses on independent individual and city variables, instead of the causal relationships among variables and outcomes.
 - V. Many uncoordinated initiatives, agencies and government departments are addressing similar (or the same) issues independently based on individual, agency and political needs.
 - VI. Funding support for interventions is often short term and does not address lasting social change.
 - VII. Accountability is based on allocation of resources rather than desired outcomes.
 - VIII. Belfast lacks an agreed long-term strategy (mission, vision, values, and priorities) that drives measurable initiatives and outcomes.
- 3.3 The general view expressed by many interviewees was that, while many of the statutory interventions over the past years have been significant and worthwhile, ultimately the core 'intractable' issues of deprivation, inequality, etc. remain largely unresolved. There was a strong sense that the city needs thinking on smart governance and decision-making.
- 3.4 In developing this smart way of working, the report focuses on three systemic issues:
- Governance – The city currently does not have a governance structure that can easily identify shared priorities; agree interventions; or hold partners to account.
 - Co-ordination – With the involvement of so many organisations (public, community and voluntary) in the city, it is very difficult to co-ordinate interventions and

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resource allocation in ways that maximise our combined impact.

- **Measuring success** –The city has no common basis against to jointly measure the impact of our work; to understand what has worked and what hasn't; or to share this learning with others.

3.5 The recommendations (summarised in Appendix 1) suggest that the city can begin to deal with these issues in three phases:

(1) Create a collaborative planning environment

The city should put in place a Community Planning framework and a shared structure for better community engagement. They recommend the active involvement of community planning partners (particularly in terms of shared decision-making and data collection) and a strong approach to community engagement.

2) Define an evidence-based decision-making

The Community Planning process should foster a planning culture based on outcomes that allows partners to make decisions based on objective data. To measure such shared outcomes the authors make the case for a basket of 'common metrics'. If organisations agree to measure success using standard approaches then it begins to make it easier for partners to find out if their interventions are actually making a difference to people's lives.

(3) Technology

The city should put in place suitable software systems to manage the large number of data associated with this approach. The authors identify three key pieces of technology: A web-based portal to makes it easier for partners (and citizens) to engage and to gather and compare results; an analytics tool to support decision making by Members and officers; and a shared database to capture and manage the data over time.

Taking forward the recommendations

3.6 The full report is a substantial document that focuses on the technicalities of change management, planning and project management arrangements. At its core however is the judgement that Community Planning, if done well, can help overcome systemic barriers to tackling major social problems facing the city. This conclusion reflects the experience of others particularly the Scottish Government which considers community planning at the local

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authority level to be central in achieving better outcomes for its citizens.

3.7 The draft report IBM has already informed initial thinking by officers on a new Community Planning process for Belfast including:

- the need to base our planning around a shared outcomes framework that provide opportunities for collaborative gain and to which partners can be held to account;
- The need for partners to agree standard measures of impact, for both individual projects and for the combined work;
- The need to create a management system that can collate evaluation data from all partners and provide analytical tools to support evidence-based decision-making.

Next steps

3.8 Following publication of the executive summary IBM have offered to facilitate a change management workshop with officers to determine pragmatic next steps for the council in terms of further integrating the recommendations into our design work for community planning. Such steps are likely to include:

(i) The development a set of common metrics: The idea of common metrics was warmly received when raised at the IBM conference. OFMdfM are currently testing such measures in relation to measuring the impact of Delivering Social Change which is Government's programme to tackle social inequalities. Council officers are proposing to adopt a similar set of measures to baseline and evaluate the impact of its own work over time. We would also wish to work with relevant partnerships to build their capacity to develop and manage similar measures. Officers continue to engage with OFMdfM on this, with the aim of creating a shared set of standardised measures for community planning.

(ii) System to manage impact data: IBM did not provide indicative costs for their technology proposals but this element is likely to prove expensive. (For example, a city technology platform currently being developed in Glasgow has a multi-million pound budget.)

However, as a first step officers are proposing that the council begin with a modest pilot to adapt one of its own in-house data management system for this purpose (eg, the Belfast Citystats system). This would allow us to begin to manage and share

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evaluation data generated by the council and its partners in preparation for community planning.

The learning from this pilot would inform any future decisions to progress to a more ambitious system. And may also form the basis of joint funding proposals.

(iii) **Data analysis and decision-making:** IBM recommends that the council test how it might use its success measures to inform decision making with our partners. This would enhance in-house analytical skills to support decisions on interventions.

Officers are proposing that could be done in a number of ways. For example, in support of the 'local area working' strand of the community planning programme. The proposal would be to facilitate analysis and decision-making by the Area Working Groups (AWGs) and local partners using neighbourhood area data.

As part of a bid to the Technology Strategy Board, the council has been asked to participate in 'Project Stentor' which seeks to build a system and methodology for supporting local decision-making. If successful, Project Stentor would begin work with the AWGs in autumn 2014.

(iv) **Urban data reference group:** In preparations for the IBM research visit, officers established a data reference group which brought together staff from a number of organisations and agencies. Officers are proposing to reconvene this group in order to support the data requirements for community planning in the city.

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 The Committee is requested to note the proposed next steps and agree to the publication of the executive summary and/or the full report on the IBM website."

The Committee adopted the recommendation to facilitate the IBM report being published.

Chairman

Parks and Leisure Committee

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MEETING OF PARKS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor McKee (Chairman);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron);
Alderman Rodgers; Councillors Convery,
Corr, Cunningham, Hanna,
Kyle, Mullan, McCabe, McNamee,
Ó Donnghaile, Thompson and Verner.

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

Apologies

Apologies were reported from Alderman Robinson and Councillors Beattie, Haire and Mac Giolla Mhóin.

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Mrs. Dianne Leeman

The Chairman referred to the death of the former Council employee Mrs. Dianne Leeman and it was agreed that a letter of condolence be forwarded on behalf of the Committee to the family of the late Mrs. Leeman.

Potential New Burial Ground at Dundrod

In accordance with the Committee's decision of 10th April, the Chairman welcomed Mr. I. Lees, Mr. R. Bowman, Mr. S. Hood and Mr. R. Angus, who were acting as consultants on behalf of Carston Holdings, which had an option on land at Dundrod in respect of the possible development of a new burial ground at the site. The Council was currently considering the potential of that site to meet future burial needs.

The Committee was updated on the consultant's findings to date in respect of the Dundrod site, particularly regarding planning, traffic and access issues. The

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Committee was provided also with an overview of the range of environmental issues which would be pertinent in the development of the site and the consultants presented a range of schematic designs which might be considered in the provision of a new cemetery at the site. The members of the deputation responded to a range of questions which related to overall costs, the extent of consultation required and the timescale for the development of the cemetery. They then retired from the meeting.

The Director advised the Committee that that a report in respect of the Council's options for the future development of the Dundrod site would be submitted to its meeting in August, together with a report which would seek the Members' approval to undertake a Strategic Outline Case for the refurbishment of the City of Belfast Crematorium.

Noted.

Support for Sport

The Committee noted a schedule of Support for Sport applications which related to development and hospitality grants and which had been approved by the Director in accordance with the authority delegated to him, information on which was available on the Council's Mod.gov website.

Year-end Finance Report

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an update in respect of the Department's year-end finance performance for 2013/2014, a copy of which was published on the Council's Mod.gov website. The Committee welcomed the fact that the Department had operated within its financial targets throughout the year.

Departmental Plan - Year-end Update 2013/2014

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the progress which had been achieved in respect of the Departmental Plan for 2013/2014.

Antisocial Behaviour – Quarterly Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The objectives of the ASB programme are to:

- **enhance the environment around Parks and Leisure facilities;**
- **develop education initiatives involving creative or supportive interventions to model acceptable behaviour around facilities;**
- **define enforcement as a deterrent against infraction of bye-laws or legislation; and**

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- develop sustainable interagency and inter-departmental networks and leading a partnership approach to reducing antisocial behaviour.

2. Key Issues

The ASB Coordinator prioritises action and expenditure by collating evidence gathered through ASB incident reports.

Below in Table 1, illustrates the comparative data of the number of incident reports of ASB in parks between December 2012 to April 2013 and December 2013 to April 2014. It shows an increase in the four electoral areas of Laganbank, Pottinger, Upper Falls and Victoria. This trend can be attributed to the ASB occurring during the darker winter nights. This involves reports of trespass when drinkers enter parks creating damage by lighting fires. The data specifically highlights an increase in the following types of ASB; Criminal Damage; increased reports of fire setting etc, Drinking, Trespass, and Vehicle nuisance.

It also shows a downward trend in parks within Balmoral, Castle, Court, Lower Falls and Oldpark electoral areas.

Table 1: Comparison between December 2012 to April 2013 and December 2013 to April 2014			
December 2012 to April 2013		December 2013 to April 2014	
Electoral Area	Total ASB	Electoral Area	Total ASB
Balmoral	23	Balmoral	19
Castle	34	Castle	18
Court	35	Court	7
Laganbank	16	Laganbank	77
Lower Falls	14	Lower Falls	8
Oldpark	85	Oldpark	32
Pottinger	40	Pottinger	104
Upper Falls	28	Upper Falls	142
Victoria	6	Victoria	34
Total	281	Total	441

ASB in park and leisure facilities

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).

Planned Interventions

Planned intensive interventions are designed and introduced for parks that have more than 20 ASB incidents. The planned

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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 December 2013 and April 2014 and the specific interventions planned for the coming months.

Table 2: Specific interventions planned to tackle ASB in Parks with more than 20 ASB incidents	
Laganbank	
Botanic	A series of family fun days have been planned to draw in more legitimate users. A programme of enforcement operations is ongoing during the spring and summer to address reports of rowdy behaviour and drinking.
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 scramblers and drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if they are under 18 they will be reported to the Community safety ASB forum.
Orangefield Playing Fields	The Park manager will ensure damage is repaired and Park Wardens will work with Community Safety officers and PSNI to tackle inappropriate vehicle use and drinking. Individuals reported for drinking will face prosecution and if they are under 18 they will be reported to the Community safety ASB forum.
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 Community safety 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 Community safety ASB forum.

Citywide ASB programme development

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:

- Development of family friendly activity programmes. These programmes are designed to draw in legitimate park users and displace rowdy groups.
- Support to the Bonfire management programme to reduce fly tipping and accumulation of hazardous materials in parks.

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- **Park Wardens are currently deployed in parks as part of an ongoing enforcement programme. They will issue fixed penalties in relation to litter and dog fouling offences.**
- **Park Wardens will also work in close partnership with PSNI and Community safety officers during planned operations to tackle alcohol consumption in parks.**
- **Park Warden operations planning will support the ongoing Community safety joint operations with PSNI. It is intended that the opportunities for joint working in Park areas will also be shared with the DPCSP.**

Strategic alignment with Health and Environmental Services

At Committee's request, both Health and Environmental Services and the Parks and Leisure Department have successfully adopted a joint approach in planning and implementing high visibility and discrete operations. There have also been a number of operational meetings for BCC staff to ensure better co-ordination of resources. Park Wardens operations are regularly requested to tackle issues of litter, dog fouling and drinking; and it will be necessary to coordinate with a number of PSNI neighbourhood teams and the DPCSP.

Health and Environmental Services Committee has requested a strategic review of ASB interventions. The expansion of the Council boundaries during Local Government Reform will require greater coordination of Council and Police services to provide the high quality partnership work required to reduce antisocial behaviour in a variety of 'new' Belfast neighbourhoods.

Parks officers will participate fully in the review in order to further improve Council practices to tackle ASB. It is anticipated that the review will report to Health and Environmental Services Committee in late 2014 and the Parks and Leisure Committee will be kept fully informed of the implications arising for its services and assets.

3. Resource Implications

The development of the programme will be facilitated through the agreed ASB budget 2014-2015 which is approximately £250,000.

In response to Members' queries, the Director undertook to provide information in respect of the number of cases of antisocial behaviour which had been reported within the vicinity of the Knocknagoney Linear Park. In addition, he outlined the steps which the Department had taken - and which were proposed to be taken - in

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conjunction with a range of bodies and agencies to address disorder involving teenagers which had been reported within the vicinity of both the Ormeau Park and the Avoniel Leisure Centre.

Arising from discussion, the Assistant Director outlined the measures which the Department was considering to address the issue of dog fouling within parks and indicated that an evaluation report would be submitted to a future meeting in respect of the trial dog control enclosure which had been established within the Grove Park in June, 2013. Concern was expressed also regarding the practice which had been adopted by individuals of discarding bags containing dog waste within parks. Members pointed out that such a practice posed a serious health risk, especially to children, and that it would be prudent for the Council to seek to address that issue as a matter of urgency.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted further that the Chairman would seek to convene a meeting with the Chairman of the Health and Environmental Services Committee, together with relevant officers, to discuss the control of dog fouling within parks and open spaces.

Amateur Boxing Strategy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

1.1 At Committee on 11th October 2012 Members approved the draft budget and work plan for the Amateur Boxing Strategy 2012-2022. The implementation of the Strategy is overseen by a Steering Group, comprising of representatives from IABA, Ulster Council, Antrim Boxing, Sport NI and Council officers.

1.2 Members will be aware that within the Strategy two Casual Boxing Coaches posts and a Sports Development Officer post were to be implemented to deliver the strategic plan in partnership with key stakeholders IABA, UBC and SNI.

2. Key Issues and Update

2.1 Work is ongoing on the four key areas of the Strategy namely Pathways, Coach Education, Club support and development and Governance which aim to increase participation; develop and train coaches, volunteers and officials; support club development and improving governance.

2.2 Two casual coaches and a Sports Development Officer have been appointed and are currently delivering the work plan. To date community and schools programmes have introduced boxing sessions and related activities to 1500 participants over 40 locations citywide since April 2014. The programme

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includes cross-community workshops and special needs sessions citywide.

- 2.3 Events have also been funded as part of the Strategy with Co Antrim Boxing organising four events to date in Belfast with the latest the Box Belfast Cup at Shankill LC on 30-31st May 2014. A Day of Boxing was held for the first time involving 8 clubs and over 500 youths in March 2014.
- 2.4 To date 35 coaches and officials have been upskilled via the Strategy and partnership work has secured £25,000 from Active Belfast for Midnight Boxing to involve all clubs during July and August 2014.

3 Programme Plan and Resource Implications

- 3.1 Members should note that spending was limited in Year 1 (2013/4) due to Sports Development Officer only taking post in December 2013 and Coaches (x2) employed from March 2014.

Action plans

The Steering Group has adopted a three year work-plan annually as follows for the development of Belfast Boxing:

Pathways

- Events budget £50,000 minimum of 7 local and international Belfast events.
- Try it Participation events and Day of Boxing in Belfast £20,000.

Coach Education

- Coach Education programme £15,000 including level 2 / 1 Star and Disability courses and workshops.

Club Support and Development

- Staffing £75,000 (SDO and x2 Coaches)
- Good relations workshops £10,000
- Volunteer and club resources and support £10,000
- New start-ups and club support £10,000

Governance

- No action in 2014/5 as we await IABA programme of activities.

3.2 Financial

The table below indicates the spending to date from the 2013/2014 and based on the programme of work outlined in 3.1

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a budget for 2014/2015 under the four strategic areas. The agreed budget of £200,000 remains unchanged

Area	Total available (£200,000)	Spend Yr 1 2013/4	Spend Yr 2 2014/5 to date	2014/5 Proposed budget
Pathways (includes events)	£37,000	£23,462.35	£15,026.36	£72,000 (+£35,000) Events -£50k
Coach Education	£20,000	£0	£4,026	£15,000 (-£5,000)
Club Support (includes salaries)	£115,000	£6443.06	£10,000 est	£105,000 (-10,000)
Governance	£20,000	£0	£0	£0 (-£20,000)
Total	£192k	£29,905.41	£ 29,052.36	£200k

3.3 The Steering Group is recommending the budgetary changes as indicated above for the 2014/5 budget owing to an increase in the budget required to support the schedule of 2014/5 Belfast based Boxing events. The Steering group have indicated that the changes to be made will not impact negatively on any other provision within the strategy.

Members should note that spending was limited in Year 1 (2013/4) due to Sports Development Officer only taking post in December 2013 and Coaches (x2) employed from March 2014.

Action plans

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Coach Education

- Coach Education programme £15,000 including level 2 / 1 Star and Disability courses and workshops.

Club Support and Development

- Staffing £75,000 (SDO and x2 Coaches)
- Good relations workshops £10,000
- Volunteer and club resources and support £10,000
- New start-ups and club support £10,000

Governance

- No action in 2014/5 as we await IABA programme of activities.

3.4 Club Support

New clubs are to be encouraged under the Strategy (Club Support and Development) as such funding has been ratified by the Steering Group of £10,000 per annum to support this aim. A process on guidelines is under development to provide access to this fund. A further report will be brought to Committee in August to agree the mechanism and support guidelines.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

- 4.1 The Amateur Boxing Strategy was equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy to address these.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 To agree to the revisions in the budget areas within the Strategy as recommended by the Strategy Steering Group.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Connswater Community Greenway – Engagement Feedback

The Committee considered the undernoted report, together with a stakeholder engagement report, a copy of which was published on the Council's Mod.gov website:

“1. **Background Information**

At the Committee meeting on 14th February it was noted that proposals regarding opening and closing of gates and lighting of the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) will be

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brought forward to Committee after the completion of the proposed 'Connswater Community and Stakeholder Engagement Approach and Plan'. The community and stakeholder engagement has now been completed and a report submitted for review and analysis.

Meaningful engagement has been one of the principles of the Greenway from its initiation to the current development stage. The main issue to be addressed by the engagement was to identify if the community were supportive of the spine of the Greenway remaining open and lit at night.

Members are reminded that the Connswater Community Greenway is an investment to create a continuous and connected 9km linear park from the hills to the lough, following the courses of the rivers, connecting the green and open spaces. Included in the partnership funding was the funding for lighting to enable the main greenway route to remain open and lit, with bridges, crossings and pathways lit to facilitate increased accessibility.

The benefits of the engagement work already undertaken is reflected in the high level of awareness of the project and in a desire for those consulted to continue to be informed and engaged - 68% of residents said they are 'very interested' or 'interested' in the CCG, with this rising to 97% for stakeholders.

2. Key Issues

Arising from the report and analysis, key issues have been identified below: There was overwhelming support for the key principles of access and lighting. Both the resident (94%) and stakeholder (88%) surveys recorded overwhelming support for the proposal to have the Greenway open 24 hours a day with it being lit during the hours of darkness along the main spine and throughout general areas of the Greenway;

Open Access along the Spine

There was a very positive response to the issue of increased access opening up the linear park. Approximately nine out of ten (91%) respondents in the resident survey are either 'very supportive' or 'supportive' of the Greenway being open 24 hours a day, with 10% either 'unsupportive' or 'very unsupportive'. Overall 87% of stakeholders are either 'very supportive' or 'supportive' of the Greenway being open 24 hours a day. The vast majority 75% of residents believe that opening the Greenway 24 hours a day will help promote positive use (70% of stakeholders shared this view).

Lighting

Providing lighting from dusk to dawn again received a very positive response from those consulted. It was seen as a cornerstone of increased access and contributing to a greater sense of personal safety and security. More than nine out of ten (94%) survey respondents are supportive of the main spine and general areas of the Greenway being lit 24 hours a day, with 6% unsupportive.

Respondents living beside or a few streets from the Greenway recorded a significantly higher level of support (97%) for this proposal compared with those living further from the Greenway.

More than nine out of ten (94%) stakeholders are supportive of the main spine and general areas of the Greenway being lit from dusk to dawn. A large majority - 85% of residents believe that if the Greenway is lit 24 hours a day that this will improve people's sense of personal safety (82% of stakeholders shared this view).

Anti Social Behaviour

This was identified as a potential area of concern. Not specifically linked to the Greenway or additional access rather to existing concerns with activities in specific locations which give rise to concerns. To address this provision of additional lighting, improved access and mitigating actions by PSNI and Council were identified as offering potential solutions.

Environmental Concerns

The Greenway is perceived as offering positive benefits to the local environment and as an opportunity to improve access to and awareness of the local environment within Parks. Related to this the Greenway is perceived as offering a great resource to be exploited by local schools, clubs and societies.

Health and Safety Concerns

While the Greenway will offer additional access to lakes and rivers, this is not perceived as being a major source of concern. There was a view expressed that the normal health and safety checks would be put in place prior to and following the development phase.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

The cost of the providing lights to be lit during the hours of darkness along the spine is included in the planned capital and revenue costs for the Greenway.

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Human Resources

If gates along the main spine of the Greenway are not to be open and closed there is a saving in resources of Warden time, which can be reallocated to other priorities e.g. anti social behaviour.

Assets

The provision of lights and gates along the spine has already been planned. These issues only affect how these assets are utilised.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee give approval for the spine of the Connswater Greenway to have open access for pedestrians and cyclists 24 hours a day and that it is lit from dusk to dawn.”

In response to a Member’s query relating to an access gate to the Greenway which was situated at Orby Mews, the Assistant Director confirmed that the gate would be opened and closed in line with normal park opening hours.

The Committee adopted the recommendation and noted that an evaluation report would be submitted after a three-month period.

Connswater Community Greenway – Orangefield Park

The Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Orders 46 and 60, to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it authorise the commencement of a process to vest, under the Recreation and Youth Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, an area of land adjacent to the Orangefield Park which had been created through the relocation of the Knock River as part of the Connswater Community Greenway’s Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Falls Park – Consultation re: 3G Pitch

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The Committee is reminded that it is intended to provide a 3rd generation artificial turf pitch and changing pavilion at Falls Park as part of the £14.1m investment in pitches in the city. Planning approval for this project is expected shortly. During the engagement with local residents a number of concerns were raised, some of which were of a planning nature whilst others expressed concern over what could be termed management or operational issues.

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These latter issues such as opening and closing times and street car parking have been raised with the Director and Assistant Director at a recent meeting with an Elected Representative from the area. It has been requested that the Council undertake a consultation process with residents to establish in more detail their concerns and to seek where possible, to put in place measures which would mitigate the concerns raised.

2. Key Issues

The Committee is asked to consider the request to undertake this piece of work and in doing so to take into account the following issues:

1. Officers have previously met with residents from the immediate vicinity of the Park on a number of occasions to provide information on the reason for the proposed location, in particular concerns were raised about the impact parking might have on parking in the adjoining streets;
2. The proposal has been through the planning process and has been recommended for approval;
3. At this point it is intended to proceed to tender and to commence work as soon as possible;
4. In the interim there is a window of opportunity to further engage with those residents who have concerns regarding the management and operation of the pitch post completion
5. Some of the concerns voiced are outside of the Council's powers, such as on street parking;
6. Members are asked to be mindful that this may set a precedent for other projects being undertaken by the Council and that a wider consultation and engagement framework is being developed and will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

In addition the Chairman of the Committee has received a written request from a group of residents from the Norfolk Drive area to brief Members of the Committee in relation to their concerns. The Committee is asked to consider the request from residents to brief the Committee.

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3. Resource Implications

Financial Implications

There will be an additional cost in the commissioning of an independent piece of work to establish the issues, it is anticipated that this will cost in the region of £10,000, no provision has been made for this work within the current estimates. Upon completion of the consultation there may be further resource implications.

Resource Implications

The work will be carried out by an independent consultant, but will require input from Council Officers, including out of hours work.

4. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to authorise expenditure in the region of £10,000 to undertake a consultation exercise to establish the concerns of residents in the streets adjoining Falls Park and to bring Council proposals to address these issues.”

After discussion, during which the Committee expressed concern regarding the cost of hiring external consultants to undertake a consultation exercise on behalf of the Council, it was agreed that an invitation be extended to representatives of the residents' group to attend the August monthly meeting in order to outline their concerns in respect of the proposed development, after which the Committee would give consideration to the best manner in which to undertake future consultation.

Community Garden at River Terrace – Proposed Licence

The Director reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 5th December, 2013, it had agreed to authorise officers from within the Department to investigate further the potential for the development of a community garden at River Terrace with a further report to be submitted to the Committee in due course. It was reported that the Department for Social Development had agreed, in principle, to grant to the Council a licence to develop the land as a community garden. Such a licence would remain in place until the land was transferred formally into the Council's ownership on 1st April, 2015, as part of Local Government Reform.

The Committee agreed that the Department would accept the licence subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to enable officers to investigate further the feasibility of establishing a community garden at River Terrace, subject to the completion of a legal agreement between the Council and the Department for Social Development.

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It was noted that the acquisition of the licence would be at no cost to the Council.

Suffolk Playing Fields – Management Agreement

The Committee was reminded that, in April, 2011, the Council had entered into a seven-year Facilities Management Agreement with Suffolk Football Club to oversee arrangements for the management and use of a soccer pitch at the Suffolk Playing Fields. The Director pointed out that, as part of the Council's Capital Programme, work on the construction of a new changing pavilion at the playing fields had commenced in early June and was due to be completed in the autumn. That facility would be maintained by the Council but managed by the football club as part of the original agreement. Accordingly, he requested the Committee's permission to amend the original agreement to enable the granting of key-holding privileges to the club which would be bound by a legal agreement and subject to satisfactory terms being agreed with the Director.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Horses on the Cavehill

The Director informed the Committee that an agreement had been entered into with Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary for the removal of feral horses from the Cavehill Country Park during 2013. He reported that, to date, the Council had paid for the work which it had specified. However, the Animal Sanctuary had made a case to the Council for additional payment based on their understanding of the Council's requirements. Officers had since met with representatives of the Animal Sanctuary to establish how the amount owed had increased within the context of the work originally specified by the Council. The Director indicated that further investigation would be required to establish the actual amount which was owed to the Animal Sanctuary.

After discussion, the Committee granted delegated authority to the Director, in conjunction with the Director of Finance and Resources and the Town Solicitor, to negotiate a settlement figure with the Crosskennan Lane Animal Sanctuary and that a report on the outcome of that process would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

Landslide at the Cavehill Country Park

The Director informed the Committee that a landslide had occurred within the Hazelwood Nature Reserve between the 10th and 11th May which had blocked one of the public paths. That incident had followed a previous landslide which had occurred in November 2013. He indicated that contractors had moved on to site to address the matter, however, the path had since been closed given the risk to the public. He outlined the principal findings of a civil engineer's report in respect of the landslide and indicated that management were in the process of investigating the options available in order to address the matter and that a further report in this regard would be submitted in due course.

Noted.

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Parks Events – Small Grants Scheme

The Committee noted a list of Small Grants which had been authorised by the Director in accordance with the authority which had been delegated to him, information on which was available on the Council's Mod.gov website.

Parklife Educational Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

- 1.1 The Committee is reminded that at its meeting on 15 September 2011, it had approved the future direction for the Parks' Educational Programme -'Watch This Space', subject to a tender exercise being undertaken. The tender was awarded to the Ulster Wildlife Trust (now called Ulster Wildlife) for a three year period which is due to end on 31 March 2015.**

The purpose of this report is to:

- update Members on the progress of Parklife;**
- seek approval of a tender exercise for 3 years (with an option to extend for a further 2 years) for the delivery of the Parklife programme, to include extension into the transition areas following Local Government Reform;**
- seek approval to organise a 'Green Teenz' pilot project.**

1.2 Existing Programme

The Parklife programme is designed to establish the Council's parks as a valuable teaching resource and encourage greater use of parks for outdoor learning. It has 3 elements:

- i. co-ordinated education programme of supervised and unsupervised visits;**
- ii. A The establishment and management of a resource bank;**
- iii. The agreement, development and delivery of a capacity building plan for Parks' staff over the lifespan of the contract.**

It was considered an opportune time during the contract to rebrand 'Watch This Space' to Parklife Education Programme as this name was more appropriate.

- i. Parklife is delivered to 24 schools and 6 community groups on a city-wide basis. Five supervised sessions are provided to schools and topics covered range from park history and bird identification to tree**

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maths and healthy parks. Saturday Clubs are organised on a monthly basis in Falls, Ormeau, Victoria and Woodvale Parks and are mainly attended by families. Interactive activities are also organised at various Parks' events throughout the year including the Spring Fair, Rose Week and Summer Fun Days. In the first two years of the programme, a total of 6,501 school children participated in Parklife and 3,334 of these children visited their local park during that time.

- ii. A resource bank is being developed to facilitate unsupervised visits to parks. The resources have clear links to the curriculum such as science, literacy and numeracy. They are themed around the seasons, link in with the school terms and are generic for use in most of the parks throughout the year. The resources are clearly structured and include learning objectives, preparation required, park activities, helpful hints and suggested follow-up activities either in the classroom or school grounds. The games and interactive activities are designed to get children learning in a practical and fun way whilst encouraging physical activity in parks. The resources will soon be made available to the public through the Council's website.
- iii. As part of Parklife, six Parks' Staff have been trained as Educational Facilitators which has involved shadowing Ulster Wildlife's staff during school sessions and then developing, leading and delivering one session to a school group in a park. Each of the Facilitators was required to plan and develop a topic in their individual area of expertise which included making/ planting window boxes, a demonstration of garden tools/equipment and pond dipping. It is intended to build on this going into year 2 of their training so that the Facilitators will work alongside Ulster Wildlife's staff and carry out some of the practical delivery of the programme and Ulster Wildlife will undertake the support work. A further six Parks' staff have started their training to become Educational Facilitators. Notwithstanding the need to ensure normal operational cover, the involvement of staff is a very positive contribution to Parklife.

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2. Key Issues

2.1 Future Delivery of Parklife

The use of an external provider such as Ulster Wildlife has demonstrated the added value that the Trust has brought to Parklife through their wealth of experience in delivering environmental education, their network of other Trusts and their ability to use additional guides to support the programme.

It is proposed to establish a contract for 3 years (with an option to extend for a further 2 years) for the delivery of the programme and Parks and Leisure Committee in April 2014 gave approval for the director to go out to tender for this programme. It is proposed that the Parklife tender will build on the existing programme and have 3 elements:

- a co-ordinated education programme of supervised and supervised visits;
- development of the resource bank to facilitate unsupervised visits;
- capacity building of Parks' staff, in particular new Parks Wardens.

The involvement of Parks' staff in the delivery of Parklife and the proposed Green Teenz project will be facilitated through time off in lieu arrangements.

2.2 'Green Teenz'

As the Parks Section has been delivering an educational programme since 2007, it has become apparent that there is an opportunity for our Outreach Managers to engage with those older children mainly the 12 – 14 age group, who have been involved in or have left Parklife/Saturday Clubs. It is proposed that for this age group, a pilot project 'Green Teenz' is set up which will be a natural progression from Parklife and will build on the knowledge and experience they have already gained from it.

Green Teenz will be a city wide project which will commence in September 2014, offering 12 places to this age group, to meet on a monthly basis, for a ten month period. The project will be managed by the Community Parks Outreach Manager (S/West), will require assistance from the Park Wardens involved in Parklife and Environmental Experts will be employed to deliver specialist training.

Preference will be given to children who are or have been involved in Parklife and remaining places will be filled on a

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first come, first served basis, advertised through social media and existing networks. Topics covered will include wildlife recording, management of invasive alien species, hedgerow management and trail maintenance etc.

The Outreach Manager will compile a detailed project schedule which will be designed to provide participants with an insight into environmental conservation and habitat management within our parks and open spaces.

The cost of the project is envisaged to be £3,500 to cover delivery of specialist training and bus hire to transport children to various parks throughout the city. The pilot project will be internally evaluated in June 2015.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

Parklife – Up to £80,000 per annum is allocated in the revenue estimates to include transferring areas under LGR.

Green Teenz - £3,500 is budgeted across three operational areas.

Human Resources

Parklife is managed by staff from the Open Spaces & Active Living Unit and Parks' staff will be involved in the delivery of the programme. Green Teenz will be managed by the Community Park Outreach Manager (S/West) and will require assistance from the Park Wardens and other Officers to deliver the project.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee approve the proposed Green Teenz project for a ten month period from September 2014. A report will be brought back to Committee in August 2015 to update members on the progress of the pilot project.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Westland Community Group - Lease

The Committee agreed to request that, under Standing Orders 46 and 60, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agree to endorse a proposal to extend a lease for a portion of land within the Upper Waterworks Park to the Westland Community Group for a period of 5 years to enable the erection of a community centre, subject to the drawing-up of an appropriate legal agreement.

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Brown Square – Proposal

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The layout of the Brown Square site contains a play area and an open green space. The boundary between the park and the Belfast Met estate is marked with two fences, a metal panelled ‘tin’ fence owned by the Council, shows a solid face into the park. It is approximately 210cm high. That fence is topped with a paladin style of fence panel, measuring approximately a further 210cm in height. The paladin section on that fence line is the fence controlled by DOJ.

Proposals emerging from these discussions include the replacement of the tin fence and DOJ fence at the peace line with a more appropriate and aesthetically pleasing fence, a general improvement of the park area and the installation of a number of anti-social behaviour measures such as defensive planting to improve security.

The community group has requested that the metal removed from the Peace line should be retained in storage for its use in a community artwork project to commemorate the former inhabitants of the area and its history.

2. Key Issues

- Brown Square is an interface which is abounded by fencing on three sides. The proposal refers to the removal of the fence at the back of the site adjoining the Belfast Met campus. The interface is not a live interface.
- The current tin fencing provides a canvas for graffiti and is unsightly.
- A perimeter fence of expanded metal weld mesh paladin to a minimum height of 2.4 meters is proposed as a fit for purpose boundary fence.
- The works will improve both security and the aesthetics of the Park.
- Community and key stakeholder engagement has taken place and there is support for the development.
- Further community engagement is required to fully develop the scheme.

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3. Resource Implications

The cost for the removal of the existing fence will be borne by DoJ. The estimated cost of the enhancement of the open space including the cost of the new fence is estimated to be in the region of £10,000 which will be accommodated from the Grounds Maintenance budget over two years.

4. Recommendation

To authorise the scheme to develop Brown Square.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Park at Black’s Road – Naming Proposal

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 public park. The Director reported that the Department had received a request proposing that the park, on completion, be named the ‘Black’s Road Park’. He reminded the Committee that in August, 2008, it had adopted a policy to oversee the naming of parks and leisure facilities within the City. He outlined the principal aspects of that policy and recommended that, having considered the relevant criteria and that the proposed name for the park would not be considered to be contentious and was in adherence with the criteria, the Committee exercise its discretion and accede to the request to name the park ‘Black’s Road Park’.

The Committee acceded to the request.

Proposed Summer Camps – Update

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

A trial Youth Development Project was held last year which was based on an environmental theme for youths. The aim was to provide youths with an opportunity to learn new skills and knowledge in an outdoor environment.

The project included organised visits to various BCC Parks properties, River Lagan, Bog Meadows and the Colin Glen Forest. Parks staff, along with various community partners delivered two separate weeks of summer camps. Each camp lasted for five days and each day had a different environmental or geographical learning theme relating, for example, to the environmental aspects of the Lagan Valley Regional Park. The project was very favourably received by both parents and youths who stated it was a very enjoyable

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and challenging week. Committee in April 2014 agreed in principle to grant approval subject to a re- evaluation of the costs involved and clarification of the selection procedure and age range.

The camps will last for five days and will be aimed at various age groups with a maximum of 15 per camp. Each camp will have the following objectives:

- To develop skills and knowledge of the local environment
- To develop personal skills and complete different adventurous activities
- To build new relationships, both within a team environment and across the City.

Each camp will have different aspects and projects based both on local opportunities and options to visit and experience other parts of the City and develop and learn new skills.

A typical day of activity may include a walk through a forest or up a glen or mountain and an opportunity to learn new skills such as compass reading, basic navigation, lunch on a mountainside, learning about the local fauna and the natural local history.

The benefits of the youth development camp will be:

- Increased participation in leisure activities and assist in reducing childhood obesity.
- Reduced potential of anti social/community behaviour by engaging and educating the youths of Belfast on the positives that our parks and open spaces have to offer.
- Increased awareness of our youth on the importance of enhancing biodiversity in our city and surrounding area.
- Increased capacity for participants as 'Young leaders' by developing leadership skills, decision making skills, team working skills and hazard awareness/avoidance skills.

The camps would be subject to the preparation of an in depth event management plan including health and safety, child protection and relevant risk assessments.

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2. Key Issues

Age range and selection process

Outreach Officers have built up relationships across the city with different age ranges of youths. On this basis the proposed age range of 10 years – 17 years is suitable, based on consultation with various existing youth groups. However, it is not intended that each camp will cover this complete age range, due to child protection issues.

In order to facilitate an effective recruitment process, with the appropriate checks in place, it is recommended that the existing Youth Development Forums which are linked to Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB), be involved in the selection process. The Youth Development Forums have the relevant experience and knowledge of the local needs of youths. Outreach managers will work with the Forums to ensure that there is a broad representation of local young people in each environmental based youth camp and will ensure there is a balanced selection process, based on, for example, gender and background.

The Outreach Managers will seek nominations from the Youth Development Forums and their associated local youth groups to determine the final group of fifteen. By working with the Forums, Council will be given assurance regarding the suitability of the young people to participate in this pilot programme, as well as ensuring that there is appropriate support for the young people pre and post-camp.

An evaluation report on the programme will be brought to Committee in the autumn.

3. Resource Implications

Re-evaluation of costs

The April 2014 committee report indicated that costs will be in the region of £9,000 per camp. This estimate of cost was considered to be the maximum cost and after further review it is likely the cost will be reduced to £7,190. See attached table of costs. Each camp will have different requirements based on local requirements and a typical environmental based camp will include the following;

As previously stated, this cost is planned within Parks Area and Outreach budgets. The ratio of leaders to young people is determined by good practice guidelines.

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4. Equality Implications

Hire of 3 approved child protection youth leaders	£450 per day	£2,250 for 5 days
Hire of bus	£200 per day	£1,000 for 5 days
Hire of any facilities, for example, Belfast activity centre for 15 youths.	£300 per day	£900 for 3 days
Hire of specialist environmental consultant	£300 per day	£1,500 for 5 days
One off purchase of camp equipment, pond dipping kits, maps, compasses, utensils and uniforms	£1,500	£1,500
Total for one week		£7,190 per week

As previously stated, this cost is planned within Parks Area and Outreach budgets. The ratio of leaders to young people is determined by good practice guidelines.

4. Recommendations

To grant approval for officers to proceed and organise four summer camps during period July and August 2014 in East, North, South and West Belfast.”

The Committee granted the authority sought.

Centenary Fields Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The Royal British Legion and Fields in Trust have written to the Council inviting it to join in the Centenary Fields Programme. The stated objective of this new programme is ‘to encourage every council in the UK to nominate at least one recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate this significant milestone in our shared history and to create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by your local community for generation to come.’

The Royal British Legion as the UK’s largest armed forces charity and the Custodian of Remembrance will be leading the nation in respecting the sacrifices made during World War 1.

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Fields in Trust is the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association who have been the leading independent charity campaigning to secure and improve playing fields for more than 85 years. The charity works with councils to safeguard a number of sites including the King George V Playing Field (protected 1956) and is currently in the process of protecting Orangefield Park as part of the Queen Elizabeth II campaign.

Both organisations are working together to deliver the Centenary Fields programme which aims to create a living UK-wide legacy and at the same time commemorate the sacrifice made by those who gave their lives in the conflict. The protected sites could be sites that contain war memorials or other valued green spaces. All first tier local authorities across the UK have been invited to participate. The programme will run over the four years of the centenary commemorations to establish the legacy by November 2018 to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

The programme will be launched officially in November 2014 and in 2015 Centenary Have a Field Day will be launched where local communities will be invited to participate in activities that their ancestors would have enjoyed at the beginning of the last century. Fields in Trust will provide support for Councils wishing to hold a local event to mark the site's dedication and will be working to raise funds to provide occasional improvement grants to sites protected as part of the Centenary Fields programme.

2. Key Issues

Many of the Council's properties have already been gifted to the council with restrictive use clauses contained within the title deeds to those properties which effectively create a trust which the council is required to adhere to. There are many other Council properties held under deeds of dedication with the Millennium Commission signed in 2000 for a period of 99 years and these could not be nominated.

Other properties gifted to the Council such as Dunville Park and Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park were named after their benefactor(s), in accordance with specific requests by those benefactors.

If the Council chooses to nominate any of its properties the title would first need to be examined to ensure that the property is not already subject to a Deed of Dedication, or to alienation provisions within the title (i.e. restrictions on

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assignment, or parting with possession) or certain use covenants.

The Deeds of Dedication issued by the Fields in Trust and which the Council would be required to sign are stringent and constrain what the Council can do in terms of disposal or any building works/changes of use affecting any nominated property. A Burden is required to be registered against the title of the nominated property. Any dealings with the property or works to same in the future would require the consent of Fields in Trust, and once successfully nominated this remains the case in perpetuity.

Proposed Approach

The Council has previously participated in the Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II campaign. The approach identified possible sites and subsequently assessed their feasibility including an examination of title.

In this case it is proposed that officers liaise with Party Group Leaders to receive site nominations and that an assessment of feasibility is carried out by Legal Services and Estates Unit with proposals brought to a future committee for approval.

Asset and Other Implications

The title of nominated properties would need to be examined to ensure that they are not already subject to deeds of dedication or subject to alienation provisions or certain use covenants. The chosen site would be subject to a deed of dedication which would constrain Council's use of the property in the future.

3. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to agree participation in the Centenary Fields Programme and to the proposed approach to nominating sites.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Roselawn Cemetery – Request from Northern Ireland Electricity

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

Within the grounds of Roselawn Cemetery are 13,000 trees which have been planted since the introduction of the

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memorial tree scheme in 1977. Every tree is owned by a specific person and over 95% of the memorial trees have at least one set of cremated remains buried around their base.

In March 2014 Northern Ireland Electricity arranged a site visit with the Cemeteries and Crematorium Manager and the Woodland Officer. During this site visit it was established that approximately 50 Memorial Trees had been planted directly under overhead electricity cables and that their branches were now growing up to and through the overhead cables causing problems to the wires and electric supply. Pruning of these trees could be carried out by the NIE, however it would not be sufficient to entirely eliminate the problems and re-pruning would be required every 5 years. Also of concern is a risk to the public of shorting across the wires and trees e.g. if trees are climbed there would be a serious risk of electrocution. Warning signs have now been erected by the Department informing the public of the danger of overhead live electricity cables and instructing them not to climb the trees.

In addition during periods of high winds and rain the trees pose the threat of loss of supply and shorting. In February 2014 a tree came down at Roselawn resulting in loss of power for 4 hours. The trees concerned are Memorial Trees and therefore there is a need for great sensitivity around their existence and location. NIE recognise this and have suggested a permanent resolution; namely that the overhead cables are re-laid underground.

2. Key Issues

NIE have offered to be responsible for both the works and cost of re-laying the overhead cables underground. The location of the areas affected is from Ryan Park to the gas tanks and in Section W the dump area alongside Lake 2.

NIE are proposing the following works:

- Terminating the existing overhead line at a revised position for HV pole 15/225 on the cemetery's border
- The supply and installation of an 11KV underground cable system from this point, to run south to a new pole position
- The removal of the existing overhead line between HV poles 15/225 to 12/225
- The erection of a new pole at position (B)

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- The termination of the existing overhead line at HV pole location 9A/225 (with necessary stay wire arrangements)
- The installation of an 11kV underground cable system from this point to a new HV pole at location (C) (with necessary stay wire arrangements).
- The removal of the existing overhead line between HV poles 9a/225 to C.

NIE are requesting that Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Department accept responsibility for providing suitable trenches for the underground cabling. The depth and width of the cable trenches must be a minimum 750mm deep x 600mm wide, any bends not exceeding 45 degrees.

NIE are asking that the Parks and Leisure Department accept responsibility for the provision of all joint holes together with the provision of soft bedding (quarry dust), quarry blinding and backfilling. The trench should be fully excavated ahead of the agreed date of the installation of the underground cable. Re-instatement of the trench must immediately follow installation of the underground cable.

NIE and the Council Contractor will be required to submit the following information on the work proposed to the Memorial Tree areas concerned

- Details of the exact route of the trenches in the areas involved - NIE
- Proof of relevant permissions and authorisations including Wayleaves - NIE
- Details for a legal permit to work on site - NIE
- Appropriate HAS information and risk assessments – NIE and Contractor
- Approved working methods and schedule of works – NIE and Contractor
- Insurance information including public liability – NIE and Contractor
- Timing of works – NIE and Contractor
- Erection of information signage for the visiting public – NIE
- Public liability insurance – NIE and Contractor
- That NIE supply suitable warning tape at the time of installation of the underground cable

The NIE will be reminded that Roselawn Cemetery is a very busy site and an open Cemetery and the works scheduled will have to accommodate adjacent earth burials, burial of cremated remains at memorial trees and respect for the

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privacy of the visiting public to nearby graves and Memorial Trees. Similarly the closing down of the electricity to the site will also need to be planned so as not to infringe on the working hours of the cemetery and crematorium.

There are a few trees in the Lake 2 area beside and under the overhead cables which are not Memorial Trees and these may be pruned/felled by NIE once the bird nesting season is over.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

The costs to Belfast City Council will be for the provision of a mechanical digger and driver and the purchase of the quarry dust, quarry blinding and the provision of all joint holes.

Costs to the Council are estimated to be in the region of £10,000 and will be accommodated in the budget for the department. There are no additional costs identified at this time, and NIE are not proposing to charge the Council any fees.

Human Resources

Council officers from the Property and Projects Department (Estates Management Unit), and Parks and Leisure Department will liaise with the NIE organisers in relation to the proposed works and the planned closure of supply to the site and the completion of appropriate Wayleave Agreements.

Assets

The work will reduce the risk to the public of electrocution as a result of the re-laying of the overhead live cables to some memorial trees, and reduce the risk of trees causing power supply failure during periods of strong winds. The visual amenity of the site will be improved by the removal of some runs of overhead cables and poles and the locations of the proposed underground cables and associated Wayleave Agreements result in no greater impact on the property asset than presently exists.

4. Equality Implications

There are no equality or good relations issues at present

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5. Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the request from NIE to carry out the realignment/re-engineering of the overhead electricity line crossing Roselawn Cemetery subject to:

- 1. That NIE works organisers resolve all operational and other issues to the Council's satisfaction including the impact of temporary power loss upon operation of the plant and equipment within the crematorium and retention of sufficient electricity supply capacity to the site following completion of the works.**
- 2. That NIE take in to account the roots of the adjacent Memorial Trees when planning the trench route so that they are not damaged during any excavation works**
- 3. The appropriate Wayleave Agreements are in place prior to commencement of site works.**
- 4. That NIE meets all the statutory requirements including Health and Safety and licensing.**
- 5. Sensitivities and respect for burials, graves, memorial trees and the visiting public are observed."**

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Woodvale Park – Proposed European War Memorial

The Director reported that the Department had received a request from the Army Benevolent Fund to erect a memorial within the Woodvale Park to commemorate all of the victims of the First World War. He outlined the aims and objectives of the Army Benevolent Fund and explained that it was a registered charity which provided support to both serving and retired soldiers. The Committee was provided with drawings of the proposed memorial, together with copies of the inscriptions which would be detailed on it. He added that work on the design and commissioning of the memorial had been undertaken by the applicants and it was anticipated that, if approved, the installation of the stone would take place prior to 23rd August.

The Committee acceded to the request to erect the war memorial subject to the following conditions:

- the drawing up of an appropriate legal agreement;
- the application meeting with all planning approval requirements; and
- the receipt by the Department of the structural engineer's design drawings.

In addition, the Committee authorised expenditure in the sum of £7,500 to assist in the undertaking of associated landscaping work to coincide with the erection of the memorial.

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Cultural Celebrations at the Woodvale Park

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1. Background Information

The Committee will be aware of the ongoing work of the Council led Bonfire Programme which has developed into a successful programme of cultural networks. This year the scheme has seen applications from approximately 43 bonfire groups across the City. The bonfire scheme this year will be funded by the Council, OFMDFM, DPCSP and the NI Housing executive.

The Woodvale and Cambrai Youth and Community Association have been an active participant on the programme for a number of years. In 2007 they were involved in the design of the Bonfire Beacon as an alternative to the traditional 11 July bonfire. They have run successful events since 2008 with around 1,000 people attending these events annually. For the past several years the group has successfully used a bonfire frame as opposed to a beacon. The staging of these events was approved by the Parks Committee on each occasion.

This group are again intending to design and deliver a cultural event in Woodvale Park on the 11 and 12 July 2014. They are seeking permission to construct a bonfire within the park and to stage associated community activities as part of their ongoing efforts to transform bonfires within the wider locality.

2. Key Issues

Positioning of the bonfire

Last year it was proposed not to use the frame unlike in recent years, this was owing to the poor condition of the frame. It was instead proposed that crowd control barriers were used to contain the bonfire and to provide a safe area within which the fire could be managed. The fire was positioned on a six inch bed of sand to prevent damage to the ground surface.

Developments within Woodvale Park

The £2m development of Woodvale Park is now completed. Prior to the redevelopment of the park the bonfire had been constructed on the site of the old cinder pitch in Woodvale Park. However, the refurbishment scheme has seen the removal of this pitch and its replacement with a modern polymeric surfaced multi user games area. The option

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therefore of locating the bonfire at this spot is no longer a viable option. As reported in previous years there are limited options for a bonfire on the site. Last year following discussions with community representatives a decision was agreed to locate the bonfire on the site of the former tennis courts and for the accompanying celebratory activity to take place throughout the park in agreement with Council staff. The positioning and management of the fire last year was successful with minimal to no damage caused to the surface. It is therefore proposed that the same methods are used again this year.

Risk Management

As reported in previous years there are issues of risk with such an event that will be carefully reviewed. The organisers of the proposed event at Woodvale Park will be required to liaise closely with the Council and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. The work of the Council in relation to the transformation of bonfires continues to be supported by the inter-agency group who assist the Council with the Programme. The Fire and Rescue Service, the PSNI, DRD (Roads Service), NIHE, NIEA and the Community Relations Unit of OFM/DFM have all supported developments thus far.

As with all such events, health and safety issues with regard to the holding of the event will be addressed through the preparation of an event management plan by the organisers to the satisfaction of Council officers. The event organisers will be required to undertake all the necessary risk assessments and to ensure that all health and safety requirements are met. There is local support for the proposal to host this event, with a commitment of up to 50 local volunteers to supervise the event. These volunteers are trained in stewarding techniques and officially accredited by the Open College Network.

3. Resource Implications

Financial

Currently there are no financial implications for the department, however as in previous years there may be a requirement for some expenditure to minimise the impact on the park and to ensure that the event runs to the Council's satisfaction.

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Human Resources

There are no significant Human Resource implications, however some resources will be deployed during the event to ensure it is organised and runs to the Council's satisfaction.

4. Equality Implications

Local communities and agencies have been consulted on the proposals

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee grant authority for this event to take place in Woodvale Park in July 2014, subject to satisfactory terms agreed with the Director of Parks and leisure and on the condition that:

- 1. The event organiser ensures that all health and safety requirements are met to the council's satisfaction, including an event management plan, risk assessments and public liability insurance.**
- 2. The event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainments licensing."**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Circle of Life – Statue Proposal at the Botanic Gardens

The Director reported that a request had been received from the Northern Ireland Transplant Forum for permission to install a 'Circle of Life' statue and associated legend board within the Botanic Gardens. He explained that the granite statue would be approximately two metres in height and would symbolise 'the light of humanity' as personified through organ donation. He added that the stone would provide a focus for a commemorative garden and the costs associated with the statue would be met by the Northern Ireland Kidney Patients Association, the Northern Ireland Transplant Forum and the Giving of Life Foundation.

The Committee granted permission for the erection of the Circle of Life statue within the Botanic Gardens, subject to satisfactory terms being agreed by the Director and to the drawing-up of an appropriate legal agreement by the Town Solicitor. It was noted also that the statue would be erected at no cost to the Council.

Woodvale Park - Allotments

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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“1. Background Information

In the context of the ‘Growing Communities’ Strategy, Committee will be aware that it recommended that a review of the allocation of allotments was undertaken. An operational management group is currently developing an allocation process, updating management and inspection guidelines and compiling an up-to-date, accurate database. This will be presented to Committee in early autumn, to be in place by the growing season in Spring 2015.

2. Key Issues

Members will be aware that DSD co-funded the re-development and refurbishment of Woodvale Park, re-opened in 2013. DSD funded the re-development project within the context of Neighbourhood Renewal, under the local area action plan, with the aim of improving the quality of life of those within the catchment of the Neighbourhood Renewal Area. As part of the community engagement programme, there are currently facilitated growing sessions taking place. These have been enthusiastically received by the local community, delivered by the Conservation Volunteers.

In this context, a request has been made that an allocation of allotments at Woodvale Park is made available to local groups. While this would be outside of the current city-wide process, a precedent has already been established at Whiterock and Musgrave, as required by funders’ conditions of offer. There are advantages to plots being ring-fenced for local groups in the Woodvale area, most notably, developing local ownership and frequent use of the site to protect it from potential vandalism and/or dereliction, as well as the normal health and well-being benefits.

It is therefore requested that Committee considers the request to allocate the plots to residents/ community groups/ schools from the local residential area i.e. within 1.5km mile radius catchment area/ approx 10/15 min walk. This is similar to the criterion agreed for the Whiterock allotments. On this basis it is proposed that we undertake an exercise to identify current interest among local residents within the catchment area, using the existing list as a starting point. If there are a greater number of names than plots available, these will be added to the city master list. Officers will ensure that these types of local arrangements are ‘regularised’ within the strategy to come to Committee in autumn.

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3. Resource Implications

Human Resources

Officer support and support from the Conservation Volunteers, as per existing contract

4. Equality Implications

A full equality screening will be undertaken for the city-wide allotments strategy when it is presented to Committee in September.

5. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee authorise officers to undertake an immediate local allocation process, as outlined above.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Tennents Vital – Use of Musgrave Park

The Committee agreed to grant the use of the Musgrave Park Playing Fields to MCD Promotions for the purposes of a drop off and collection point for coaches conveying patrons to and from Tennents Vital on 21st and 24th August. That agreement would be subject to the completion of a legal agreement between the Council and MCD Promotions.

Chairman

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MEETING OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hargey (Chairman);
Aldermen Campbell, Ekin, Kingston, Stalford
and Webb;
Councillors Convery, Kelly, Kyle, Ó Donnghaile,
Reynolds, Spence and Verner.

In attendance: Mr. J. McGrillen, Director of Development;
Mrs. L. Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives
and International Development;
Ms. C. Taggart, Community Services Manager; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

(The Deputy Chairman (Councillor Spence) in the Chair.)

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Beattie, Kennedy, Mac Giolla Mhín and Ó Muilleoir.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 15th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st May.

Declarations of Interest

Regarding item 4., viz., 'Belfast City Centre Management – Funding Request', Councillors Hargey and Spence indicated that they were both members of the management board of that organisation. It was noted that both Members had been nominated by the Council to represent it on that body.

Smithfield and Union - Presentation

Pursuant to the Committee's decision of 15th April, the Deputy Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. F. McElhatton, Mr. L. McComish and Mr. S. Golden, together with a deputation of traders from the Smithfield and Union area, who were in attendance to provide a presentation in respect of the future development plans for the area and to request that the Council agree to recognise formally the Smithfield and Union area as a distinct quarter within Belfast.

Mr. McElhatton outlined the history of the area and the aims and objectives of the Smithfield and Union organisation. He pointed out that the area was one of the oldest within the City and outlined the key role it played as a gateway to both the

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Cathedral Quarter and the North Belfast Cultural Corridor. Particularly, he indicated that the organisation sought:

- to support and develop a unique brand for the Smithfield and Union area;
- to promote the area as a distinct shopping and visitor attraction; and
- to improve the overall attractiveness of the area.

He indicated that the Smithfield and Union area ran from Smithfield Market to Frederick Street and contained some of Belfast's oldest and most iconic buildings, including the Belfast Central Library, St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the Clifton Street Poor House. He outlined the potential for the area in light of the development of the new campus by the University of Ulster at York Street and suggested that such a development would lead to an influx of businesses into the area which would enhance further its potential. He concluded by requesting that the Council agree to recognise formally the Smithfield and Union area as a distinct quarter within Belfast. The members of the deputation answered a range of questions and then retired from the meeting.

After discussion, during which various Members commended the work of the Smithfield and Union organisation, the Committee agreed to recognise formally the existence of Smithfield and Union as a distinct quarter within the City and agreed further that the Council should seek to promote the area within any of its official maps or literature.

Cinemagic – Request for Funding

The Director advised the Committee that a request had been received from Cinemagic seeking a donation from the Council to assist it to meet a £200,000 funding shortfall which it had encountered in the making of a Belfast-themed feature film entitled: 'The Christmas Star'. The Director reported that no provision existed within the Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit's budget for 2014/2015, but pointed out that officers from within that Unit would continue to provide guidance and assistance to Cinemagic in exploring alternative sources of funding.

The Committee agreed not to accede to the request and noted the comments of the Director.

Integrated Economic Strategy

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

- 1.1 The Integrated Economic Strategy (IES) Belfast sets out the key strategic aspirations and priorities for Belfast City Council, Invest NI and its partners in respect of the economic growth and prosperity of the city council area. The strategy is for the period 2015-2020 and has been prepared by Oxford**

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Economics, Morrow Gilchrist Associates, Colin Stutt Consulting and Locus following extensive consultations.

1.2 The consultants have engaged with Elected Members in the course of the strategy development and have produced a number of papers to articulate key issues arising. These papers include:

1. **Economic and Policy Synopsis:** This report provides context and analysis for the IES. It provides an overview of the footprint of Belfast post Local Government Reform (LGR) using current data. It provides a statistical understanding of potential opportunities and challenges. Further analysis refers to the city under its current boundary (due to data limitations). This includes economic profiling, baselining and an economic analysis of the city, evaluating it against other cities within the UK and Europe. The Economic and Policy Synopsis also considers the implications of EU, NI and City Level policies and strategies to ensure the IES consolidates a shared vision and ambition.
2. **Integrated Economic Strategy Document:** This is the primary document and is split into three parts. Part 1 identifies emerging issues, opportunities and choices for Belfast identified through consultations and the economic and policy synopsis. Part 2 articulates themes for the strategic development of the city 2015 – 2020.
3. **City Narrative:** This document helps articulate a narrative to capture the unique offer of Belfast as a business and investment location.
4. **Terms of Reference for a possible Citywide Economic Partnership:** This document develops the concept of a collaborative leadership model to focus and guide the city's economic growth. It recognises the need for this approach to be directly aligned to the Council's community planning agenda post-LGR.

2 Key Issues

2.1 It has always been considered that the broad approach and priority areas identified in the IES would become the economic development strand of Belfast City Council's Community Plan post-LGR. While there is still some lack of clarity around future EU funding for economic development activity, it is

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highly likely that the proposals around sector specialisation and a focus on business start-up and growth will meet both European and national policy objectives. These will be reflected in the work programme for the Economic Development Unit, working with other partners across Belfast. The IES thematic areas take consideration of this.

2.2 The IES strategic framework identifies thematic opportunities for the city to become:

- A competitive and internationally connected city;
- A learning city developing the knowledge and skills of its people;
- A people centred and inclusive city, actively linking need with economic opportunity;
- A sustainable city with its own distinctive development approach;
- An accountable city with an inclusive, participative and transparent partnership for economic development.

2.3 The IES does not include a project specific action plan and has no official tangible targets, given that the Citywide Economic Partnership Terms of Reference has not been adopted by partners and the partnership has not yet convened. Once potential partners come together and share their agendas, a combined set of targets can be established aligned to a pre-agreed annual action plan. The Integrated Economic Strategy Stage 1 economic and policy synopsis report provided an assessment of the current and future performance of Belfast. In the absence of official targets for the IES it is proposed that future success is measured against the current performance of the economy and the baseline forecast trajectory set out in the report.

2.5 In order to work towards a final version of the IES, Members had previously agreed that a consultation exercise would be undertaken once a draft document was available. A summary narrative of the strategic framework and the implementation plan will act as the public consultation document supported by a series of questions which will help frame the information gathered through the consultation exercise.

2.6 Given that this strategy has been developed in conjunction with Invest NI, it is important for them to endorse the content through their internal processes and we will work in tandem to ensure that this happens within the same timeframes. It is envisaged that the IES consultation will take place over the

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summer subject to review and agreement by Invest NI and positive equality screening.

- 2.7 In parallel, as part of the Economic Development Unit's LGR Work Plan, work will be undertaken to consider how the Citywide Economic Partnership can be established, taking account of the commitment to establishing a partnership to oversee the delivery of the wider community plan and the need to avoid duplication of effort.**

3 Recommendations

- To endorse the Draft Integrated Economic Strategy within the Strategic Framework, Implementation Plan and benchmark economic metrics;**
- To agree to commence a public consultation subject to endorsement by Invest NI."**

(The Chairman (Councillor Hargey) in the Chair.)

During discussion, a Member indicated that he felt that the Strategy, as presented, might not have been as comprehensive as had been envisaged. He suggested that, prior to endorsing the document, an action plan could be formulated to enhance the scope of the strategy and to ensure its successful implementation.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that an action plan, which would be formulated prior to the public consultation exercise, be presented for consideration at its meeting in August.

**Belfast City Centre Management
Additional Funding Requests**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th January, it had agreed to provide funding in the sum of £190,000 to Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) as the Council's contribution towards its running costs for 2014/2015. It was reported that the Board of BCCM had since undertaken a review of the salaries of its staff and had adopted the NJC scales, a measure which had resulted in a shortfall of £30,000 in salary costs for £2014/2015. Accordingly, the Director reported that a request for financial assistance for 50% of the shortfall, that is, £15,000, had been received from BCCM.

In addition to the aforementioned request, the Director reminded the Committee that BCCM had been one of six successful applicants selected by the Department for Social Development to oversee a pilot Business Improvement District (BID) project. He reported that BCCM had requested also that the Council consider making a contribution towards the employment of a Development Manager to oversee the implementation of that project. The total cost of employing the Development Manager, over an 18 month period, would be £90,000 and the Council had been requested to consider providing 50% of that cost.

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In respect of the request by BCCM for a contribution towards meeting the re-evaluated staff salary costs, Members expressed concern that the Council, should it accede to the request, would be creating a precedent which could encourage further organisations to submit one-off requests for funding. The point was made that employees within the public sector had been subject to pay freezes in recent years and BCCM should have anticipated the extra costs and incorporated them within their original request for annual funding. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for the Council to meet the request as submitted.

Regarding the request for funding for to employ a Business Manager for the BID pilot project, the Committee noted that the Department for Social Development had agreed to contribute a sum of £45,000 towards the post. Accordingly, the Council would be required to provide funding of £15,000 in 2014/2015, with a further amount of £30,000 being allocated within the Council's 2015/2016 budget to support the project.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Alderman Ekin,
Seconded by Alderman Webb and

Resolved - That the Committee agrees not to accede to the request for £15,000 from BCCM to meet the increase in costs of staff salaries; but agrees to provide funding in the sum of £45,000, over a two-year period, to meet the costs associated with the employment of a Business Manager to oversee that organisation's BID pilot project.

Northern Ireland Science Festival

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

1 Key Issues

- 1.1 Numerous cities now include science festivals as part of their programme of city events, using these as a way of generating footfall in the city but also assisting in profiling the city as a centre for technology and economic growth. In Derry/Londonderry, the city has recently invested in the high profile CultureTech event and this was a flagship event in the City of Culture programme in 2013, albeit that the focus was more on culture and technology. A follow-up event is planned for this year.**
- 1.2 The vision for the Northern Ireland Science Festival is to showcase science, technology, engineering and maths as a central part of our culture and society. Statistics suggest that there is a considerable mismatch between the number of young people studying these subjects at school and the demand from employers for staff with this educational background.**

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- 1.3 It is intended that the event will act as a focal point for partners to demonstrate the best of what they do, while at the same time raising awareness among young people of the opportunities available to them in these fields. In addition, it is intended that the event can act as an anchor in the branding of Belfast as a 'smart city' and one in which technology supports and drives its daily operation and its future growth.
- 1.4 One of the key themes emerging from the draft Integrated Tourism Strategy is the opportunity to celebrate innovations that have their roots in Belfast and Northern Ireland and to build tourism products around these. Titanic Belfast has done much to draw out the message of the maritime and industrial history of the city. However there is an opportunity to build new narratives around the city's scientific heritage, linking to the ongoing work in that field today, through institutions such as the two universities. This will also support the drive to grow the business tourism in the city, with a visible commitment to that growth through investment in the expanded Waterfront Hall.
- 1.5 There is also an opportunity to link the Science Festival into some additional events that are being planned by NI Screen and Generator NI around this time, regarding opportunities to exploit the business and tourism potential of music and its convergence with digital media and new technologies. These events aim to re-profile Belfast as a dynamic city with an emerging economy and niche offer for both businesses and tourists.
- 1.6 The event is being organised by a company with charitable status called Science Festival NI. Its board consists of representatives from twelve organisations including the two local universities, Northern Ireland Science Park, Institute of Physics, Institute of Engineering and Technology and Open University.
- 1.7 At present the organisation is in the process of finalising its programme and tying down sponsorship to cover the costs of programming and delivery. It has a target of around £120,000 to be secured from sponsorship to make the event happen. It has secured a principal partner at this stage – the Department for Employment and Learning – and the Minister in that department has confirmed sponsorship of £50,000 towards the event. This is to be spent mainly on programming and promotion of the event and is linked to their priorities around promoting STEM.

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- 1.8** The organisers have a target of 10,000 participants over the course of the 10 day programme. While many of the activities are still being finalised, it is expected that there will be at least 50 events taking place across the city under the NI Science Festival banner. As an indicative overview of the types of events that might take place in the course of the festival, the organisers have identified a number of key themes, including:
- Words and ideas – series of talks and lectures on scientific issues impacting on our everyday lives.
 - Bright Sparks – series of events focused on young people.
 - Science in Sound – using the world-renowned Sonic Arts Research Centre (SARC) at Queen’s – one of only four of its kind in the world – these events will look at the latest innovations in sound technology.
 - Science in Film – working with Queen’s Film Theatre to profile key films with a scientific slant.
 - Health and wellbeing – looking at how science is impacting on healthcare and what we can expect to be the next generation of innovation in this field, focusing on the innovations generated in Belfast.
 - Our digital society – focusing on issues such as cyber security and coding, offering the opportunity to profile what a super-connected Belfast will look like.
- 2.9** Organisers are planning a number of keynote events during the course of the programme. These include the 2015 Turing lecture – a world-leading event presenting a topic from current research in computer science and delivered by an acknowledged expert in the field. The lecture is named in honour of Alan Turing the globally renowned computer scientist and code-breaker. The Turing lecture regularly attracts up to 400 delegates and is broadcast live online. The event has never before been held in Northern Ireland. The organisers have bid to host the event in 2015 as part of the first NI Science Festival and are currently awaiting a decision on this (decision expected imminently).
- 2.10** One of the major priorities for the festival will be to undertake events in local communities, in conjunction with schools. In addition, they are seeking to partner with some key media organisations in order to raise the profile of the event locally and nationally and to link into national campaigns to make science interesting to young people in particular. It is planned that there will be a number of

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programmes produced that will be broadcast online and available on the web, post-event.

- 2.11 We are also engaging with CultureTech to explore opportunities for a 'Big Video Challenge' involving all post-primary schools in Belfast. Through this challenge, young people will work in teams to produce a short video on an agreed topic. There will be a very specific STEM angle to the videos and we will use the Science Festival platform to showcase the work created as part of the challenge.
- 2.12 Given the linkages with the emerging integrated economic strategy and the integrated tourism strategy, and the opportunities that the event presents to get young people involved and to bring people into the city as part of developing a new narrative for Belfast, it is proposed that the council commits sponsorship of £35,000 towards the inaugural event. £25,000 will be made available from the Economic Development Unit (EDU) budget and £10,000 will be made available from Tourism, Culture and Arts Unit (TCA).

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Approve the request to commit sponsorship of £35,000 towards the event, to be identified from within existing budgets for this year."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

NI Connections

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Background Information

- 1.1 As one of the key actions within the Councils International Framework to attract foreign direct investment, tourism and talent, the Council has engaged with key stakeholders in the city to shape and support our international marketing work. One of these stakeholders is Invest NI and its NI Connections organisation.
- 1.2 NI Connections is a recently established organisation championed by Minister Arlene Foster, with the aim of developing and growing the support of people with a connection to Northern Ireland by birth, family, education or business. It is a not for profit public/private organisation which has been established to make use of Invest NI's

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systems, but to act as fully independent, and be managed by its governing council via a supervisory board made up of sponsors and subscribers.

1.3 The organisation's objectives are:

- to promote means for improved collaboration of diaspora consumers
- methods to engage the strategic diaspora strategies to unlock the cultural diaspora market and mechanisms to support and remain connected with the recent Diaspora.

1.4 Essentially NI Connections is a marketing and communications organisation that exists to create engagement with the NI diaspora worldwide, to send a consistent message in terms of our tourism, investment and educational opportunities.

1.5 Belfast City Council (BCC) was invited as a sponsor to NI Connections in December 2012, and subsequently joined with the approval of Members at an annual cost of £30,000, for a period of three years, after which a review was to be undertaken of benefits and outputs for the Council.

1.6 The Council was given a place on the NI Connections board to guide the strategic direction of the organisation. Development Committee members saw this as an opportunity to influence the strategic direction of NI Connections, and to engage with a wider diaspora with other NI organisations and to leverage their contacts and relationships and goodwill in other international destinations and markets of interest to Council.

1.7 It was deemed that membership of NI Connections would allow Council the following benefits:

- Strategic alliances with other key international stakeholders in the city
- An opportunity to develop a Belfast connections sub set of the network
- An opportunity to develop the Belfast ask list for NI diaspora
- Marketing of the Councils information and good news stories to the NI diaspora
- Develop lucrative links with NI diaspora
- Participation in NI Connections events throughout the world
- Cooperation of NI Connections council at BCC events

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- Leverage of the Councils investment in diaspora relationships and opportunity to build on the synergies that exist with others in NI.

1.8 Actively participating in NI Connections is only one action within the Belfast International Relations Framework, and provides Council with an effective tool in marketing the city internationally and utilising NI and Belfast diaspora across the world.

2 Key Issues

2.1 NI Connections has now completed its pilot phase and is entering its delivery phase, having built up the strong network of 1700 plus members across the world. It has set out targets for the next two years which are outlined in the attached report.

2.2 Going Forward

Having been a member of NI Connections network for over a year, Officers have assessed the above benefits and the added value of remaining in the network at the annual cost of £30,000.

2.3 Members will be aware that Council has ramped up its international relations work and has delivered many activities in the last 18 months in the trade sectors of investment, tourism and education within the targeted markets of North America, Europe, India and China.

2.4 Given the growing level of activity that Council is delivering within the International Relations Framework with new initiatives such as Belfast Boston Sister Cities, the MOU with Shenyang, the UKIERI project in India and the many other planned activities, Officers have evaluated the benefits of the NI Connections annual subscription.

2.5 It is therefore felt that an annual subscription of £30,000 is excessive. Having discussed this with NI Connections, BCC has been offered a more basic level of membership at a cost of £6,000 per annum subject to review.

2.6 This would allow Council to continue being promoted as a member, and to make up the financial shortfall it has been proposed that BCC directly involve NI Connections in its outward and inward activities as an opportunity in kind for NI Connections and its members as a whole. An example of this would be to involve NI Connections in the autumn BCC tech

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mission to the west coast of the USA and to brand an event within the mission as NI Connections.

- 2.7 The most significant benefit which NI Connections can offer BCC is to actively target the diaspora to attract conferences to the new Conference Centre at the Waterfront Hall which is due to open in May 2016. BCC and Visit Belfast are working proactively to place this on the NI Connections agenda.**
- 2.8 BCC would remain a member, benefiting from social media opportunities and maintaining roles on the tourism and investment sub groups. Members are asked to consider this report and agree to a reduced members' subscription of £6,000 pending review in one year.**

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 To pay the reduced membership fee of £6,000 for the period 2014-2015 pending a review in one year."**

Discussion ensued in respect of the 'Friends of Belfast' network and it was suggested that that organisation needed to be re-established in order to co-ordinate any International Framework for the City. It was noted that a report in this regard would be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

After discussion, the Committee adopted the recommendation.

European Union Regional Forum

The Committee noted an update in respect of the Council's participation in the Northern Ireland/European Union Regional Forum, which was funded by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister. It was agreed that the Council would seek to procure a managed-service to deliver the project on its behalf and agreed also that the Committee be represented, on 26th June, by the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman at a showcase event to highlight the achievements of the Forum to date.

Update on the Lord Mayors' Forum

The Committee considered the undernoted report

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Council agreed in January to support an event on 28 March which explored the potential of the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor Initiative. Further to several research reports produced over the last 2 decades, there is now a new opportunity to build on the strength of the geographical area between both cities, utilising the concentration of**

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demographic, economic, educational, infrastructural, social and cultural resources that exists along the eastern seaboard.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The Lord Mayor and the Lord Mayor of Dublin led on championing this initiative designed to boost efforts to attract and expand trade and investment opportunities across all sectors. The initiative forms part of both cities internationalisation strategies promoting the Corridor as a place to locate, start or grow a business with strong characteristics of a skilled, well educated talent pool and well established networks of support for company development.

2.2 In order to activate the commitment of both councils, the one day Leadership Forum was organised by Dublin and Belfast City Councils. The Forum started in Dublin and moved to Belfast later in the day, symbolically travelling along the Corridor on the Enterprise train. The overall focus of the event was on how business, tourism and government can collaborate along the Corridor to strengthen links and operate as a powerhouse to maximise potential and attract further investment. It is proposed that the conclusions of the Forum will lead to the manifestation of an action plan to animate the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor, supported by a public commitment from both Councils in the form of a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

2.3 Objectives

- To revive and re-ignite the attention for, and interest in, the Corridor as a hub for trade and investment.
- To highlight the economic potential of this geographical area and secure commitment to driving it forward.
- To strengthen links between key players in business, education and government along the Corridor.
- To investigate potential collaborative actions between stakeholders within the Corridor area.

Outcomes of Leadership Forum

2.4 KPMG attended the Leadership Forum in order to capture key points made during the event by the participants. The event took the form of a discussion forum, with keynote speakers outlining their thoughts of how the Corridor could be developed and encouraging attendees from public, private and voluntary sectors to highlight opportunities and challenges from their own perspectives.

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- 2.5 The themes explored during the Forum by the keynote speakers and attendees included smart technology, sustainability, tourism, infrastructure and the creative industries. The actions proposed are outlined in the KPMG document attached as an appendix to this report.
- 2.6 The report documents six potential areas of activity that emerged during the course of the event;
- Breaking down barriers to travel
 - Cross border education
 - A new 'Enterprise' train
 - 'Trade not aid'
 - The Belfast/Dublin electric car route
 - Collaboration between tourist boards; and
 - What has prevented it happening to date?
 - What impact the action could have on the economic corridor if it were to be implemented?
 - Who are the lead players to make it happen?; and
 - What are the resource implications actions.

Next steps

- 2.8 It is proposed that Belfast and Dublin Council Officers meet to agree a way forward and develop a joint action plan on the 6 key themes; including engaging stakeholders across the sectors to lead on actions where appropriate.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications at this stage. Staff resources to develop the action plan will in the first instance, come from the Council's European Unit. A fully budgeted action plan will be presented for agreement by Members in due course.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that Committee agree to committing to a Memorandum of Understanding with Dublin City Council and to the development of a budgeted action plan to be returned to committee for approval in due course."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Confirmation of Belfast/India Project

The Committee was reminded that the Council's International Relations Framework sought to establish and promote trade, education and tourism opportunities in new and emerging markets worldwide. The Director reported that the Council, in conjunction with the Belfast Metropolitan College and The Queen's University of Belfast, had been successful in an application for funding for a project under the UK and India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). The project, which would be entitled: 'Building Organisational Efficiencies for Small and Medium Enterprises', would run from 2014 to 2016 and would commence with an inward visit to Belfast in August by the Mumbai Chamber of Commerce.

The Director indicated that that project would seek to build capacity within small and medium enterprises within Belfast and enable local companies to compete effectively within the Indian market. He added that, whilst the scheme would be funded by UKIERI and administered by The British Council, the Council would be required to allocate a sum of £15,000 from its international budget to assist in the development of a showcase event and to undertake an outward mission as part of the project.

The Committee agreed to contribute £15,000 towards the project as outlined.

Belfast/Boston – Sister Cities Relationship

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Former Lord Mayor and the European Manager travelled to New York and Boston to foster strong trade, education and tourism links in the North American market in March 2014. During this visit it became evident that there was a real interest at the highest political level to promote trade and investment and develop closer ties with Belfast.**
- 1.2 At the Committee in April, Members agreed that the City of Belfast should enter into a Sister Cities Agreement to foster real actions and opportunities between both cities in the areas of:
 - Economic development, trade and investment
 - Tourism
 - Cultural exchange
 - Faith based exchange and educational linkages.**
- 1.3 The Sister Cities Agreement was subsequently signed in Boston by the Lord Mayor of Belfast and the Mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh on 12 May 2014.**

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2 Key Issues

- 2.1** The former Lord Mayor has suggested that in order to progress the Sister Cities relationship, that a Belfast Boston voluntary board is established in each city with a cross sectoral membership including political representatives.
- 2.2** The aim of the board would be to oversee the development and delivery of an action plan, and to work in partnership with the Sister Cities International organisation to deliver on the commitments of a meaningful Sister Cities relationship. Members are asked to consider the establishment of a board and the necessary resources to support the board, alongside the development and delivery of an action plan.
- 2.3** The Development Committee at its meeting in April this year, also agreed to host the Massachusetts State Senate President, Therese Murray during her visit to Northern Ireland in September 2014. President Murray is fully supportive of a Belfast/Boston Sister Cities relationship and fully endorsed the recent signing of the agreement. President Murray and the Health Minister Edwin Poots have already put in place a Memorandum of Understanding between Boston and Northern Ireland on connected health issues. She will be in Belfast in September 2014 as part of a political programme and business mission to Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is anticipated that she will be accompanied by Congressman Richard Neal, and potentially the Mayor of Boston, Martin Walsh.
- 2.4** This visit presents an opportunity to explore in more detail potential actions around the agreed thematic areas of the Sister Cities Agreement, namely;
- Economic development, trade and investment
 - Tourism
 - Cultural exchange
 - Faith based exchange and educational linkages.
- 2.5** Given the fact that a MOU already exists, on connected health issues, this presents be an opportunity for Belfast health bodies, research institutions and businesses, to look to Boston/Massachusetts for strategic partnerships, or investment.
- 2.6** The 5th EU/US E Health Marketplace and Conference, which takes place in Boston on 21-22 October 2014, will bring together Global connected health innovators, public officials and business leaders as part of the Connected Health Week in

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Boston. Members may wish to consider the potential benefits of participating in this event.

The programme will include:

- **Business-to-business meetings;**
- **Collaboration sessions focused on research, economic growth and innovative start-up companies;**
- **Regional tour opportunities of Massachusetts incubator sites and innovation centres; &**
- **Exhibitions featuring connected health products, services and demonstrations.**

2.7 The conference and connected meetings will facilitate the further development of the E health and ICT sector for Belfast as well as establishing strong US relations through the International Framework.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 It is anticipated that the cost of participating in the EU/US E Health Marketplace and Conference with attendance by the Lord Mayor, Chair and Deputy Chairs of the Development Committee or their nominees, plus an Officer will not exceed £10,000. The budget for hosting Senator Murray has already been approved at a maximum of £5,000 by Members of the Development Committee. The cost of the development and delivery of a Belfast Boston Sister Cities action plan along with staff resources is still to be determined and will be brought to Committee in due course.

4 Recommendations

- **To approve the development of a budgeted Belfast Boston Sister Cities action plan to the satisfaction of the Development committee;**
- **To establish a voluntary Belfast Boston Sister Cities Board in each city to oversee and monitor the development and delivery of the action plan; and**
- **To authorise the attendance of the Lord Mayor, the Chair and Deputy Chair, or their nominees, along with an officer at the EU/US E-Health Marketplace and Conference at a maximum cost of £10,000.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

International Relations – Update

The Committee noted an update in respect of the work which had been undertaken in respect of the development of an International Relations Framework and

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noted that a revised document would be completed and presented for consideration in the autumn of 2014.

Noted.

HMS Duncan

The Committee was advised that HMS Duncan, to which, in 2008, the Council had agreed that it would become affiliated with, would be arriving in Belfast on the morning of Saturday, 26th July, and would depart on Tuesday, 29th July. The Director outlined the logistical arrangements which would be put in place in order to enable the public to undertake visits to the ship and requested the Committee's authority for expenditure in the sum of a £2,000 to enable the provision of shuttle buses to allow the access to the ship from the City centre.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Core City Regeneration and Investment Framework

The Committee noted a report which provided an update on the progress achieved to date in the formulation of the Belfast Core City Regeneration and Investment Framework, which was due to be presented to the Committee in the autumn of 2014.

Visual Arts Infrastructure

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

1.1 Members will be aware that at the Committee gave approval to support a feasibility study into visual arts infrastructure in the city. This research was jointly commissioned with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and examined a proposal to relocate a number of independent organisations in one building creating a hub and contemporary gallery space for Belfast.

1.2 Cultural Framework for Belfast

As Members will also be aware, the Cultural Framework for Belfast 2012–15 was agreed at September 2012 Development Committee and published in October 2012. Its vision is that:-

‘By 2020, everyone in Belfast experiences and is inspired by our city’s diverse and distinctive culture and arts. Arts and heritage are valued for enriching quality of life and creating wealth, and the city’s culture and creativity is renowned throughout the world.’

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1.3 The Cultural Framework complements the Investment Programme, which recognises arts and heritage as key drivers of the city's economy. It was developed in consultation with the arts and heritage sectors, and the Council's approach has been cited as best practice. Its aims are arranged under four themes – Distinctly Belfast, Inspiring communities, Attracting audiences and Strengthening the sector – and its targets include:

- increasing audiences from Belfast by 10 per cent**
- growing visiting audiences from 15 to 25 per cent**
- establishing a strong, skilled, multifaceted arts and heritage infrastructure**
- generating £8 in income for every £1 invested in the sector.**

1.4 As part of an ongoing commitment outlined within the Framework, Council has undertaken a leadership role on the strategic alignment and co-ordination of the culture and arts sector, providing opportunities for organisations to develop and diversify their income streams and promoting partnership working and collaboration.

2 Key Issues

2.1 The initial feasibility study has now been completed and has recommended that the proposal for a contemporary visual arts hub and gallery proceed to economic appraisal.

2.2 Following comparative analysis with UK cities, it has been identified that Belfast needs to look at the future provision of visual culture in order to compete nationally and internationally, including options of a hub and flagship venue. Work to date has identified these developments as critical drivers for culture, tourism and regeneration in the city.

2.3 This economic appraisal would respond to the city's need for destination venues and the sector's need for shared resources to best use funding available. The aim is not just to provide a world class visitor destination, but also to represent the artists, creative industries practitioners and craftspeople living and working in Belfast as well as addressing the shortage of temporary exhibition space in the city that currently limits opportunities to attract international events.

2.4 It is anticipated that the economic appraisal will focus on establishing a business case that would include:

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- The relocation of Golden Thread Gallery
- A large-scale contemporary art gallery
- A permanent collection of Art from the late 1960's to the present
- A mixed-use space: community and outreach
- Cultural Cinema: 4 screen art-house cinema
- Café/bar
- Retail space
- Office accommodation external use
- Office accommodation internal use
- Storage

2.5 Artist Studios

A separate challenge to the future of visual arts in Belfast has been identified as the state of artist studios and one of the city's current studio providers, Flax Arts has approached Council for partnership funding to support a feasibility study. Funding from ACNI has been secured to examine the shortage of studio provision in the city with existing studios offering poor working conditions and long waiting lists. The study would respond to the city's need for self sustaining fit for purpose artist studios. Flax Art Studios would act as the lead organisation working in partnership with potential stakeholders including: Orchid Studios, University of Ulster and other studio providers. The feasibility study will identify the need for the best solution and future sustainability for the city and examine potential options across Belfast focusing on the regeneration of existing sites and buildings.

- 2.6 Initial research has been conducted into best practice studio provision examining comparative models in Dublin, Glasgow and London. The study will build on this research to present options to address long term sustainability issues in Belfast.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

A total financial commitment of £14,000 consisting of £9,000 towards an economic appraisal for a contemporary visual arts hub/gallery and £5,000 towards a feasibility study into the state of studio provision in the city to be found from within TCA budget for 14/15.

The total combined budget would be £31,000 with ACNI contributing £17,000.

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5 Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Committee authorises expenditure in the sum of £14,000 to support an economic appraisal for a contemporary visual arts hub and gallery and to support a feasibility study for studio provision in the city.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Renewing the Routes Programme

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to provide updates and seek approval for a number of proposals linked to the council and additional ongoing programmes. The updates are in respect of:**

- Progress of works under our current agreed programme in Oldpark and Stewartstown Roads
- Progress on the DSD funded local regeneration programme on Lower Ormeau Road incorporating Cormac Street and Newtownards Road

- 1.4 Following on from the programme approved in February 2012, Committee support is sought in relation to the specific local regeneration action plans for Lisburn Road and Castlereagh Road areas as presented in Appendix 2.**

2 Key Issues

2.1 Oldpark Rd and Andersonstown Rd

In May 2013, Development Committee approved the Local Regeneration Plans for Oldpark Road (Torrens Avenue to Cliftondene Crescent) and Andersonstown Road (Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road). Due to issues with implementing the contract the work programme has been delayed. It is anticipated work will complete in autumn 2014.

- 2.2 On site work has commenced on Oldpark Road where 26 units have been identified for improvements. Boundary improvement scheme to include new fencing work has completed to the car sales yard. New signage to the pedestrian gates is proposed to add value to the newly refurbished Millennium Park. An environmental improvement**

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scheme to potentially include a feature lighting scheme is being planned for the Moravian Church.

- 2.3 The programme is also on site on Andersonstown Road (Node 4: Stewartstown Road from Hillhead Crescent to Suffolk Road) where a number of commercial businesses are undergoing frontage upgrades. In partnership with our Tourism, Culture and Art's Unit, an extension of the visitors signage network will be developed with a sign to be located outside St John the Baptist Church. This will complement the environmental improvement work currently underway to the boundary walls and railings of category B listed Church. A joint improvement scheme at the Hunting Lodge is also being planned to enhance the local environment through an upgrade of the boundary walls, railings and gates. This will complement the work and investment currently being undertaken by the premises owners.
- 2.4 Officers continue regular contact with Department of Regional Development (DRD) and their consultants Amey Consultancy surrounding the proposed enabling measures to facilitate the introduction of an additional bus lane along the Stewartstown Road. This will result in carriageway widening for several areas with footways and street lighting also being reconfigured.
- 2.5 As Members will be aware, following ongoing discussions with Amey and DRD, it has been confirmed that two of the potential environmental projects have been affected by the realignment of the carriageway. As a result of Amey/DRD negotiations over land acquisition and vesting, the Council will not be able to enter into legal agreements with the landowners on these projects. The projects affected are:
- the proposed environmental improvement scheme at Hillhead Crescent and,
 - the environmental improvement scheme and railing works along the Stewartstown Road.
- 2.6 As part of the ongoing consultation exercise, we have already engaged with property owners for the alternative projects and a number of alternative schemes from the Action Plan have been proposed including additional commercial units, and environmental improvements schemes at Suffolk Library and Suffolk Day Centre.

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2.7 Newtownards Road and Ormeau Road Council Programme

Integrated Regeneration Plans for Newtownards Road (from Bridge End to Witham Street) and Ormeau Road (from Ormeau Embankment to Ravenhill Road Roundabout) were approved in August 2012.

2.8 The completion of these initiatives in the agreed Actions Plans was achieved within the agreed allocations and an underspend has been identified allowing additional units to be targeted under the commercial improvement programme on both roads.

2.9 Cromac Street/Lower Ormeau Road and Newtownards Road

Work is nearing completion on the DSD funded local regeneration programme on lower Ormeau Road incorporating Cromac Street. The £155,000 investment in the area has benefitted the cosmetic enhancement of 40 units with complementary environmental improvement schemes to the Arena Building, H&J Martin boundary and an area of vacant green space on the corner of Cooke Street.

2.10 Construction work commenced in late autumn 2013 for the DSD funded units on the Newtownards Road (Bridge End to Welland Street) and has resulted in a further 38 businesses receiving cosmetic improvements. As part of the wider local regeneration activity on the road, a number of vacant sites were identified and council worked along with local stakeholders, statutory partners and council departments to address the issues presented by the underutilised areas. As part of this scoping work, a key site at the junction of Templemore Avenue and Newtownards Road was identified and hoarding installed to improve the corner.

2.11 2014/15 (Lisburn Road/ Castlereagh Road)

Since approval in February 2012, work has continued on the development of plans for the agreed target areas. Extensive scoping and engagement work with relevant statutory and community contacts, including elected representatives for the area was carried out as part of the plan development process.

2.12 The proposed plans for Lisburn Road and Castlereagh Road also identify a longer list of additional projects that could form the basis for further work should increased resources become available (through external sources currently being

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actively pursued with potential project partners) or modifications are required for existing plans.

2.13 The key common themes emerging from the scoping work with local Councillors and stakeholders were identified as:

- *Environmental improvements* - major issues facing the routes are dereliction or under used property and often poor general environments; requiring action to ensure improvements that can complement other developments;
- *Heritage* – the roads contain elements of historical or cultural significance that offer the opportunity to develop these local assets through architectural lighting, interpretive signage and heritage projects;
- *Commercial improvements* – focus areas have been identified along the routes; the areas are hubs of activity with local shops, services and facilities serving the community. The commercial improvements will focus on improving the environment within these areas for residents, businesses and visitors;
- *Environmental management works* - Targeted and sustained clean-up and graffiti removal campaigns working with local groups;
- *Collaborative and partnership work* - essential in maximising finite budgets, particularly with a joined-up approach to external funding opportunities with statutory agencies. The underlying objective is to maximise the impact of the Council's own contribution through internal joint working and external partnership opportunities alongside community safety, parks and leisure, economic development, building control, tourism and the arts and cleansing services.

3 Recommendations

- To note the progress re: the DSD funded local regeneration programme on Lower Ormeau Road incorporating Cromac Street and on Newtownards Road; and
- Endorse the Action Plans for the 2013/15 programme on Lisburn Road (Bradbury Place to Tates Avenue) and Castlereagh Road (Beersbridge Road to Grand Parade/Ladas Drive).”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

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Review of the Departmental Plan – Quarter 4

The Committee noted the progress which had been achieved to date in respect of the Departmental Plan for 2013/2014.

2013/2014 Finance Report – Quarter 4

The Committee noted the progress which had been achieved to date in respect of the Quarterly Financial Report for 2013/2014.

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls – Performance Report

The Director provided an overview of the performance figures for both the Waterfront and Ulster Halls for the period from 1st April, 2013 till 31st March, 2014. He outlined the programme of events which had been staged at both venues during that period and provided figures in respect of the income derived through conference and box office sales. In addition, he outlined the enhanced marketing and promotion which would be undertaken by staff in advance of the opening of the new conference and exhibition facilities at the Waterfront Hall.

Noted.

Markets – Staffing Review

The Committee authorised the undertaking of a review of the future staffing requirements and structure for the Council's Markets Unit.

External Market Applications

The Committee was reminded that the 'Fine and Dandy' company had been granted permission to operate a small market in the Crescent Arts Centre on the last Sunday of each month until December, 2013. Due to the popularity of the market, the Committee had, at its meeting in November, 2013, extended that arrangement until the end of July, 2014. The Director reported that the company had requested a further extension to that agreement with the Council.

The Committee agreed to extend the market licence to 'Fine and Dandy' for a period of three years ending on 31st July, 2017.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations – Post Event Report

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide feedback to Councillors on the 2014 St Patrick's Celebrations.**

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- Seek guidance on events for 2015 with special reference to the date for the Council's main parade and concert.
- 1.2 In May 2013 Members agreed to move the main council St Patrick's parade and concert to the nearest Sunday to St Patrick's Day rather than on the 17th March. The rationale behind the move was based on the resources connected to events on the 17th March especially in regard to the carnival element. In addition the move was seen as assisting in attracting visitors to the city given that St Patrick's Day is not a public holiday in Belfast. The shift was also deemed to assist the council's St Patrick's events to stand out in its marketing given the prevalence of activities elsewhere on the 17th March.
- 1.3 The 2014 programme of activity created by the council included a parade and concert, alongside events run by the Ulster and Waterfront Halls. In addition to this Members agreed to host the annual Ullans Academy St Patrick's Day Breakfast at City Hall and promote the New York based Sober St Patrick's Day initiative. The following are the key statistics generated by the concert and parade events:
- Total cost to council was £140,000 (£40,000 less than 2013 due to budget constraints)
 - It is estimated that 23,000 people attended the event (8,000 concert attendees over three hours and an audience of 15,000 for the parade). This figure is very similar to 2013.
 - Estimated economic return of over £508,000. Again very similar to 2013.
 - Return on council's investment of £3.62 for every £1.00 invested. This is slightly higher, but is due to the reduced 2014 budget.
 - 7% of attendees were out-of-state (9% in 2013), 33% (33% in 2013) outside Belfast and 60% (60% in 2013) from the Greater Belfast area
 - An average positive rating of 71% for the overall event was given
 - It is estimated that 55% (51% in 2013), of attending were from a:
 - Catholic background; 26% Protestant (no change from 2013) and 19% from other backgrounds (22% in 2013).
 - Just over half (53%) agreed that the St Patrick's Celebrations should be held on a Sunday however a proportion disagreed especially amongst the 55+ age group.

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2 Key Issues

2.1 Members are being asked to give guidance to whether a similar family orientated programme should be delivered in March 2015. The programme would be based on many of the activities highlighted including the annual Ullans Academy St Patrick's Day Breakfast and the Sober St Patrick's Day initiative. However, Members are also being asked if they wish to continue with the format that would see the annual parade and concert operating on the nearest Sunday to St Patrick's Day rather than on the 17th March given some of the feedback in the above statistics.

3.1 Financial

The 2015 programme would be delivered within the £140,000 as agreed by Members in February 2014.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Give guidance on the format of the event in 2015 and on which day the events should be staged on – 17th March or the nearest Sunday to this date.”

During discussion, a number of Members indicated that the celebrations should revert to the traditional 17th March date in order to try and attract more spectators and encourage wider cross-community participation.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Ó Donnghaile,
Seconded by Alderman Stalford and

Resolved – that the Committee notes the information which has been provided and agrees that the City's St. Patrick's Day event would revert back to 17th March from 2015 onwards.

World Boxing Title Fight in Belfast

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 15th April, it had agreed, should the local boxer Carl Frampton secure a world title fight for himself in Belfast, that it might consider supporting the event. The Director pointed out that Mr. Frampton had secured a bout with the existing IBF world champion Kiko Martinez for 6th September at a venue to be confirmed in the City. He outlined the principal aspects of a report which indicated that the Council could seek to promote the event by making a facility available for the purposes of the weigh-in or a press conference. In addition, given that there had been an underspend of £7,500 identified within the budget which had been allocated to host the Giro d'Italia and the UK National Piping Championships, he outlined a

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programme of community and youth-based events which could take place to mark the holding in Belfast of the bout.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and authorised the holding of a series of events, at a cost not to exceed £7,500, to mark the occasion of the world championship bout in Belfast.

Heating Oil Clubs

The Committee was informed that the Council's Health and Environmental Services Committee, at its meeting on 4th June, had considered a report which outlined the aims and objectives of a pilot project which would provide practical support to community organisations in the setting up of Heating Oil Clubs. That Committee had agreed to contribute £6,000 towards the project, which would be overseen by the Council in conjunction with a range of bodies and agencies.

The Director reported that the principal aim of a Heating Oil Club was to establish collective groups across the City which would appoint a volunteer co-ordinator who would negotiate the most advantageous bulk price for the group with oil suppliers. Once a price per litre had been agreed, householders would make arrangements for delivery and payment directly with the supplier at the reduced rate. He outlined the principal aspects of the project and indicated that the total cost would be in the region of £23,000, of which a contribution of £8,000 had been requested from the Committee.

The Committee agreed to provide funding in the sum of £8,000 towards the pilot project and noted that an evaluation report would be submitted for its consideration in due course.

Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland – Consultation Response

The Committee endorsed the contents of the response to the Department for Regional Developments Consultation in respect of the Bicycle Strategy for Northern Ireland, a copy of which was published on the Council's mod.gov website.

Community Development Grant Programme 2015 to 2017

The Committee considered the undernoted report

“1 Background Information

- 1.1 The Belfast Statutory Transition Committee 9 April 2014 agreed the approach to BCC Community Development Grant Programme 2015/2017 and gave permission to progress to a competitive open call.**
- 1.2 Community Services are currently working with the Central Grants Unit to prepare for this open call across the new council area. The programme was launched at a high profile event at City Hall on 3 June 2014 with a formal information and**

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awareness session. This is now being followed by a number of more localised information and awareness sessions, the provision of a 'hot desk' staffed by Community Services and a number of advice clinics. The open call for large grants is taking place June / July and that for small grants is scheduled for November.

- 1.3 Development Committee 20 August 2013 agreed a fund of £50,000 to assist in building the capacity of organisations to make the transition to the new grant programme. In addition funding was secured from Department of Social Development (DSD) under the Community Support Plan (CSP) to design and commission a training support programme for the sector as an opportunity to build capacity to deal with those challenges resulting from Local Government Reform and the open call for grants for 2015/17. This programme was delivered across the city during spring 2014.
- 1.4 The Committee 18 February 2014 agreed to accept a further report outlining options for the £50,000 additional programme of development support.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 Community Development small grants are traditionally accessed by the significant number of small lower capacity community groups that operate across the city. Whilst the small grant programme for 2015/17 will not differ in any substantive way from the previous programme it is anticipated that there will be a number of challenges, particularly for lower capacity groups, in regard to processes and systems. The detail of the application process will be known in September.
- 2.2 Prior to the November open call for small grants the Central Grants Unit will be delivering information and awareness sessions across the new council area. This will cover both generic and grant specific information in relation to all council small grants opening at that time.
- 2.3 In addition to this approach it is proposed the £50,000 additional programme of development support be used to deliver a specific package to build the capacity of small organisations in accessing the community development small grants programme. To maximise the potential of this programme it is proposed it is delivered by those locally based community support organisations contracted by council under the current capacity building grant.

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- 2.4 Currently 18 organisations are contracted by council under this grant the purpose of which is to support community groups to build their skills, knowledge, people, structures and systems at a neighbourhood level. It is proposed that the £50,000 would be allocated as uplift on current contract to those contracted groups interested in delivering the additional programme. This programme would be additional to that currently contracted as the grant programme is new and the timeframe for awareness raising and support is going to be tight in this first year of implementation.**
- 2.5 Uplift awards will be made upon submission of a satisfactory submission from organisations in line with programme objectives.**
- 2.6 Eligible organisations will be able, if appropriate, to submit a programme to cover those areas from Castlereagh and Lisburn moving into the new council area.**

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 There are 18 areas within the current council boundary supported by the contracted support organisations. It is anticipated that the areas transferring to the new council area would bring an additional 4 areas to this figure i.e. 22 areas in total. The total budget available would allow a maximum award of £2,275 per area. It is hoped that cover of all 22 areas will be delivered by the programme**

4 Recommendations

To agree to the proposal as recommended in regard to the additional programme of development support.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Loop River Play Centre – Licence Agreement Renewal

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 17th November, 2013, it had recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it authorise the variation to an existing lease and licence arrangement with the Scout Association for the use of premises at Courtney Hall for a 24 month period from 1st November, 2013, at a cost of £220 per week. It was reported that the Department's usage requirements for the Hall had varied slightly since the original agreement and it had been necessary to negotiate revised rents for the property as set out:

- £190 per week from 24th June, 2014, until the licence expiry or termination;

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- £330 per week during the four week summer scheme in July and August;
- £5.61 per hour for any extra hours required during the term of the licence.

The Committee agreed to the variation of the licence agreement, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Chairman

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Health and Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, 4th June, 2014

MEETING OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Alderman L. Thompson);
Aldermen Kingston and Stoker;
Councillors M. E. Campbell, Clarke, Curran,
Garrett, Jones, Keenan, Kelly, Kyle, Magee,
McCarthy, McKee, McNamee and Thompson.

In attendance: Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;
Mrs. S. Toland, Head of Environmental Health;
Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management;
Mr. J. Ferguson, Operations Manager (Street Cleansing
and Transport); and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillors Austin and Hussey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st May.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Directorate

Quarterly Financial Report

The Head of Building Control submitted for the Committee's consideration a report outlining the financial performance of the Health and Environmental Services Department for the final quarter of 2013/2014. He reported that there had, during that period, been an underspend of £495,000 (1.2%), which had been due primarily to the receipt of additional income by the Building Control Service, vacancies and unfilled posts within the Environmental Health Service and a reduction in costs associated with training, overtime, and supplies and services within the Cleansing Services Section. That had been offset to an extent by a slight increase in security, utility and waste treatment costs within the Waste Management Service.

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He drew the Committee's attention to two performance indicators relating to procurement compliance which had been included within the report, the first of which measured the number of times in which a valid purchase order had been created in advance of goods or services being ordered. The second indicator determined whether goods received by the Council were recorded on the appropriate system immediately upon their receipt, rather than waiting until an invoice had been received. The Council had agreed target figures of 90% and 75% respectively for 2013/2014, with each indicator being reported on a rolling year basis.

He confirmed that the Department had, in quarter four, achieved compliance rates of 89.8% and 72.4% respectively, which compared favourably with the previous three months. The overall Council compliance rates for the two indicators had, in quarter four, been 82% and 70.1%.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Departmental Plan 2013/2014 – Year-End Update

The Committee noted the contents of a report which provided an overview of the work which had been undertaken in delivering the 2013/2014 Departmental Plan, together with the performance achieved against identified targets and projects.

Building Control

Update on Dilapidated Buildings Projects

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 As the Committee is aware, over the past number of years, due to the economic downturn, the problem of derelict, dilapidated and ruinous properties has increased dramatically. These properties and sites have led to an increase in anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, impact on adjoining properties, pests and increased dangers to those around the buildings due to the deteriorating nature of the properties.**
- 1.2 The Building Control Service, under the Belfast Improvement Act 1878 and Public Health Amendment Act 1907, has taken action on such properties to ensure that any dangers to those in or around the properties are removed. The Service has also used the additional powers contained within the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 to serve notices on the owners of dilapidated and ruinous properties or sites within Belfast which are deemed seriously detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood, to tackle the increasing problem.**

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- 1.3 In July 2012, the Service undertook a survey of the city to identify and evaluate all the ruinous and dilapidated properties. Approximately 4,000 streets were surveyed and information was collected on any properties which fell into the criteria for the project. A total of 1,500 properties (including vacant sites and abandoned building works) were identified as potentially being in a ruinous or dilapidated condition; and we highlighted 250 properties within those 1500 that the Service believed were appropriate for action. The Service had previously been tackling these buildings through enforcement however the government in recognising the need to assist councils in tackling dereliction and dilapidation put in place particular funding schemes. This report will detail the success, not only of our enforcement but also in acquiring funds under those schemes to tackle derelict and dilapidated properties across the city.

BCC Enforcement Powers and DoE funded Project I

- 1.4 By the use of our own enforcement powers and through additional £500K funding supplied in December 2012 by the then Minister for the Environment, Alex Attwood MLA, work had taken place by spring 2013 on nearly 150 buildings. This left approximately 100 buildings in the current matrix to be processed. The work under the Minister's scheme was a combination of demolition, hoarding and cosmetic works, and the results were reported to Committee in May 2013. We also continued work with enforcement action on the remainder of the buildings using our various legislative powers.
- 1.5 As a result of the experiences gained by the Service in dealing with this problem, a letter was also sent by the Committee to the then DOE Minister Alex Attwood MLA asking for changes to the existing legislation to enable councils to work more effectively in dealing with dereliction. The Minister having met with the Head of Building Control and Legal Services Manager asked his officers to work with the Council in determining what needed to be done to improve the process. As a result of this meeting a discussion document on proposed changes to legislation in this area has been circulated to all councils from DoE for comments. This document and the proposed response to it by BCC is the subject of a separate report to this Committee.

DoE funded Project II

- 1.6 Following the August 2013 Committee meeting, the Service submitted a further bid to DoE for £500,000 of funding from the October monitoring round. Included in the bid were a number

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of properties in the North East Quarter of the city centre and individual properties within the outlying areas of the city in each of the quarters. Whilst no funding for dereliction was approved by the Assembly Executive in October, our bid was resubmitted, as requested by the Minister in December 2013 for consideration in the January monitoring round.

- 1.7 Minister Durkan then announced in February 2014 additional funding to deal with dilapidations, sourced through the January 2014 monitoring round for a number of councils including Belfast. Some £230,000 was made available to Belfast. The money was for projects as defined in our bid and any money released had to be spent by the Councils by 31 March 2014. Whilst the funding was allocated to specific projects we negotiated a substitution framework as experience of the previous scheme demonstrated the need for a degree of flexibility.

DSD funded project I

- 1.8 As a result of our success in working with DoE and in tackling dereliction throughout the city, we were approached in late April and offered funding from the Department of Social Development, through both their City Centre Directorate (£61,000) and Belfast Regeneration Office (£20,000). This was work that whilst under their set criteria, and only available in the DSD core areas, could also benefit the improvement of routes for the Giro d'Italia. Whilst there was no opportunity to seek Committee or Council approval due to the short notice of the offer we had to take a decision to access these funds as we believed they would benefit the city.
- 1.9 The funding from the second DoE project (£230,000) combined with the DSD funds (£81,000), and in conjunction with £50,000 of funding from our own Council dereliction budget of 13/14, allowed us to carry out in total improvements or demolition on 49 properties during March and April 2014.
- 1.10 I am pleased to inform the Committee that all this work has now been completed to the satisfaction of both Departments. A list of all the buildings where work was carried out between March 2014 and May 2014 is attached. The Service wishes to acknowledge the work of many Elected Members who helped us to identify, and intervene with building owners, assisting us in getting some of these projects delivered. The Department recognises that some projects on the original application could not be delivered and substitutions had to be made at late notice, but I can assure Members that those projects will be in our new submission for funding as detailed in a separate

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report to this Committee. Additionally, those that can be pursued by other means will be progressed.

- 1.11 The work carried out in relation to these properties will have a major effect on enhancing and regenerating the North East Quarter area and on specific eyesores in all areas of the city including the 19 individual properties we enhanced along the route of the Giro d'Italia race.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The Service was successful in accessing £310,000 of funding from central Government to deal with dereliction and dilapidation across the city. This combined with £50,000 from our own budget has implemented work on 49 buildings.
- 2.2 The Service continues to take enforcement action in relation to derelict and dangerous properties throughout the city and has served 172 notices and 36 summonses in 2013-2014 on owners of a range of properties.
- 2.3 Resulting from our work with these Departments, we are currently bidding to DoE for additional funding and looking to negotiate with DSD officials to establish further partnerships.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

The Service spent £100,000 of its own budget during 2013/2014 in carrying out work in default, in addition to the funding allocated by the Government departments. This sum is in addition to any funding allocated by Government departments.

3.2 Human Resources

The majority of the work will be covered by existing Building Control staff. For the initial project the Service employed specialist staff such as a Quantity Surveyor to deal with the costs and project administration in addition to a Health and Safety (H&S) consultant to deal with sites under demolition. Recognising the undoubted benefits of this post the Service has now employed the Quantity Surveyor (QS) on a temporary contract in preparation of documentation and administration of the bid and will employ the Health & Safety consultant only when required. The QS cost are financed by an existing underspend in the Service's salary budget due to current vacancies and the costs for the H&S consultant can be allocated to the DoE Project were required.

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Additional costs incurred were comprised of professional fees (Structural Engineer, CDM Co-ordinator, design liability), graphic design and graphics production, and disconnection of utilities, (mainly electricity supplies), to allow safe demolitions to be carried out were funded through the project.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

None

4 Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is requested to note the work of the Building Control Service to date in delivering the projects.”

During a lengthy discussion, the Head of Building Control highlighted a number of limitations which were being encountered currently by the Council in attempting to deal effectively with dilapidated sites and properties, in relation to, for example, dealing with emergency situations and in recovering costs where remedial works had been undertaken in default. He explained that the Committee would, later in the meeting, be requested to consider a draft response for submission to the Department of the Environment, which was seeking to strengthen the powers available to councils to address such difficulties.

The Committee adopted the recommendation and agreed that a representative of the Department for Social Development be invited to attend a future meeting in order to brief Members on its Empty Homes Strategy, which sought to bring empty residential properties back into use.

Future Funding of Dilapidated Building Projects

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 As the Committee is aware, the problem of derelict, dilapidated and ruinous properties has increased dramatically. The Service devised a strategy to deal with these buildings throughout the city, tackling the issues from a combination of approaches. Whilst the enforcement processes the Building Control Service has carried out under the various available acts are an important part of the strategy to tackle these buildings, the other key factor has been the availability of government funding. Funding from the Department of the Environment (DOE) and the Department of Social Development (DSD), in conjunction with Council funds, recently allowed us to carry out improvements or demolition on a total of 49

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properties during March and April 2014, including many works which benefitted the route of the Giro d'Italia.
Invitation to Bid on DoE funded Project III

- 1.2 All councils recently received an invitation from the DOE to submit a bid for further funding to deal with dereliction. It is hoped these funds would be sourced from the June monitoring round and would have a deadline for completion of all works of 31st January, 2015. Such funding would be used in a similar manner to the previous DOE funding in terms of the engagement with owners to get legal agreements signed and engaging our contractors to carry out the works. This bid had to be submitted by 31st May 2014. Given that there were no meetings in May, we could not get this to an earlier Committee meeting and therefore we had to take a decision to submit a bid.
- 1.3 We are now informing Committee that we have made a bid for funding of up to £400,000 from DOE to carry out works in relation to dereliction and dilapidation in the city. The proposals incorporate buildings and sites across all areas the city and will include not only buildings that Elected Members have been particularly concerned with but also projects that were unable to be completed as part of our last bid due to circumstances outside our control. Details of the buildings we propose to carry out works on, and as submitted with the bid, are attached.

Possible DSD funded Projects

- 1.4 Further to recent work with the DSD, they made enquiries as to future working on similar schemes. They are interested in discussions with the Council in relation to possibly making another tranche of funding available for certain areas or projects within the city. These discussions, if approved by Committee and Council, will be carried out in close consultation and partnership with the Council's Development Department. If agreed, a further report will be presented to Committee for consideration following any outcome of those discussions.
- 1.5 Finally, running parallel to the externally funded work carried out through agreement with the owners, the Service continues to take enforcement action on a number of properties throughout the city with the intent of forcing the owners to repair the properties, or being granted the power for the Council to step in and carry out the repairs. The Service has been allocated its own dilapidation budget to taking action on

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properties resulting from the outcome of this enforcement action.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 DOE has invited the Council, along with others, to submit a bid for funding to address dereliction across the city. Such funding would be used in a similar manner to the previous DOE funding in terms of the engagement with owners to get legal agreements signed and engaging contractors to carry out the works.
- 2.2 Further discussions, if agreed, are to be held with the DSD to establish if they are able to make another tranche of funding available for certain areas or projects within the city. These discussions will be in close consultation and partnership with the Council's Development Department and a further report will be brought to Committee for consideration following those discussions.
- 2.3 Running parallel to externally funded work the Service will continue to take enforcement action on a number of properties throughout the city.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

The Service has £100,000 of its 2014/15 budget to carry out work in default. This sum is in addition to any possible funding allocated by government departments, and would not form part of the funding relating to the proposed bids.

3.2 Human Resources

The majority of the work will be covered by existing Building Control staff. Other specialist costs such as H&S consultant will be allocated to the DOE Project.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

None

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to:

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- 1. acknowledge the bid made by the Head of Building Control to DOE for funding to address dilapidations based on the attached list of buildings;**
- 2. grant permission for the Head of Building Control to engage with DSD to discuss the possibility of further funding from that Department and that in doing so he will liaise with the Director of Development and inform the Committee of the outcome, and**
- 3. acknowledge the continuing work of the Service in relation to enforcement actions.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Consultation on Proposed Changes to Legislation to Address Dangerous, Dilapidated, Ruinous Buildings and Neglected Sites

The Committee considered the undernoted report and agreed that the attached comments be forwarded to the Department of the Environment as the Council's response to the consultation document:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware of the work carried out by the Service over the last number of years in tackling the problem of derelict, dilapidated and ruinous properties. Additionally the issue of abandoned partially-completed building sites and even areas of waste ground left neglected has been frequently raised by members on behalf of their constituents. However, the Council has little if any powers to effectively address those problems. Such properties and sites are a great concern to the public; in particular residents that have to live in close proximity and the issues of anti-social behaviour, fly tipping, pests etc can undoubtedly make many people's lives a misery.**
- 1.2 The Building Control Service, in conjunction with Legal Services, adopts a robust approach in this area and regularly takes action under the Belfast Improvement Act 1878, Public Health Amendment Act 1907 and the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978. However, whilst we have a high degree of success most of this legislation is antiquated and therefore does not always have the scope or necessary powers to tackle all aspects of this increasing problem.**
- 1.3 Additionally despite the success of enforcement we have taken to date under the above three pieces of legislation, there**

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are significant deficiencies, omissions and loopholes inherent in all of the provisions that impact adversely on the Council's ability to take effective action in certain circumstances. In particular the power to act in emergency situations is very limited and there are also significant deficiencies in the legislation in relation to the recovery of costs where the Council had had to carry out works in default because the owner cannot be traced or the owner has no means to carry out the necessary works.

1.4 As a result of the experiences gained by the Service in dealing with these problems, a letter was sent by the Committee to the then DoE Minister Alex Attwood MLA asking for changes to the existing legislation to enable councils to tackle issues around dereliction more effectively. The Minister, having met with the Head of Building Control and the Town Solicitor, asked his officers to work with the Council in determining what needed to be done to improve the process. As a result of that meeting, and other subsequent meetings between Council officers and DoE officials, a discussion document: 'Environmental Legislation: Dilapidated/Dangerous Buildings and Neglected Sites' on proposed changes to legislation in this area has been circulated to all councils from DoE for comments. The current DoE Minister has also confirmed that he is keen for the matter to be progressed.

1.5 This document has now been considered by various officers across the Council, including Environmental Health and Legal Services, and the proposed response to the consultation is attached.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Current legislation dealing with dangerous, dilapidated and ruinous buildings and abandoned sites is not fit for purpose in certain circumstances.

2.2 Some of the key issues are:

- Ability to make people amenable before the courts;
- Inability to deal with properties where the owners are in administration or some other type of insolvency;
- Need for simpler and more effective forms of recovery of Council funds spent in default;

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- Need to broaden the scope of buildings and sites that need to be tackled, to include abandoned building sites;
- Powers of court to fine owners who default on their responsibilities;
- Benefits of consolidating and updating legislation into a modern fit for purpose document;
- The provision of appropriate Guidance from the Department;
- Powers for Councils to take immediate action in emergency situations;
- Ensuring that any new powers compliment, but remain distinct from, powers under planning legislation
- (The issue of action under this type of legislation and the impact on planning legislation requires to be rationalised.)

2.3 The DoE has circulated a consultation document on proposals for new legislation to be introduced to offer councils improved powers to deal with these issues. The proposed response document by the Council, which is appended, was written after detailed discussions took place between Building Control, Environmental Health and Legal Services.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

None – no new resources above those already dedicated to enforcing against ruinous, dangerous or dilapidated buildings are likely to be required to enforce new or amended legislation.

3.2 Human Resources

None – no new personnel above those already dedicated to enforcing against ruinous, dangerous or dilapidated buildings are likely to be required to enforce new or amended legislation.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

None

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4 Recommendation

4.1 The Committee is requested to:

1. note the work of the Building Control, Environmental Health and Legal Services to date and adopt, amend or reject the proposed responses, and
2. after ratification submit the agreed response to the DoE consultation document on behalf of the Council.

COUNCIL RESPONSE

Q1. *Have you taken action under Article 65 of the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978?*

Yes.

Q2. *What were the results of such action?*

The Council has carried out the works in default.

Q3. *Do you consider Article 65 to be an effective or useful provision, and if not, why?*

The Article 65 provision is used by the Council on a regular basis as set out in the table below.

Year	Article 65s Issued
01/04/2013 – 31/03/2014	44
01/04/2012 – 31/03/2013	47
01/04/2011 – 31/03/2012	63

Article 65 is normally used where there is a statutory nuisance which should be abated but the Council is unable to trace the owner of the property. There would also need to be an element of urgency to the situation, e.g. blocked drain causing sewage to emanate from the property or accumulations of refuse causing vermin to proliferate in a property or locality.

Article 65 allows the Council to address urgent situations in order to protect the health and wellbeing of the public. The provision is not used to address issues where an occupied property is being affected by a statutory nuisance from an

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unoccupied or derelict property next door. This is because the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (the NIHE) has the power to deal with situations like these under Article 63 of the Housing (NI) Order 1981. Unfortunately, the NIHE don't always utilise this power to its full capacity. The Council currently has a budget of £8,000 to deal with Article 65 issues which also involves procuring a suitable contractor.

Q5. Have you any suggestions on how the effectiveness or usefulness of Article 65 might be improved or strengthened?

The key issue is one of having sufficient available financial resources and having the capacity to carry out the works, rather than the limitations of the legislation. It is certainly a very useful piece of legislation to quickly address issues of an urgent nature.

Q6. Do you have any further comments on Article 65?

This power and the associated resources could be combined with the powers under Article 63 of the Housing Order (NI) 1981 to provide an effective tool in dealing with derelictions causing statutory nuisance to adjoining properties, which isn't necessarily the case at the moment.

Any review of these provisions should examine the issue of ensuring the clarity of roles of councils and the NIHE and should provide meaningful means of recovering costs including the power of sale of properties if owners do not have the means to pay costs incurred in undertaking works in default. In the case of abandoned property, given that Article 63 is designed to preserve housing stock, provision should be made to enable the power of sale of such property to NIHE (or a relevant housing association) in the first instance, which would enable it to be utilised for social housing.

Q7. Is there a need for a definition of 'building' to be included in the Northern Ireland legislation?

Under the current legislation, the Council has taken enforcement action in relation to a wide range of other dilapidated or ruinous structures, such as free-standing walls, retaining walls, advertising signs, free standing industrial chimneys, hoardings, boundary fences and so on. While it would be useful to define a building, it is more important to retain the flexibility already in existence so as to allow enforcement action to be taken in relation to any dilapidated man-made structure and not to restrict it to buildings only. The

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lack of a definition for a building, has not, in relation to the ability of the Council to take successful enforcement action under Article 66, posed any difficulties as the wording of Article 66(1) includes the phrase 'building or structure' and that has provided the flexibility to enforce successfully against the owners of a wide range of 'non-building' structures, such as ruinous hoardings around vacant property.

Q8. Do you have any views on the Article 66 'seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood' requirement?

Although some other councils have voiced the view that this requirement is too subjective, it should be noted that none have, to the best of the Council's knowledge, taken any cases under Article 66. By comparison, the Council has taken numerous cases and has never been challenged by either a defendant or a District Judge regarding the assertion that the condition of a structure is such that it is seriously detrimental to the amenities of a neighbourhood. Based on this evidence, the Council believes that the broad and subjective nature of this definition provides the scope and flexibility to take action when officers are of the view that a structure has a seriously detrimental effect. The Council would respectfully suggest that the only way to test a legislative provision is by taking action under it and letting the Courts determine whether your view as to what is seriously detrimental is correct. Currently, the Council proceeds on the basis that the term amenity is a simile for 'pleasantness' of a neighbourhood. The state of an individual building should not in the Council's opinion be construed against the broader environmental setting in which it is located; an amendment to the provision making this clear would prevent any disparity in approach and application.

Additionally, the Council considers that the use of the term 'seriously' should be retained, as it seems reasonable and proportionate that the impact of a building or site on the amenity of its surroundings should be sufficiently grave in order to justify legal action being taken.

Q9. Do you have any suggestions as to how the requirement might be improved?

As stated above, the Council is broadly happy that this requirement gives sufficient flexibility to take a wide range of cases as it is currently worded, however, please refer herein and to the answer to Question 10 for suggestions for improvement.

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Q10. Would Departmental guidance on factors to be taken into account in determining whether or not the requirement is satisfied be helpful?

Yes. The Council takes into account factors other than simply the aesthetic condition (and always *in addition to* aesthetic condition) including those used in the ranking matrix below. The Council takes the view that the inclusion of factors other than aesthetic condition should properly be considered when determining whether a building is '*seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood*'. This position has not been challenged to date, either by defendants, defendants' legal representatives or by the District Judge hearing the case. Whilst it is of course possible that this view could be the subject of challenge and found to be incorrect, there has been a demonstrable lack of such a challenge to date.

Category	Rating	Weighting	Score
1. Aesthetic condition	(1 to 4)	15	15 to 60
2. Impact on attached properties	(0 to 2)	5	0 to 10
3. Public Realm Works nearby	(0 or 1)	10	0 or 10
4. Previous BIA *	(0 to 2)	5	0 to 10
5. NIFRS **	(0 or 1)	10	0 or 10
6.ASB ***	(0 or 1)	40	0 or 40
7. PSNI ****	(0 or 1)	5	0 or 5
8. Arterial route	(0 or 1)	20	0 or 20
9. Deprived ward	(0 or 1)	10	0 or 10
10. Tourist area	(0 or 1)	10	0 or 10
11. Fly tipping at site	(0 or 1)	10	0 or 10
12. Graffiti/ fly-posting	(0 or 1)	5	0 or 5
Total	_____	_____	15 to 200

Matrix used for ranking order in which to take enforcement.

Divide total score by 2 to get percentage rating.

* The Council has previously taken enforcement action relating to the building under BIA/PCO Art. 66

** There have been logged incidents of arson/fire-setting within the building/on the site resulting in attendance by the Fire Service.

*** There are logged incidents of anti-social behaviour complaints to the Council/police associated with the building/ site.

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**** Police have records of having to respond to incidents within the building/on the site.

Q11. Could such guidance fetter the discretion of Council officers?

This is of huge concern to the Council given the successful action taken to date under the current legislation. The Council acknowledges that some guidance may be helpful. However, it is essential that it is non-prescriptive and does not fetter the discretion of council officers, particularly if unusual or complicated situations arise. If the guidance provides a sufficient number of examples of situations where the requirement has been met and similarly, examples where it has not, in theory this may be of assistance. But between these black and white situations, there are unlimited shades of grey, where flexibility is essential. However, it appears the majority of councils in the province have been reluctant to use the legislation owing to a perceived fear of losing a case due to the subjectivity of the requirement and for this reason, guidance on factors to be taken into account when assessing if the requirement has been met would undoubtedly be useful. On balance, the Council is of the view that non-prescriptive guidance is likely to be more often useful than not.

Q12. Do you have any views on the inclusion of the words 'if he so elects' in Article 66(1)(b) of the 1978 Order?

The Council is of the view that this is a very sensible provision as it removes the need for council officers to make the decision that a building should be demolished, which might in some cases be challengeable on the basis that it is unreasonable, where an owner wishes to retain the building. Giving an owner the option of either renovating the exterior of a building or demolishing it and clearing the site, either of which actions would have the effect of alleviating the effect of the building on a neighbourhood, and may be less onerous for an owner. The one potentially problematic area that arises in relation to the term 'if he so elects'" relates to buildings that have some degree of protection, i.e. are either listed, within a Conservation Area or within an Area of Townscape Character (ATC). For example, demolition of buildings inside an ATC, as a rule, does not benefit from permitted development and therefore permission is required. In addition, permission will only be granted with an acceptable replacement scheme. There are however exceptions to this rule, in particular Paragraph A.1 (a) of Schedule 2 of The Planning (General Development) (Amendment) Order(Northern Ireland) 2012, which states that demolition which is required or permitted to

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be carried out under any statutory provision. The Department considers that an Article 66 notice issued by the Council is a statutory notice and therefore, if this notice permits the demolition of any building then its demolition becomes permitted development. Therefore, the inclusion of the words 'if he so elects' within the notice might in some cases, inadvertently permit the demolition of a building that should, in the interests of the amenity of the area, be renovated instead. The Council would welcome an option for it to require demolition in certain serious cases, for example, where renovation is not viable.

Q13. Is it necessary to remove the words 'if he so elects' to make Article 66(1)(b) of the 1978 Order more effective?

No, the Council believes that it should be retained in any new legislation for the reason given in the answer to Question 12. However, it may be that a qualifying clause could be inserted to provide that where a building has protected status a council can issue a notice which does not permit demolition as an option (see answer to Question 12). This may avoid owners deliberately allowing listed or protected buildings to fall into such a state of disrepair that the Council will serve a notice which will in turn allow an owner to circumvent the protected status of a building.

However, if additional Article 66 type powers were granted to councils where an owner could not be identified and the phrase 'if he so elects' is retained, then demolition powers may be inappropriate. This is because it may be unfair to demolish a building where an owner could not be identified by a council.

However, the Council would welcome the option of demolition where an owner cannot be identified although perhaps that power should only be exercisable when the building is in such a condition that demolition is the most appropriate option in the opinion of a council.

The phrase which follows 'if he so elects', that is, 'as may be necessary in the interests of amenity', appears not to draw a distinction between the implications of repair and demolition. It places an obligation on an owner to make a decision in the interests of the amenity which he may not be best placed to do. It conflicts with the provision which places overarching responsibility on a council to determine interpretation of the term 'amenity'.

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Q14. Are there any reasons to support the retention of the words 'if he so elects' in Article 66(1)(b) of the 1978 Order?

Yes, refer to the answer to Question 12 and herein generally.

Q15. Have you taken action under Article 66 of the Pollution Control and Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 1978?

Yes

Q16. What were the results of such action?

In the vast majority of cases where the Council has issued a notice under Article 66, the owner has carried out the works required (renovation of the building, demolition, or removal of rubble from the site) either following the issue of a notice or following the issue of a summons for failure to comply with a notice. Of those cases that went to court, in each case the owner was fined for failure to comply with a notice. In some of these cases, generally where owners were bankrupt/in administration, the Council carried out works in default and are pursuing recovery of costs incurred in doing so. The recovery of costs incurred by the Council in these latter instances is fraught with difficulty however. In addition to the financial outlay in carrying out the physical works there is also a significant resource implication in the cost-recovery process and in many cases, it proves impossible for the Council to recover the costs incurred in carrying out works in default.

Q17. Do you consider Article 66 to be effective, and if not, why?

Article 66 is effective in certain circumstances, i.e. where the owner carries out the works required by a notice without having to go to court. It is less effective where the case goes to court and the owner is found guilty as the only sanction is a fine, unlike the Belfast Improvement Act 1878 where the judge can issue an order requiring an owner to carry out the necessary works. The Council then has to issue a further summons, an owner can be fined again, but there is no mechanism for forcing him to carry out the works other than repeated fines. Article 66 is completely ineffective where the owner cannot be identified as there is no mechanism for taking any action in these circumstances.

Also, in the context of Article 66, the Council would welcome discretionary powers in relation to the lengths it has to go to in investigations in respect of identifying owners. A council should only be required to carry out reasonable

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enquiries/steps to ascertain ownership, thereafter perhaps a council would be able to deem a property owner unidentifiable.

Q18. Do you have any suggestions on how Article 66 could be improved in relation to cost recovery?

The most significant improvements would be the introduction of a provision to allow the Council to sell property in order to recover costs where it has not been possible to recover it by other means. In the case where an owner is solvent, the simple threat of selling a property to include a building and land may be sufficient to persuade an owner to reimburse the Council for work carried out.

General points in relation to Article 66 and cost recovery are as follows:-

- The Council would welcome automatic priority of the Council's costs and charges over other charges, mortgages and creditors.
- Better powers generally for recovering money.
- Enforced sale/power of sale – title issues- there may be problems with title in respect of enforced sale of unregistered land. New legislation would need to provide a way of giving a prospective purchaser secure title in enforced sales even if the owner was not identifiable and not all conveyancing documents were available, for example, maps. A legislative assurance could address these problems. This is perhaps also a problem for the Crown in relation to Bona Vacantia land, however, it does not impede the Crown from disposing of unregistered lands. Also if there is a statutory power to sell in fee simple then there may be no need to deduce title.
- Enforced sale/power of sale- priority- the proposed legislation would need to ensure that an enforced sale power would overrule order of priority. Any registered charges/mortgages etc... would need to be cleared from title and in the event that there are surplus funds following recovery of the costs from the sale proceeds then same can be paid out to the relevant charge/mortgage holders in order of subsequent priority or if no charges/mortgages, the surplus could be returned to an owner or retained by a council.

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- **Human Rights-** New legislation providing enforced sale power would be subject to human rights screening and the Council would welcome this to eradicate any doubt from the human rights perspective in terms of an enforced sale.
- **Abandonment** -if the cost projected to carry out the required works in default exceeds a property/site value, and a property is not used/ occupied, it would be useful to have a mechanism by which to declare buildings as abandoned. If works are carried out by a council, title to a property/site, at a council's discretion, could vest in a council subject to an advertising and notification process of such action and to perhaps Chancery Court approval. The Council would also welcome a power of sale over abandoned property if for whatever reason the Council does not require a property vested in itself. A definition of abandoned, which explains how a property /site can be declared abandoned, may therefore be required.
- **Insolvency** – the Council would welcome better measures to deal with insolvent owners, for example, power to serve notices on fixed charge receivers and other persons/bodies responsible under an insolvency scenario or if this is not possible, powers to carry out works without notice where a property is dangerous and is subject to an insolvency procedure or threatened insolvency procedure. If insolvency scenarios are not addressed in the new legislation then this might have resource implications where a council carries out works and cost recovery may be hindered because of the insolvency. The proposed legislation must provide a framework whereby all individual and corporate insolvency scenarios (administration, liquidation, CVAs, receiverships and administration receivership, IVAs and bankruptcies) are addressed and that notice can be served on fixed term receivers, companies in administration, trustees in bankruptcy, official receiver and financial institutions as appropriate without court approval. Also, the person/body responsible under an insolvency scenario should be deemed owners as appropriate.
- **Disclaimed land-** where property is disclaimed and costs are owed to a council then, subject to a council's discretion, a property should revert to a

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council before reverting to the Crown, however, a council should have the right to disclaim also.

Q19. Do you have any suggestions on how Article 66 could be improved in relation to abandoned or incomplete developments?

It is difficult to apply the current wording of Article 66 to abandoned or incomplete developments, as the structures themselves are generally neither ruinous nor dilapidated. The issues relate to:-

(1) danger to trespassers, including children;

(2) the aesthetics of partly constructed buildings often surrounded by scaffolding, building materials scattered across sites, cranes, unsightly boundary fences such as heras-type fencing, unfinished roads and overgrown vegetation; and

(3) vandalism and anti-social behaviour with partly finished buildings as a focal point.

'Dilapidated' needs to be expanded upon further as it appears to exclude newer unsightly buildings or incomplete buildings. It may be that a separate power is needed for newer buildings as planning legislation may be inadequate. Incomplete structures would need to be either completed or demolished in full. A new provision, tailored specifically to deal with abandoned sites is required or guidance from the Department is required in an effort to achieve more robust application of Planning Service completion notices. The Council does not consider Article 66 to be the appropriate vehicle for dealing with this problem, however, the provisions contained within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 appear to provide potential scope to deal with this problem, as do provisions within Section 73 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.

In short, the proposed legislation should address abandoned dangerous sites where there are buildings or partially built properties which a council should have a power to deal with. Abandoned sites generally should be clearly aligned to planning powers.

Q20. Do you have any further comments on Article 66?

To make Article 66 more effective, it is essential that there is a process for works to be done where an owner cannot be identified. This could be by way of having a council seek a

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court order or alternatively a power in default after reasonable enquiries are carried out to identify an owner. It is suggested that non-prescriptive guidance would be the best way to ensure consistency in determining whether an owner can be located and provide some reassurance for councils that they have carried out sufficient checks.

Furthermore, Article 66(6) permits the Court to impose a per diem penalty for every day that the offence continues after conviction up to and until a council exercises its powers in default. The experience of the Council is that District Judges are reluctant to impose a per diem penalty because there is no mechanism in place for determining how this is to be administered. The Council would therefore either request that this provision is amended so as to include such a mechanism or provide guidance as to how the Courts should deal with the imposition of a per diem penalty.

As a result of the recession, a huge number of properties throughout Northern Ireland that are owned by an individual or company are subject to insolvency. A lot of properties have been abandoned by insolvent owners but more often there is a lender or administrator who has a degree of interest in a property who deliberately will not take possession of a property due to its condition. As stated, the new legislation should address these scenarios.

The Council has also come across properties where the owner has died intestate and the next of kin has not come forward to progress the administration of the estate.

In such cases the Council tends to do works in default. However, due to the current priority of charges legislation, a prior charge holder such as, a mortgagee, recovers its charge first, after which, there is highly unlikely to be a surplus to pay the costs incurred by a council. This thereby creates the position whereby the banks and perhaps other parties are benefiting from works carried out with ratepayers money as the works carried out by a council will likely increase the value of the property and prevent it's further fall into disrepair. The Council would therefore request that the Department extend the definition of owner so as to include any person or body which has a proprietary or substantial beneficial interest in the building or land. The council would seek the ability to charge land in respect of costs incurred for undertaking work in default with accumulating interest and for those charges to rank in priority to those of any other interested party or prior charge.

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Q21. Are there any other relevant provisions in legislation not included in the above list?

Section 70 of the London Building Acts (Amendment) Act 1939 provides that where a council has incurred any expenses in relation to any dangerous or neglected structure, if payment is not forthcoming, a court may make an order that no part of the land involved may be built on, or no part of the repaired building let until the outstanding amount has been paid to a council.

The Inner London Boroughs implement the Dangerous Structures Fee and Expenses Regulations 2013 which allows them to charge fees in relation to dangerous structures. By way of example, in relation to an English council called Tower Hamlets, the fee payable for surveying and certifying a structure reported as dangerous, the service of a notice if required, further monitoring inspections and other services by council officers up to the time of (but not including) obtaining a summons is £200, where the survey to determine whether the structure was dangerous commenced after 8.00 am and before 6.00 pm Monday to Friday, or £350 where the survey was commenced at any other time or on a public holiday.

In relation to obtaining a summons or order, together with court attendance, and any inspection of the structure prior to the hearing, and other services there is a further fee of £350.

In addition to those fees it also imposes a fee for supervision and/or checking and certifying accounts and other services by council officers in connection with the undertaking of work to remove an immediate danger or to carry out works in default where an owner has failed to comply with a court order.

This appears to provide a significant deterrent against allowing a property to fall into a dangerous state and also provides a revenue stream to allow this work to be adequately funded by building owners instead of the ratepayers in general.

Q22. Have you taken any action in relation to the pieces of legislation identified in Part 1 and Part 2 of this Discussion Document and if not why not? (Where appropriate indicate legislative and/or decision making factors.)

The Council has taken action under Articles 65 and 66 of the Pollution Control and Local Government (NI) Order 1978 (see answers to questions 1, 2, 15 and 16) and instigated well over 1000 cases under the Belfast Improvement Act 1878 (and where owners cannot be found, also using Section 76 of the Belfast Corporation Act 1911), including 133 cases during the

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financial year 2013/2014. The Council has taken, relative to the numbers under the Belfast Improvement Act 1878, fewer cases of enforcement under the Public Health Acts Amendment Acts 1907, as it is generally used where there is no 'structure' such as in the case of a dangerous excavation adjacent to a public footway. The majority of the cases the Council takes under these pieces of legislation are resolved before a court appearance is required. Of those that proceed to court, the Council has yet to have a successful challenge to the contention that a building or place is dangerous.

Q23. The Department would welcome views on the possible proposal to introduce legislation in Northern Ireland based on that in Part 3 of the Building Act 1984 (i.e. sections 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83 and 121).

Sections 80-83 of that Act appear to relate to the requirement to give notice to a council of conventional demolition of not necessarily dangerous or dilapidated buildings. This is in the remit of the Health & Safety Executive NI and not local authorities. Section 77 is similar to the provisions of the Belfast Improvement Act 1878 as it relates to dangerous buildings, except that it does not include a provision to permit a council to sell the land if necessary to recover costs. Neither does it allow for a council to require a person to provide information on the ownership of the building, unlike Article 66 or Section 330 of the Town and Country Planning Act. It also does not make any provision for taking action where the owner cannot be identified.

However Section 78 of the Building Act 1984, which relates to emergency measures for dangerous buildings, would be invaluable particularly in Northern Ireland where it is not always straightforward to locate an owner due to the complicated system of search/identification and the registration of deeds. Whilst the registry of deeds system is being phased out under compulsory first registration, a substantial amount of property within the Belfast area remains under the registry of deeds system as opposed to the land registry system.

Section 79 of the Building Act 1984 is virtually identical to Article 66 as discussed at length above. However, it is not as broad as the existing powers in that it does not provide for the Council doing works in default or recovery of costs in any form.

With the exception therefore of the emergency powers provision, the Building Act 1984 does not offer anything more

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than what exists in Belfast already and omits important provisions currently in place, such as the ability to sell land (Belfast Improvement Act 1878), the ability to take action where an owner cannot be identified (Belfast Improvement Act 1878) and the ability to require information to be provided on ownership (Article 66). The Council takes the view that significant changes and additions to the text of the Building Act 1984 would be necessary in order for it to improve the legislation already in place.

Q 24. The Department would welcome your views on the possible proposal to introduce legislation in Northern Ireland based on that in Part 8, Chapter 2 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (i.e. sections 215, 216, 217, 218 and 219.)

The best practice guidance document by ODPM for this piece of legislation points out that Section 215 permits action to be taken against land and buildings as the definition of land in Section 336 of the 1990 Act includes a building. The Council would welcome the introduction of these provisions. It is noted that to serve a notice under this provision the test is much lower than that which currently exists in Article 66. Section 215 only requires the amenity of the area, or adjoining area to be adversely affected, not 'seriously detrimental' as per Article 66.

The use of Sections 215-219 of the 1990 Act seems to have been very successful with a high level of compliance and a low percentage of appeals and/or works in default. The successful case studies included within the guidance document include a number of dilapidated buildings similar to those for which the Council has served Article 66 notices in the past. These provisions would also permit the Council to serve notice on an occupier as well as the owner.

Section 330 of the 1990 Act allows a local authority to obtain details about the ownership of land and this is a useful provision, as with Article 72 of the Local Government and Pollution Control (NI) Order 1978.

In conjunction with Sections 76-79 of the Building Act 1984, it would appear to be a useful tool.

Q25. The Department would welcome any other views on how best to improve the legislative framework in relation to dilapidated/dangerous buildings/structures and neglected sites.

The Council would prefer the introduction of a completely new piece of legislation to address all of the issues of dangerous structures, dangerous places (e.g., a missing storm drain

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manhole cover within a vacant site), emergency powers relating to dangerous structures or places, dilapidated or ruinous structures and dangerous abandoned or dangerous incomplete sites and a very robust method of ensuring cost recovery. This is particularly true when some of the legislation which exists is adoptive and dates back to 1847, which may make it difficult for some councils to even ascertain whether the legislation was ever adopted.

A new Act would also allow the Department to address the omissions and weaknesses identified herein with regard to the current legislation. The introduction of a new piece of legislation would also reassure councils that its powers are Convention compliant, particularly in the context of Article 1 of the First Protocol and Article 10.

In addition to the issues outlined above, the Council would suggest that there are a number of matters a new act could address. These include:

- 1 the power to close roads where a dangerous building fronts a road, pending the making safe of the building;
- 2 the ability to take enforcement action against banks or the relevant responsible person in an insolvency scenario where companies or individuals are in financial difficulties;
- 3 where land/property is due to revert to the Crown via the Bona Vacantia process, but a council has carried out works in default, the land/property should revert to a council instead of the Crown in the first instance. Disclaimed land, where costs owed to a council, could be evidenced perhaps by registration of a statutory charge. In the event that a council does not want to retain the lands/property, then a council should be able to disclaim same, which would then revert to the Crown, following disclaimer;
- 4 a more expedited method of serving notices, for example, in emergency situations would be welcomed, such as posting a notice on a building, should be deemed good service. A power to undertake work in extreme cases of emergency without a court order should also be considered;

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- 5 the introduction of provisions akin to the Dangerous Structures Fee and Expenses Regulations 2013 as discussed above, which may ensure that a council recoups the costs of dealing with dangerous structures;
- 6 make it an offence to own, or occupy where an owner cannot be identified, a dangerous or dilapidated building. This would encourage those responsible for dangerous or dilapidated structures to take more proactive steps to ensure the condition of their property does not fall into disrepair;
- 7 ensuring that councils have sufficient powers to obtain information, and to make it an offence to fail to provide information when requested by a council;
- 8 consider introducing an offence in relation to obstruction;
- 9 the Council suggests that the Department Of Environment liaise with the Department of Justice in relation to the current Department of Justice Consultation on Fine Collection and Enforcement in Northern Ireland (responses required by 6/6/14) which may impact upon cost recovery processes in relation to dangerous, dilapidated, ruinous buildings and neglected sites;
- 10 person responsible – there should be a broad definition of owner - person/body with greatest interest, for example, under insolvency etc... See answer to Question 18;
- 11 statutory charges registered on foot of proposed legislation to be discharged on any subsequent transfers or dealings of the subject land/site and it should be made clear that the debt is recoverable from successive owners or occupiers;
- 12 power of sale should be exercisable in relation to properties where owners are and are not identifiable. One stage approach to power of sale required (unlike Belfast Improvement Act 1878), can sell the structure and land as one lot. Proposed legislation should remove burdens (as

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necessary) affecting the subject land and provide notification procedure of proposed sale to charge holders;

- 13 costs to be recovered – the legislation should include costs of works as well as all other expenses incurred by a council to include advertising, consultant, legal and surveying work, to name a few, as well as interest;
- 14 where an order granting a power of sale is made (if this is to be the procedure) or activation of the power under the legislation as prescribed, then no liability should be incurred by a council to any party – actual title/possession does not/never passes to a council; and
- 15 as stated, new legislation should test the compatibility of the power of sale procedure in general, which should not be a 2 stage approach but a 1 stage sale process, to ensure it is Convention compliant.

It is essential that, given that planning powers are to come to local councils in April 2015, new legislation is drafted taking cognisance of the extent and limitations of planning enforcement powers, including the provisions within the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011, as there may be situations where planning legislation is the better vehicle to use (for example, abandoned and partly completed sites).

Q26. If an improved legislative framework was put in place by the Department, do you agree that councils would be in a position to take effective action to address the problems associated with dilapidated/dangerous buildings and neglected sites in their respective areas and if not, why not?

Yes, with better legislation and better cost recovery procedures, there is no reason why all councils should not be much more proactive in dealing with these problems. The Council already has a track record of effective enforcement using the current legislation and an improved legislative framework would allow the Council to further improve that track record.”

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Applications for the Erection of Dual-Language Street Signs

The Head of Building Control reported that the undernoted applications to erect additional street nameplates in a language other than English had been received by the Council:

<u>Street Name</u>	<u>Second Street Name</u>	<u>Language</u>
Benares Street	Sráid Benares	Irish
Cawnpore Street	Sráid Cawnpore	Irish
Dunmore Street	Sráid Dhún Mór	Irish
Oranmore Street	Sráid Óran Mór	Irish

He explained that, in accordance with Council policy, a survey of each street had been conducted which had determined that in excess of 66.6% of the residents had been in favour of the additional nameplates. Accordingly, he sought approval for their erection.

The Committee granted the approval sought.

Naming of Streets

The Committee approved the undernoted applications for the naming of new streets and the continuation of existing streets to which the Royal Mail had offered no objection:

New Streets

<u>Proposed Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Dunmore Walk	Off Alexandra Park Ave, BT15	Apex Housing Association
Kinnaird Avenue	Off Kinnaird Street, BT14	Apex Housing Association
Malone Park Gardens	Off Balmoral Avenue, BT9	Deramore Developments
Mill Valley Way	Off Mill Valley Place, BT14	Lagan Homes
Mourneview Court	Upper Springfield Road, BT12	MacRae Hanlon Architects

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Continuation of Existing Streets

<u>Proposed Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Kinnaird Street	Off Antrim Road, BT14	Apex Housing Association
Mill Valley Road	Off Ligoneil Road, BT14	Lagan Homes
Sandown Park South	Off Sandown Road, BT5	Deramore Developments
St. James Mews	Off St. James Street, BT14	Apex Housing Association

Cleansing Services

Welfare of Animals – Update on Working Arrangements

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 From 2nd April 2012, District Councils have had the statutory responsibility for enforcement of the powers in the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011, in respect of non-farmed animals e.g. domestic pets of any vertebrate species and equines (horses and donkeys). The Department for Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) retains responsibility for the welfare of farmed animals and the PSNI responsibility for wild animals and criminal acts involving animal cruelty.
- 1.2 Local councils have adopted a collaborative regional approach to the new legislation and have appointed nine Animal Welfare Officers to enforce the animal welfare legislation. The service is delivered on a sub-regional basis with Animal Welfare Officers based in Belfast, Armagh, Ballymena, Castlereagh and Omagh. Belfast has one Animal Welfare Officer and one dedicated administrative officer. The animal welfare function is currently placed in the Enforcement Section and is managed by the Enforcement Manager, under the direction of the Operations Manager.
- 1.3 The service has been fully funded by DARD since its commencement in 2012 and DARD has committed to pay a regional budget of £820,000 to the councils to deliver the animal welfare function for 2014-2015. Belfast has submitted a bid of £126,865 for the delivery of the service in Belfast for the 2014/2015 financial year. Funding is claimed retrospectively on a quarterly basis by the 5 lead councils.

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- 1.4 The delivery of the Service is overseen by a regional Project Board with members consisting of representatives from all of the four Council groupings and Belfast, as well as the other partner organisations including DARD and the PSNI. The Project Board established governance arrangements, agreed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Service Level Agreement (SLAs) between the lead Councils and DARD and developed operational procedures which ensured that Councils were in a position to deliver the service.
- 1.5 The MOU between the Councils and DARD from 2014–2015 has been agreed by the Project Board members and now requires to be agreed by the individual lead Councils. The purpose of this MOU is to retain the framework, established in 2012-2013 between the Department and the Council, which clarifies the approach to enforcement of the 2011 Act, sets out the funding arrangements and clarifies the roles and responsibilities to be undertaken by the Council in enforcing the provisions under the 2011 Act as regards to non-farm vertebrate Animals.
- 1.6 From 2nd April 2012, on the approval of the Project Board, Omagh Borough Council assumed the role of lead council for Animal Welfare. Its principal role is to act as liaison between the regional council groups, including Belfast, the Department of Agriculture and the PSNI on policy matters, the provision of statutory statistical returns to DARD and ensuring regional provision of the new animal welfare function.
- 1.7 The Officers have statutory enforcement powers and can take a range of actions to improve the welfare of non-farmed animals including, providing advice, issuing an improvement notice, taking animals into their possession (in extreme cases of suffering), applying to courts for Disposal Orders in respect of seized animals and initiating prosecution action.
- 1.8 An 'out of hours' service is provided from 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday by the Animal Welfare officers on a rotational basis throughout the year. There is a single out of hours regional animal welfare mobile phone number which enables the public to contact the on-duty Animal Welfare Officer.
- 1.9 The number of calls received for animal welfare issues within the Belfast area, accounts for almost 16% of the calls received regionally. Although we only have one officer for the Belfast region, it is estimated that we carry the workload of 1.6 officers. When the boundaries are extended to include the Castlereagh and Lisburn areas, it is anticipated that the

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work capacity will increase leading to an increase in calls which will require an additional resource.

- 1.10 The Animal Welfare service is a high profile service which attracts media interest and coverage and has recently been the subject of a debate in the NI Assembly following a high profile animal cruelty case.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 District Councils are responsible for the enforcement of the powers in the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 in respect of non-farmed animals.
- 2.2 Regional management is led by Omagh District Council through a Project Board made up of representatives from the five regional council groups including Belfast. There is an operational sub group of AWO line managers who oversee day to day service provision.
- 2.3 DARD is committed to funding the delivery of animal welfare for at least the first 3 years. Future funding of this service is currently under discussion with DARD.
- 2.4 The governance arrangements between the five lead councils have been agreed. A SLA has been drafted and agreed outlining their responsibilities to each other in respect of the legislation including agreement to transfer funds between the groupings to ensure that service needs are met.
- 2.5 The MOU between individual District Councils and DARD from 2014- 2015 has been agreed by the project board pending formal Council approval. The MOU sets out the funding arrangements and Council roles and responsibilities in enforcing the provisions of the 2011 Act and relates to the 2014-2015 financial year. This is a restatement and minor update of the MOU for the 2012-13 and 2013-2014 years.
- 2.6 Belfast City Council Legal Services has been engaged to act on behalf of all District Councils.
- 2.7 The future delivery of the service is being considered as part of the Local Government Re-organisation Programme.
- 2.8 The following table highlights the activities of the Animal Welfare Services in Belfast from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2014.

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Animal Welfare Calls Reported in Belfast City Council Area, 1-4-2012 to 31-3-2014	
<u>Animal Welfare Calls</u>	
Total Number of Calls received to date by BCC	1797
Number of completed calls in BCC	1768
BCC calls as a percentage received to date in Northern Ireland	15.7%
<u>Animal Welfare Cases</u>	
Number of Animal Welfare Cases in BCC	1357
Number of Calls that are not Animal Welfare Cases	440
Number of Animal Welfare Cases Closed	1328
Number of Animal Welfare Cases Open	29
<u>Breakdown of Calls by Species</u>	
Equine	83
Dogs	1102
Cats	113
Other	84
<u>Breakdown of Visits and Actions</u>	
Number of Visits Carried Out	1999
Improvement Notices	77
Number of Cases where Animal Seized	27
<u>Legal Cases</u>	
Number of Legal Cases in BCC	11
Number of Cases open	7
Number of Disposal Orders applied for	7
Number of Disposal Orders granted	3
Number of Prosecutions	2
Number of Convictions	1

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1** During the first year of implementation, there was a regional under spend in relation to the animal welfare budget, however, during the second year (2013–2014), there was an overspend regionally, due to the number of multiple seizures resulting in on-going care costs and veterinary bills, pending the outcome of legal proceedings in respect of these cases. DARD have agreed to fund the overspend for 2013–2014.
- 3.2** DARD will fund delivery of Animal Welfare in 2014-2015 up to £820,000 for the region (£126,865 Belfast City Council). There are on-going discussions with DARD regarding a predicted shortfall in the funding for this year's budget, if the number

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of animal welfare cases necessitating seizure follows the same pattern as the 2013-2014 year.

4 Equality Implications

4.1 There are no relevant equality or good relations implications

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is requested to note the Council's role in respect of animal welfare and, in particular, the extent of the work undertaken to date.

5.2 The Committee is requested also to agree the Memorandum of Understanding between DARD and the Council from the financial year 2014/2015, for the Enforcement of the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 by Councils in respect of non-farmed vertebrate animals and authorise the Director of Health and Environmental Services to sign the MOU on behalf of the Council."

The Committee adopted the recommendations and noted that a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding was available on the Mod.gov website.

Northern Ireland Assembly Motion on Animal Welfare

The Operations Manager (Street Cleansing and Transport) drew the Committee's attention to a recent high profile court case involving the keeping or training of dogs for the purpose of fighting. He explained that there had been significant debate surrounding the outcome of the case, given the serious nature of the animal cruelty offences which had been committed. That had led the Northern Ireland Assembly, on 31st March, to pass a motion which had expressed concern at the recent increase in the number of cases of extreme animal cruelty, the low level of convictions and the failure to impose the maximum sentence available. That motion had called also on the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, in partnership with the Minister for Justice, to initiate a review of the implementation of animal cruelty legislation, particularly, sentencing guidelines and practices, to ensure that the maximum effectiveness was being brought to bear to address animal cruelty.

He explained that a Member had suggested that the Committee might wish to write to the aforementioned Ministers expressing its support for the Assembly motion.

The Committee agreed to adopt that course of action.

Cleansing Services Customer Service Standards

The Committee was reminded that, in 2007, it had agreed to adopt a set of Customer Service Standards which had been formulated in order to enable the effective comparison of actual to targeted performance for each of the standards set. The

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Committee had agreed also to receive on annual basis a report setting out the Service's performance against those standards.

The Operations Manager (Street Cleansing and Transport) submitted for the Committee's consideration a list of Cleansing Services Customer Service Standards, together with actual performance against targets, for the period ending on 31st March, 2014. He confirmed that the overall performance of the Cleansing Service in relation to the standards had been very satisfactory and that of the twenty-five which had been reviewed on a monthly basis, the majority had been of an acceptable or very acceptable standard.

He pointed out that response times relating to the removal of graffiti were often affected adversely by delays in obtaining permission from the owner or occupier of a property. Accordingly, he sought the Committee's approval to amend the Customer Service Standards relating to the removal of contentious and non-contentious graffiti to reflect that, in future, response times would be measured from the date on which authority had been granted by an owner or landlord and the appropriate disclaimer had been completed.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and granted the approval sought.

Street Cleanliness Index

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The figures presented in this report cover the fourth quarter of the financial year i.e. the period from January 2014 to March 2014. Monitoring figures were measured by Cleansing Services Quality Officers. Enforcement, Dog Warden and Education and Awareness information was supplied by the Customer Support Service, Dog Warden Service and the Community Awareness Section within Cleansing Services, who were responsible for these functions over the period concerned.**
- 1.2 The monthly monitoring programme consists of a random 5% sample of streets throughout the city being inspected and graded. From the grading, a Street Cleanliness Index is calculated and plotted for the various areas of the city, and the city as a whole.**
- 1.3 The index range is from 1 to 100; with a Cleanliness Index of 67 being regarded as an acceptable standard by Tidy NI. The results show the trends on a month to month basis. To alleviate the influence of spurious results on the overall index, the results are averaged over the last 4 surveys. Spurious**

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results may occur for reasons such as adverse weather conditions, seasonal problems etc.

- 1.4 All Cleansing Services Quality Officers were assessed on 7th February 2014, by an Officer from Tidy Northern Ireland. Following the assessment it was confirmed that all Quality Officers are assigning cleanliness grades appropriately and in accordance with the requirements.

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 The overall city wide cleanliness index for this quarter is 74. This is a similar score compared to the score for the previous quarter's cleanliness index of 74. The index for the same period in the previous year was 74. A cleanliness index of 74 is above the target set and is considered an extremely good level of cleanliness.

- 2.2 The breakdown by individual area is as follows:

North

- 2.3 The North Cleanliness Indices for January 2014 to March 2014 were 73, 72 and 72 respectively. This represents an increase for January (up 1), and a decrease for February (down 1) and March (down 2), by comparison to those figures for the same period in the previous financial year viz. 72, 73 and 74 respectively.

The area is however maintaining a good level of cleanliness.

South

- 2.4 The South Cleanliness Indices for January 2014 to March 2014 were 74, 73 and 78 respectively. This represents a decrease for January (down 1), and February (down 3), and an increase for March (up 5) by comparison to those figures for the same period in the previous financial year viz. 75, 76 and 73 respectively.

The area is maintaining a good level of cleanliness.

East

- 2.5 The East Cleanliness Indices for January 2014 to March 2014 were 74, 74 and 75 respectively. This represents a similar score for January (74), a decrease for February (down 1), and a decrease for March (down 1), by comparison to those figures for the same period in the previous financial year viz. 74, 75 and 76 respectively.

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The area is maintaining a good level of cleanliness.

West

- 2.6 The West Cleanliness Indices for January 2014 to March 2014 were 71, 71 and 71 respectively. This represents an increase for January (up 1), a similar score for February (71) and an increase for March (up 1), by comparison to those figures for the same period in the previous financial year viz. 70, 71 and 70 respectively.

The area is maintaining a good level of cleanliness

Central

- 2.7 The Central Cleanliness Indices for January 2014 to March 2014 were 73, 73 and 73 respectively. This represents an increase for January (up 1), a similar score for February (73) and an increase for March (up 1), by comparison to those figures for the same period in the previous financial year viz. 72, 73 and 72 respectively.

The area is maintaining a good level of cleanliness.

Complaints / Enquiries

- 2.8 There were 1233 enquiries regarding street cleansing during the quarter (by comparison to 1369 last quarter).
- 2.9 There were thirty two Corporate Complaints (31 Stage One, and 1 Stage Two) during the quarter – four of which related to street cleansing (all stage 1).

Enforcement

- 2.10 There were 536 Fixed Penalty Notices issued under the Litter (NI) Order 1994, and 112 summonses issued. In addition 1184 Article 20 Notices were issued requesting information about alleged offences.

Community and Education Projects

- 2.11 During the last quarter the Community Awareness Team continued to promote the anti litter campaign 'Litter makes a pig of you', and the anti dog fouling campaign "Your Dog, Your Job". The team also engaged primary school children in the anti litter / anti dog fouling message through the 'Captain Cleanup and the poop scoop mystery' puppet show and the

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Terrible tales of trash' road show, both were extremely well received by pupils.

- 2.12 In the last quarter, the team facilitated 17 community cleanups involving 424 volunteers, visited 69 schools engaging 7092 pupils in the anti-litter and anti-dog fouling messages, and attended 3 community talks and events promoting the anti-litter / anti-dog fouling message to 235 citizens and 24 meetings across the city.

Dog Fouling

- 2.13 The overall instances of dog fouling observed by Cleansing Services Quality Officers during the quarter were 277. There is a focus placed on dealing with dog fouling hotspots as a result of complaints and information from staff out on the ground. Cleansing Services and the Dog Warden Service continue to work together to address hot spots when identified.

Dog Warden Information

- 2.14 During the quarter the following was noted;

1. A total of 31 fixed penalty notices were issued for dog fouling (54 last quarter)
2. A total of 258 dogs were seized for straying (272 last quarter)
3. A total of 151 fixed penalty notices were issued for straying (147 last quarter)

- 2.15 This year the dog warden service exceeded targets for dog fouling fixed penalties by 23%, and has also exceeded stray dog fixed penalty targets.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

- 3.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

Human Resources

- 3.2 There are no human resources implications in this report.

Asset and Other Implications

- 3.3 There are no assets or other implications in this report.

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4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

5 Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Environmental Health

**Review of Anti-Social Behaviour
Practice and Service Delivery**

The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 2nd April, it had granted approval to undertake an internal review of practice and service delivery in relation to anti-social behaviour. She reported that officers from the Environmental Health Service, the Cleansing Services Section and the Parks and Leisure Department had now produced draft Terms of Reference which had confirmed that the review would:

- examine existing processes across Departments in order to identify best practice;
- develop a single Council policy on anti-social behaviour, with an agreed vision, aims, objectives and desired outcomes;
- make recommendations on the Council's approach to preventative programmes and reactive interventions; and
- develop subsequently a common operational policies and procedures framework for implementation, to consider, for example, the logging and reviewing of incidents, common reporting and service standards.

She explained that a strategic group would be established, whose membership would include Elected Representatives, in order to establish objectives and outcomes and to monitor the detailed project plan which would be developed and progressed by an operational working group comprised of lead officers.

The Head of Environmental Health pointed out that it was anticipated that the review would be completed by December, 2014, and that a report would, thereafter, be presented to the Committee for its consideration.

The Committee approved the Terms of Reference as a basis for the review.

Support for Community Heating Oil Clubs in Belfast

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The issue of fuel poverty has been of growing concern to the residents of the city. The latest available figures indicate that, in the greater Belfast area, 42% of households are defined as being in fuel poverty. One contributing factor to this is that, unlike other parts of the country, Northern Ireland remains particularly reliant on home-heating oil which has become increasingly expensive over the past few years.**
- 1.2 As Members will be aware the Council supports a number of initiatives to tackle the issue of fuel poverty. This includes our contribution to DSD’s ‘Warm Homes’ scheme which aims to target households most at risk of fuel poverty and to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. We have also offered seasonal warmth packs for older people during the winter months. The Council also set up and manages the ‘Be Warm’ fuel stamp scheme which encourages householders to save for home heating oil by spreading the cost of bills over the year. The scheme had sold £1million worth of stamps by February of this year.**
- 1.3 Ten years ago home heating oil cost about 20p per litre (or £180 for a standard 900 litres delivery). Today this has jumped to around 55p per litre or nearly £500 for 900 litres. As a result many households have resorted to ordering smaller quantities but at a much higher cost per litre. It is worse for those who rely on small ‘emergency’ drums as they are often paying over £1 per litre (or the equivalent of £900 for 900 litres).**
- 1.4 In response to this price challenge, a number of community groups across Northern Ireland and here in Belfast (some with the support of Bryson Energy and Community Foundation NI) have set up local ‘oil buying clubs’ to negotiate more competitive deals from oil suppliers. Successful clubs have saved their members hundreds of pounds over the course of a year.**
- 1.5 This report proposes that the Council puts in place a pilot programme to promote the concept of oil clubs and to offer practical guidance and support to communities that wish to establish their own club.**

2 Key Issues

- 2.1** The idea behind an oil club is a simple one: a group of neighbours place their individual orders with a volunteer co-ordinator who then negotiates the best bulk price with suppliers. Once a price per litre has been agreed each household then individually make arrangements for delivery and payment directly with the chosen supplier. The advantage for the supplier is that they receive a large order for oil that is delivered to a compact area over a short period of time. (NB: At no time does the club handle payments – that is always done directly between the householder and the oil supplier.)
- 2.2** With support from the Public Health Agency, Bryson Energy and Community Foundation NI, officers have developed a practical guide for setting up a club that is aimed particularly at existing community groups and workers across Belfast. (Additional material and downloadable templates would also be available from the council's website).
- 2.3** Oil clubs have three main advantages:
- Households save money: clubs are usually free to join yet households can save from £10 to over £30 per delivery, representing thousands of pounds saved within a community each year.
 - Everyone gets their oil at the same price per litre regardless if they order 300, 500 or 900 litres.
 - Clubs can help change buying habits and begin to reduce over-reliance on very expensive 'emergency' drums. (The guide encourages clubs to work with oil suppliers that participate in the Council's 'Be Warm' Fuel Stamp scheme which exists to help people better manage their oil bills over the year).
- 2.4** While setting up a club is fairly straightforward, experience elsewhere has shown that it does take quite some time, effort and a little cost. A club needs a few committed volunteers with organisational and meeting skills; access to a meeting room; access to a computer; a mobile phone; printer; photocopying facilities, etc. So, while it is possible for enthusiastic individuals to set up their own neighbourhood club, it is probably best done through an existing local community group, church groups, clubs, etc. Such groups are likely to have the basic community development skills, resources and local knowledge to make the club an on-going success over a number of years.

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- 2.5 To maximise the potential of the guide, it's proposed that the Council run a pilot programme to provide practical support to local groups that might need additional help in setting up a club. Working with our colleagues in Community Services, officers are proposing that the most effective way to deliver such a support programme would through the eighteen Capacity Support organisations. These organisations are contracted by our Community Services section to provide community development support in neighbourhoods across the city.
- 2.6 The Community Services team will need to seek approval from Development Committee to proceed with this idea – and are bringing a similar paper to their June meeting. If both Committees agree to the proposal then Community Services would seek to negotiate with the Capacity Support organisations regarding their potential role in the programme.
- 2.7 While yet to be agreed, this role would likely to include offering access to meeting rooms and computer suites; small admin support; signposting to relevant bodies such as Bryson Energy, the Consumer Council and CFNI. It is proposed that a total budget of £18,000 would be made available to participating Capacity Support organisations to cover their additional costs in supporting the programme across the city. At the end of 2014/2015 Council officers would carry out an evaluation of the pilot programme to gauge its success.
- 2.8 The proposed timetable for the programme would be as follows:
- A September 2014 workshop in a city centre location to begin promotion of the guide and also to offer practical advice and examples of the work of successful clubs. All Members would be encouraged to attend the event with invitations issued in August.
 - Following this event those Capacity Support organisations willing to participate would offer ongoing practical support to any groups seeking help; while Council would promote the concept of oil buying clubs
 - February 2014 - a follow up workshop to refresh interest in the concept and to encourage membership drives amongst clubs (and to encourage saving across the year for future oil purchases).
 - April 2015 – Evaluation of the programme.

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- 2.9 At this stage, Members are being asked to consider and approve this outline programme proposal. Following approval by both Committees, Community Services staff will then negotiate with the Capacity Support organisations regarding their potential role in supporting the programme; and would seek to determine the contractual arrangements.
- 2.10 A follow-up paper with detailed proposals would be brought back to both Health & Environmental Services and Development Committees in August 2014 for final approval.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 The estimated costs for the pilot programme are:

- Print production of the oil guide	£2,000
- September and February workshops	£3,000
- Capacity Support budget	£18,000
- Total costs	£23,000

- 3.2 The proposed H&ES department contribution is £6,000 which has been identified from within existing 2014/2015 Revenue Estimates.
- 3.3 The Development Department is also prepared to make a contribution of £8,000 to the budget.
- 3.4 The Public Health Agency, who provide a range of support to address fuel poverty in the city, and who have worked with officers on the oil club guide, have indicated that they are willing to contribute £10,000, subject to final agreement on the detail of the programme, and approval by our Committees.

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 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the draft oil buying guide and to agree:
1. to the outline programme proposal to support new oil buying club across the city during 2014/2015

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including the proposed support role for Capacity Support organisations;

- 2. in principle to the £6,000 contribution from the Health and Environmental Services Department; and**
- 3. to receive a follow-up paper in August 2014 which will include the final detailed programme proposal and information on the September workshop.”**

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Food Service Delivery Plan 2013/2014

The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that, each year, the Council drafted a Food Service Delivery Plan, which set out the activities, techniques and approaches to be taken by the Council during the year in order to monitor and ensure food safety and to promote healthy food choices. It provided also the basis on which the Council's regulatory activities were monitored and audited by the Food Standards Agency. Accordingly, she submitted for the Committee's approval the Plan for 2014/2015, a copy of which was available on the Mod.gov website.

She drew the Members' attention to a procurement exercise which had been undertaken recently by the Chief Environmental Health Officers' Group, on behalf of all councils in Northern Ireland, for the provision, in accordance with Article 27 of the Food Safety Order (Northern Ireland) 1991, of public analytical services. She reported that Minton, Treharne and Davies Limited, Pentwyn, Cardiff, had been awarded that contract and she sought the Committee's approval to appoint four persons from that company, namely, Ms. S. Brookes, Mr. P. W. Hancock, Mr. J. A. Robinson and Mr. P. Urwin to act as Public Analysts to the Council.

The Committee granted the approvals sought.

Association of Port Health Authorities Annual General Meeting and Conference

The Committee was advised that the Association of Port Health Authorities, of which the Council was a Corporate Member, was a United Kingdom-wide organisation which had responsibility for implementing health controls at seas and airports. The Head of Environmental Health reported that, each year, the Association held its Annual General Meeting and Conference during the month of September. This year's event would take place from 9th till 11th September in London and would provide delegates with an opportunity to meet and exchange information with those from other local authorities, central government, industry and commerce. In addition, speakers from a number of organisations would address delegates on a range of port health-related topics. The cost of attending the event would be approximately £1,000 per person.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Health and Environmental Services and the Head of Environmental Health (or their

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nominees) be authorised to attend the Association of Port Health Annual General Meeting and Conference. The Committee authorised also the attendance at the event of Councillor McCarthy who, in September, 2013, had been elected for a two-year period to the Executive Board of the Association.

Waste Management

Waste Behavioural Change Plan 2012/2015

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

1.1 The Waste Behavioural Change Plan 2012/2015 was developed to complement the actions of the Zero Waste Action Plan. The plan focuses on engagement with the public to drive up the recycling rate. The Service has now completed a review of the actions that it stated it would undertake during year 2, 2013/2014.

1.2 This review ensures that the Service learns from, and further develops, those activities which have worked well and deliver value for money.

2 Key Issues

2.1 As the roll-out of new receptacles and development of new facilities is almost complete, the Service is increasingly looking to communicate and engage with householders on what is needed to continue to improve the city’s recycling rate and to meet the challenging targets for Belfast. Recently, the work associated with the roll out of the new inner city kerbside sort and food waste scheme was recognised at the Letsrecycle.com “Awards for Excellence”. Last month, the Council was awarded the annual “Best Recycling Initiative by a Local Authority” for the successful introduction of these new arrangements.

Year 2 – 2013/2014

2.2 Over the year, the Waste Education section has delivered a range of planned activities helping to increase recycling performance across a number of schemes;

- **Delivered 1,135 individual waste information sessions involving around 16,000 people via public events, community groups, schools and businesses;**
- **Supported the new inner city kerbside sort scheme with food waste to 55,000 households through**

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doorstep engagement and liaising with agents and landlords to ensure residents were fully informed of the new scheme;

- Supported the introduction of the pilot kerbside glass collection scheme for 11,000 households;
- Launched the Zero Waste Community Grant Scheme enabling community groups to trial new waste related services or initiatives in their area;
- Delivered high profile, low cost public waste events including:
 1. Compost Week,
 2. Recycle Week and
 3. European Week for Waste Reduction,

As well as contributing to other corporate events (e.g. Belfast Day, St Patrick's Day, the Spring Fair and other proceedings held by external organisations);

- Expanded the "*Bring Home Box*" scheme for restaurants which aims to reduce food waste by encouraging customers to take leftovers home. The scheme has proved popular, with a Facebook posting liked by 263 people, shared 66 times and a total audience view of around 15,000. There are now around 50 businesses signed up.

2.3 The Education section has also implemented other interventions and programmes in addition to those outlined in the Behavioural Change Plan. In partnership with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (formerly Tidy NI), we supported three projects: Eco-schools, BEES and Eco-Home.

- Eco-Schools is an environmental management system for schools, operating in over 50 countries across the world. Upon registering schools must form an Eco-Committee of pupils and staff, carry out an environmental audit and develop an action plan. The participants progress through various stages to achieve green flag status. The whole school community is involved and participating schools can achieve financial savings, as well as reducing their environmental impact.
 - The Education Section provided advice to teachers and visited schools to address waste-related topics. Several members of the Section are Eco-Schools assessors.

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- In 2013/14, 32 new schools registered on the scheme, a 25% increase on the previous year, which brings the total number of Eco-Schools in Belfast to 157 (97.5% of all schools in the city).
 - The BEES (Belfast Environmentally Efficient Schools) competition has just finished its second year. This competition was created as an alternative to competitions which rely solely upon public speaking, rather than teamwork and practical application of knowledge and skills.
 - To enter, schools conduct a project on waste and this year 20 schools submitted applications, up from 14 the previous year. BEES is a spin-off of the Eco-Schools programme and is designed to develop confidence and self-esteem amongst participants using the environmental as a theme. The finalists are to be invited to a celebration in City Hall in June, along with the schools picking up Eco-School awards.
 - Eco-Homes is an on-line environmental audit targeted for households. Initially developed by the Service using funding from the DOE's Rethink Waste fund, households complete a survey and receive a score on their sustainability. They are provided with advice on ways to further save money and reduce their carbon footprint, and a major aspect of the survey focuses on waste/recycling. This year, the project was funded via the Zero Waste Community Grant Scheme.
- 2.4 During the year, the Service was visited by government representatives from Cyprus and Macedonia interested in learning from our experience in areas such as procurement, and the design and operation of our Household Recycling Centres. A DOE-led delegation from Cardiff City Council also visited Belfast to hear how we had successfully implemented the kerbside sort and food waste scheme in the inner city. This initiative is also being quoted as a case study in an Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) Waste Management guide, which will be published shortly.
- 2.5 Additionally, the Service has been part of a trial to develop a Global Waste Management Outlook model for the UNEP. The Council's approach to develop the inner city kerbside sort and food waste scheme has been used to inform the national

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framework for “*technically, economically and environmentally practicable*” (TEEP) and what councils should consider when planning for new waste collection arrangements. Finally, the Business Improvement through Environmental Solutions (BITES) scheme developed between the Service and Economic Initiatives has been showcased by the Eurocities Greening the Local Economy as best practice.

Year 3 – 2014/2015

2.6 In 2014/2015, the Section will:

- Develop further avenues to increase community participation by working closely with outside bodies such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, housing associations, resident’s groups, the universities and interagency forums established through the city.
- Engage with the households joining Belfast through LGR which will require education and support on proposed changes to their recycling collection arrangements.
- Engage with the households in Belfast on a blue bin who will be getting a glass kerbside box as well as the 5,000 households on this scheme, but with no brown bin 5,000.
- Work in partnership with Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) which has received funding for a two year food waste project for 10 UK cities (including Belfast) on reducing food waste, saving resident’s money and promoting the food waste collections.
- Further promote the “*Bring Home Box*” scheme for restaurants, continue to work with WRAP to highlight the Hospitality and Food Sector Agreement (HaFSA) and provide other assistance to the food sector, in particular, and businesses in general.
- This month, invite Community Groups to apply for tranche 2 of the Zero Waste Community Grant scheme to fund projects (Oct 2014 – Mar 2015), to monitor and support those projects funded by tranche 1 and to review how the scheme can be amended to further promote waste prevention and recycling.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 The activities of the Section were all met through the Service’s revenue budget and the waste fund.

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4 Equality Implications

4.1 There are no relevant equality and good relations implications.

5 Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is requested to note the report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

arc21 Briefing

The Committee was reminded that arc21 had, for a number of years, been working on behalf of its eleven constituent councils to procure Energy from Waste and Mechanical/Biological Treatment facilities. The Head of Waste Management reported that, following a comprehensive evaluation process, a site on the Hightown Road had been selected as being suitable for both facilities and that the bidder had recently submitted a planning application. He explained that, given that the process was now entering a crucial stage, it would be beneficial for Members to be briefed in advance of the Council considering the proposal.

The Committee agreed that, in the first instance, briefings take place for each of the Political Parties and that a briefing for the Committee take place subsequently, to which all Members of the Council would be invited.

Chairman

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Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 18th June, 2014

MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman Ekin (Chairman);
Aldermen Browne, McCoubrey and Stalford;
Councillors M.E. Campbell, Clarke,
Groves, Hussey, Magee and Reynolds.

In attendance: Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;
Mr. S Hewitt, Building Control Manager;
Ms. N. Largey, Solicitor; and
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Webb and Councillors Cunningham and Ó Donnghaile.

Minutes

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

Working Group on Review of Entertainments Licensing Legislation

The Head of Building Control reminded the Committee that the Department of the Environment had responsibility for the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and under Article 3 of, and Schedule 1 to, that Order, Entertainments Licences were administered by local authorities.

He pointed out that the legislation had been introduced almost 30 years ago and in many cases the provisions contained within it had been superseded by changes in the manner in which the entertainments industry operated. Additionally, the experience of administering the legislation for that length of time had informed the Council that there might be alternative ways to administer the legislation in a way that would deliver efficiencies and make it more cost effective both for the Council and the applicant. It would therefore be prudent to look at updating both the legislation and the Model Terms and Conditions to remove the provisions that no longer had beneficial effect and introduce new ones to deal with innovative issues. He explained that, in the wake of the

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Joby Murphy tragedy, the Council had written to the Environment Minister in March, 2012 requesting a review of the legislation and offering the assistance of Council officers. More recently, submissions had been made by officers to the Minister highlighting the need to address those issues.

The Head of Building Control reported that, the Minister, Mark H. Durkan, MLA, had asked his officials to convene a working group to review the existing legislation, including the associated Model Terms and Conditions and report to him within six months. He had asked also, in addition to reviewing the existing legislation, that the group address the anomaly between the differing hours during which entertainments might be provided and the sale and consumption of alcohol. In recognising the experience gained from the wide range of premises which provided entertainment in the Belfast area, and the many court actions which the Council had taken, the Minister had requested that the Council nominate a member of its staff to sit on the group.

Whilst the letter had been sent to the Head of Building Control, many of the issues that the group would deal with would be of a legal nature. Given the vast range of experience gained by the Council's Legal Services Section, he indicated that the Committee might also think it useful to offer that knowledge and experience to the working group. The group would also have representation from the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, as well as representatives from Pubs of Ulster, the Federation of Clubs and Belfast City Centre Management.

The Committee agreed to accept the invitation on behalf of the Council and to nominate the Head of Building Control and, if agreed, to offer the services of a Legal Officer from the Council to sit on the Working Group.

Institute of Licensing National Training Event

The Committee was advised that the Institute of Licensing was the professional body for licensing practitioners in local government, the police, private sector and the legal profession. The Institute had been established to provide education and training and to disseminate knowledge in all matters relating to licensing. It operated throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland and to a lesser extent in Scotland. The Committee was advised that the Council was a Corporate Member affiliated to the Northern Ireland region of the Institute and Mr. J. Cunningham, Regulatory Services Manager within the Building Control Service, was the Chairman of the Institute of Licensing (Northern Ireland Branch) and a Director and Trustee of the Institute.

The Head of Building Control reported that this year the Institute would be holding its National Training Event at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham, from 12th till 14th November. The training event would address topics such as licensing developments within Northern Ireland, licensing policy, public health in licensing, gambling, elected member training and case law updates. The total cost per delegate of attendance would be £695 plus VAT. Accordingly, he recommended that the Committee authorise the attendance at the conference of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Health and Environmental Services and the Head of Building Control (or their nominees)

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and, in recognition of his work in attaining the position of Chairman of the Northern Ireland branch, to approve also the attendance at the conference of Mr. J. Cunningham.
The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**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 the list of licensing applications which had been granted under the delegated authority of the Director of Health and Environmental Services.

**Application for the Transfer and Renewal of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments
Licence – Villa, 2-6 Dunbar Street**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Members will recall that, at your meeting on 16 April, you were advised that an anonymous objection had been received against the applications for the transfer and renewal of the Entertainments Licence for Mynt nightclub.

<u>Premises and Location</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Villa (formerly Mynt) 2-6 Dunbar Street Belfast, BT1 2LH	WK/201201878	Lawrence Bannon 5 Donegall Park Avenue Belfast, BT15 4EU

- 1.2 The objection raised issues around the management of the premises and their links to Mr Ryan Morton and Mr Daniel Morton who had, in the past, been the subject of legal proceedings by the Council.
- 1.3 After consideration, you agreed to exercise your discretion to consider the objection and to ascertain the roles of the various personnel involved in the operation and management of the business.
- 1.4 The previous licensee for Mynt was also Mr Lawrence Bannon in his capacity as a director of Metropolitan Inns (NI) Limited. However, Members may recall that Metropolitan Inns (NI) Limited entered into administration in November 2012 hence the reason for the transfer application.

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2 **Key Issues**

- 2.1** In association with the transfer and renewal applications, extensive refurbishment works took place and the premises were closed for some time.
- 2.2** The works have recently been completed to the satisfaction of the Service and the venue reopened on 28 March 2014. A variation application was not required as there was no increase in occupancy or extension to the permitted hours to provide entertainment.
- 2.3** The Building Regulations application received for the refurbishment works is in the name of Ms Lauren Morton of Newgate Inns Limited. Ms Lauren Morton is the daughter of Mr Daniel Morton. The directors of Newgate Inns Limited are Ms Lauren Morton and Ms Alana Fox, who will both be working in the club.
- 2.4** Mr Bannon submitted a letter to the Service in response to the objection. A copy of this letter is attached.
- 2.5** Mr Bannon has confirmed that the new enterprise is a joint venture between himself and Newgate Inns Ltd. Whilst he is still the owner of the property he has leased the premises to Newgate Inns Limited for a period of 10 years to help with the business going forward and to provide some financial assistance. Whilst it is a joint venture he will be the operations director, responsible for the 'day to day' running and management of the business including entertainment licensing and all compliance matters.
- 2.6** Mr Bannon has also confirmed that both he and Newgate Inns Limited will make joint financial decisions including staff appointments and dismissals.
- 2.7** The Service has also been advised that Mr Ryan Morton's only role will be promoting the club and that both Mr Daniel Morton and Mr Ryan Morton will play no part in the management of the club.
- 2.8** Mr Bannon has confirmed that he will be present at your meeting in order to address the Committee and answer any questions the Committee may have.
- 2.9** **Health, safety and welfare issues**
Since the premise reopened on 28th March 2014, 2 during performance inspections have been carried out which

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revealed that the terms and conditions of the Entertainments Licence were being adhered to and that the management of the premises was satisfactory. Some minor issues were identified which were quickly rectified.

Noise Issues

2.10 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the application and confirmed that they have received one complaint since the premise reopened on 28th March 2014.

2.11 The complaint related to noise emanating from the premise as a result of doors being left in the open position to allow patrons in the smoking area to avail of the entertainment. The Licensee has been made aware that this is a breach of the terms and condition of licence and has confirmed that he will ensure that this does not occur in future.

PSNI

2.12 The PSNI has been consulted and has no objection to the applications.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

3.1 None

Human Resources

3.2 None

Asset and Other Implications

3.3 None

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations issues.

5 Recommendation

5.1 Taking into account the information presented and representations made in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:

1. Approve the applications for the transfer and renewal of the 7-day Annual Entertainments Licence, or
2. Approve the applications with special conditions, or

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3. Refuse the applications for the transfer and renewal of the 7-day Annual Entertainments Licence.

5.2 If an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the Recorders Court."

It was reported that Mr. L. Bannon, the applicant, was in attendance and he was admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman. In response to a letter of objection which had been received regarding the application for an entertainments licence, Mr Bannon replied as follows:

- The entertainments licence had been applied for in his name and Newgate Inns Ltd. and he had over 10 years of experience in running busy licensed premises;
- He was the operations director with the company, with responsibility for the complete running of the bar covering all entertainment, licensing and staffing matters;
- Lauren Morton had over 8 years of experience in the licence trade and was more than capable of managing properly the entertainment on the premises even without his involvement;
- Lauren Morton was a Director of the company and Danny Morton was her father; and
- Ryan Morton had been employed as Public Relations and Marketing Manager.

In conclusion, he pointed out that it was his opinion that the letter of objection had been drafted so that it appeared to have come from a concerned parent, but was more likely to have been written by a competitor seeking to undermine a first class new venture which would give employment to over 60 people.

In answer to a number of questions from Members, Mr. Bannon clarified the relationship between himself and the directors of Newgate Inns Ltd. and that Andrea Bannon was his daughter. He confirmed that he was not an employee of the Morton family or any company which they owned and that Mr. Ryan Morton would be employed only as P.R. and Marketing Manager and would have no direct involvement in the operational management of the club. In addition, Mr Danny Morton would not be involved in the day to day running of or in the operation of the club.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bannon for attending and he retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to approve the applications for the transfer and renewal of the 7-day annual entertainments licence in respect of the Villa, 2-6 Dunbar Street.

Application for the Renewal and Variation of a 7-Day Outdoor Annual Entertainments Licence, Custom House Square

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

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“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 Applications were received on 20th February from the Department for Social Development for the renewal and variation of the Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for Custom House Square.

1.2 The outdoor licence is based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment. However, there is also an indoor Entertainments Licence in place at the venue to facilitate the holding of events in a marquee based on the Council’s standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

Venue and Location	Ref. No	Applicant
Custom House Square Belfast, BT1 3GB	WK/201400221	Mr Michael Pettigrew (DSD) 4th Floor Oxford House 49-55 Chichester St. Belfast, BT1 4HL

1.3 Members are advised that both of these Entertainments Licences has been in place since the Square was redeveloped in 2005.

1.4 Members may recall that an objection was received last year to the renewal of the Outdoor Entertainments Licence from a resident of the Square acting on behalf of the Custom House Residence Management Board.

1.5 On 17th April, 2013, the Committee heard representations from the licensee and the objector and, having considered all the matters, agreed to renew the Licence subject to the following condition that:

- Entertainment be restricted to no more than three successive nights in any given seven day period, with exceptions being made for Bank and Public Holidays.

1.6 However, due to information which came to light after your meeting ,you agreed to reconsider this decision at your meeting of 19 June 2013 and receive a delegation from the licensee and the promoter of the Belsonic event.

1.7 After reconsidering the application and information presented on 19 June 2013, you agreed to amend the original condition regarding the permitted number of nights of successive entertainment, as follows, that:

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- Entertainment be restricted to no more than three nights in any given seven day period, with an exception being made for Bank or Public Holidays when an additional night will be permitted in that seven day period.
- 1.8 Specifically for last year's Belsonic event, you also agreed that they could provide two additional nights of entertainment on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 August in addition to the standard restriction relating to the provision of entertainment in any 7 day period. Entertainment was also permitted to be provided to midnight on Sunday 25 August, which was the bank holiday weekend.
- 1.9 The promoters of Belsonic have confirmed with the Service that, whilst this year they will not be providing entertainment beyond the standard hours, they would like the possibility of providing an additional night over and above the days as specified in para 1.7. They may not require this extra night but need the assurance that if they secure an act they can accommodate the extra night in their programme. If approved the number of nights this year will be less than granted in 2013.
- 1.10 The standard days and hours for both the Outdoor Entertainments Licence and Indoor Entertainment in a marquee are:
- Monday to Sunday: 11.30 a m to 11.00 p m.
- 1.11 It's recognised that Custom House Square has grown in popularity since its introduction in 2005 and is regarded by many as a premier outdoor event space, which contributes to the vibrancy of the night time economy. It has hosted numerous and varied musical and cultural events each year, including Belsonic, Lady Boys of Bangkok and the recent Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival.
- 1.12 A list of the events that took place in the Square last year along with those planned for this year are attached. It should be noted that not all of the events listed require to be licensed for entertainment.
- 2.0 Key Issues
- Reasons for the variation
- 2.1 The licensee has stated that the application to vary the licence is being requested in relation to this year's Belsonic event to facilitate any potential request from the promoters to hold an 8th night of entertainment, which would thereby

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exceed the quota permitted as a condition on the Entertainments Licence.

- 2.2 The promoters of Belsonic have been in regular contact with Officers of the Service and have advised that this year's event will be held over 7 days. However, they have also indicated that they may wish to hold an 8th night and, following our advice, the licensee is applying for the variation as a measure to cover it should it take place.
- 2.3 At the time of writing this report the promoters of Belsonic have not yet confirmed any proposal to hold an 8th night. However, time is still available to them to do so as they traditionally don't release these dates until closer to the event. Members are advised that to date they have only released acts for 5 nights of their planned 7 night programme.
- 2.4 The promoter for Belsonic has also confirmed that they will not be operating beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm.

Representations

- 2.5 Public notices of the applications were placed in the Belfast Telegraph and the Irish News within 7 days of the application being made and no objections have been received.

PSNI

- 2.6 The Police have been consulted about the applications and have confirmed they have no objections.
- 2.7 They state that they have been involved with events at the venue since it was first opened in conjunction with Officers of the Council and have not witnessed any incidents or received any reports of incidents from members of the public.
- 2.8 They also advised us that overall, each event has been well run and they have had a good relationship with each of the organisers that have used the venue. PSNI comments regarding the applications are appended to this report for your information.

Health, safety and welfare issues

- 2.9 Officers of the Service have been extensively involved with licensed events at the venue and throughout this time have experienced no difficulties with the licensee or event organisers who have used the Square.
- 2.10 Officers have also attended the events to carry out during performance inspections and noted no incidents of

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significance relating to the health, safety or welfare of those present at the events.

- 2.11 The Service has however received noise complaints as a result of events at the venue, which were received via the Night Time Noise Team and EPU, as outlined below.

Noise Issues

- 2.12 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the applications.

- 2.13 Due to the various residential developments situated in close proximity to the venue, EPU feel it is important to protect the night time period between 11.00pm and 7.00am for residents. They are supportive of all events aimed at improving the attractiveness and diversity of the City but that this should be achieved while in compliance with the relevant legislation and recognising and respecting the rights of residents to enjoy their property by exercising appropriate control of such events, as is expected by the public.

- 2.14 EPU has confirmed that they have received a number of complaints regarding the use of the Outdoor Entertainments Licence at Custom House Square but no formal action was deemed necessary in relation to these complaints. A summary of the complaints received are as follows:

- **Belsonic:** A total 4 complaints were received last year. 3 were received over the course of the 8 days and one after the event. In 2012 the event generated a total of 2 complaints.

- 2.15 An Officer from the Environmental Protection Unit will be available at the meeting to answer any queries Members may have in relation to noise issues.

Licensee

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

3.0 Resource Implications

Financial

- 3.1 None

Human Resources

- 3.2 None

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- 3.3** Asset and Other Implications
None.
- 4.0** Equality and Good Relations Considerations
- 4.1** There are no equality or good relations issues.
- 5.0** Recommendations
- 5.1** Taking into account the information presented you are required to consider the application for the renewal and variation of this licence and to:
1. Approve the applications for the renewal and the variation to amend the current condition regarding the number of successive nights of entertainment over a 7 day period, or
 2. Approve the applications with special conditions; in addition to the standard conditions, or
 3. Refuse the application for the variation of the licence, or
 4. Refuse the applications for renewal and variation of the licence
- 5.2** If the an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.
- 5.3** In the case that you refuse to renew the licence, and the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may still be provided until any such appeal is determined."

After discussion the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to approve the applications for the renewal and the variation to amend the current condition regarding the number of nights of entertainment over a 7 day period.

Application for the Renewal of a 14-Day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence – Boucher Road Playing Fields

The Head of Building Control submitted for the Committee's consideration the undernoted report:

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“1.0 Relevant Background Information

1.1 An application was received on the 13th May from the Parks and Leisure Department of the Council for the renewal of a fourteen-day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Playing Fields on the Boucher Road.

<u>Venue for Licence</u>	<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
Boucher Road Playing Fields	WK/201400850	Ms Rose Crozier Parks & Leisure Department

1.2 The current days and hours during which outdoor musical entertainment is permitted to be provided are:

- **Monday to Sunday: 11.30 a m to 11.00 pm.**

1.3 In addition, there are special conditions attached to the licence which:

- 1. Enables a maximum occupancy figure to be set by the Building Control Service depending upon individual concert set up proposals, and**
- 2. Requires a promoter, at least one month in advance of any event, to submit a suitable noise assessment and noise management plan. The noise assessment must be completed by a suitably qualified and experienced noise control consultant and must demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to nearby residential properties. The noise management plan must be agreed to the satisfaction of Council officers and any failure to comply with the requirements set out therein shall be considered to be a breach of the licensing conditions, and**
- 3. Allows the licensee to apply for additional hours, later than 11.00pm, which may or may not be granted by Committee dependent upon any noise issues which may have arisen from previous events.**

1.4 Last year’s Tennents Vital took place on Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th and Friday 16th August and featured world class acts including Kings of Leon, Snow Patrol and Avicii.

1.5 A total of 23 complaints were received last year with 17 received during the 3 days of the concerts and the remaining 6 arriving after the event. The majority of complaints were received from residents within the immediate areas around

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the venue. This was significantly less than the 231 complaints received from the 2 day event held in 2012.

- 1.6 The complaints related to noise disturbance from the concerts and anti-social behaviour, mainly as a result of the Friday night Avicii concert, which had a considerable number of young patrons attending.

2.0 Key Issues

- 2.1 Members may be aware that the Parks and Leisure Committee have already been informed of this year's event and, at their meeting of the 10th April 2014, agreed for MCD to hold up to 3 concerts at the venue between the 21st and 25th August 2014.

- 2.2 This was subject to and on condition that the event organisers resolve all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction, that an appropriate legal agreement is completed and that the event organisers meet all statutory requirements including entertainment licensing.

Tennents Vital 2014

- 2.3 For this year's event The Killers will perform on Thursday 22nd August and on Sunday 24th August the headline act will be David Guetta. All headline acts will be supported by a number of other acts such as Bastille and Steve Angello. Other supporting acts have still to be confirmed.

- 2.4 30,000 tickets have been made available for sale on each night. Gates are scheduled to be opened at 4.30 pm with entertainment planned to commence soon after and finish by 11.00 pm.

- 2.5 The promoter has extensive experience of organising outdoor events of this scale which includes previous Tennents Vital Concerts at this venue, Botanic Gardens and Ormeau Park.

Representations

- 2.6 As a result of the public notices written representation was received outside the 28 day statutory period objecting to the application.

- 2.7 The nature of the objection relates to music being too loud from the concerts and music festivals held at the venue, for such a residential area. It also states that the music can be heard a considerable distance away.

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- 2.8 Under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985, the Committee, when considering an application, must have regard to any representation which is received inside the 28 day statutory period. Where objections have been received outside the 28 day period you have discretion, but not a duty, to hear those objections.
- 2.9 Members should note that the Council is not prohibited from taking all relevant representations into account, whether they have been communicated by objectors or others, early or late, or in any other way.
- 2.10 When deciding if you wish to consider the objection received outside the 28 day period, facts that you may wish to take into account could include the relevance of the objection, the proximity of the objector to the venue, how far outside the 28 day period the objection was received, or any other matters that appear important in the circumstances at hand.
- 2.11 The objector has confirmed in writing that he is unable to attend due to being out of the country and that he wishes his objection to be considered by the Licensing Committee.
- 2.12 A copy of each letter from the objector is attached.

PSNI

- 2.13 The PSNI has been consulted about the application for the renewal of the Entertainments Licence and have advised that as the promoter for the event is very reputable, experienced in their field and to date have included police in all of their planning meetings they have no concerns at this stage.
- 2.14 As with all such events a series of detailed planning meetings will be held, some of which have begun, to look at traffic management, transport and any wider operational policing issues. Anti-social behaviour which occurred in the Stockman's Lane area as people disembarked buses is an aspect that will given due consideration at the planning meetings.

NIFRS

- 2.15 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, as with other agencies, will be invited to attend a pre-event meeting and will be provided with all relevant documentation in advance of that meeting.

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Health, safety and welfare issues

- 2.16 Officers of the Service were closely involved with the planning, running and subsequent review of the outdoor events held at the venue last year. We have experienced no difficulties in working with the event organiser.
- 2.17 Following the anti-social behaviour issues that arose from the Avicii concert held on the final night of last year's event the promoter recognises the need to increase their provisions for this year's event, particularly for the David Guetta concert being held on Sunday 24th August, which has a similar audience profile to Avicii.
- 2.18 Additional stewards will be in place around the venue, car and coach parks and along the route to the venue in order to appropriately protect resident's properties. This operation will be carried out in conjunction with Officers of the PSNI.
- 2.19 Appropriate toilet facilities will also be provided at stages along the route and within the car and coach parks. Appropriate first aid and ambulance provisions will also be provided, where required.
- 2.20 The Service will also coordinate the work of Community Safety Officers and Park Wardens to provide support to the promoter and PSNI regarding alcohol enforcement for the event.

Noise issues

- 2.21 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the application and the proposals for this year's Tennents Vital event.
- 2.22 The Unit is supportive of all events aimed at improving the attractiveness and diversity of the City and are committed to working with licensees to ensure these events are successful and achieve a balance between the rights of residents, the event, the promotion of the city and the wider benefits to the local economy.
- 2.23 Following the significant number of complaints received in 2012, Council Officers and the promoter worked extensively in order to manage the noise generated and minimise the potential for noise disturbance. The promoter worked closely with Officers throughout the event and a protocol was in operation to record and communicate complaints received.
- 2.24 Similar procedures will be implemented this year to raise awareness of the event and minimise the noise disturbance.

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2.25 Members should also recognise that noise generated by large scale outdoor concerts is likely to lead to some level of disturbance for local residents. Even if guideline levels are met there is no guarantee that complaints will not be received. Conversely, if a recommended level is exceeded this may not necessarily lead to complaints as people may be prepared to tolerate the event because it will only last for a limited period of time.

2.26 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.

Licensee

2.27 The applicant has been informed of the objection and has been invited to attend your meeting so that you may hear their representations relating to the renewal of the Licence.

3.0 Resource Implications

Financial

3.1 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at both events but this is catered for within existing budgets.

Human Resources

3.2 None

Asset and Other Implications

3.3 None

4.0 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality or good relations issues.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The current policy, laid down as a mandatory condition in the Order, is that where representations have been made within 28 days of the date of application, an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, the Committee shall be given to the applicant and to persons who made representations before any decision is made.

5.2 However, the objector has already informed the Service that he is unable to attend this meeting due to being out of the country but that he wishes his objection to be considered by the Licensing Committee.

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- 5.3 Therefore, as the objection was received outside the 28 day statutory period, you are required to determine if you wish to consider the objection.
- 5.4 If you do wish to consider the objection you are required to hear from the applicant and, after taking into account all information presented in respect of the application, to make a decision to either:
1. Approve the application for the renewal of a 14-day Occasional Outdoor Entertainments Licence, or
 2. Approve the application for the renewal with special conditions in addition to those as set out in paragraph 1.3, or
 3. Refuse the application for the renewal of the Entertainments Licence.
- 5.5 If an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal outdoor entertainment may still be provided until any such appeal is determined."

After consideration of the objection which had been received and the additional measures which the promoter intended to put in place for the Tennents Vital event this year, it was

Resolved – That the Committee, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, agrees to the renewal of the 14-Day occasional outdoor entertainments licence in respect of the Boucher Road Playing Fields and to the holding of events at the times and dates outlined, subject to the conditions as outlined in paragraph 1.3 of the report.

Application for Additional Hours – Feile an Phobail, Falls Park

The Committee was advised that an application had been received from the organisers of Feile an Phobail to hold a 10 day music event within a marquee at the Falls Park from 1st till 10th August. The event would be promoted as a celebration of community, creativity, arts and sports. It had operated from different venues in West Belfast since 1988 but had been established in the Falls Park for the previous 3 years. The Falls Park currently had a 7-day annual outdoor entertainments licence and a 14-day occasional licence for a marquee and both had been used to hold numerous types of events. The licences were held by the Parks and Leisure Department of the Council and were transferred to the promoter for the duration of their events.

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The Head of Building Control pointed out that the days and hours during which entertainment might be provided, both outdoors and in a marquee, were Monday – Sunday from 11:30a.m. – 11.00p.m. In addition, special conditions had been attached to the licence in respect of capacity and in relation to the organisers dealing with any complaints arising from events and the actions to be taken by the Council should complaints be received.

The Head of Building Control reported that the organisers had requested that the Committee give consideration to permit 5 nights of entertainment to run beyond 11.00p.m. until 12.00 midnight on 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th and 9th August. He pointed out that that was marginally less additional hours than the licence had been granted for in relation to the previous year's event.

After discussion, the Committee agreed, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, that, subject to all technical requirements being met to the satisfaction of Council officers, the standard hours on the 14-day occasional outdoor entertainments licence for the Falls Park be extended to enable entertainment to take place within a marquee on 1st, 2nd, 7th, 8th, and 9th August, 2014, till 12.00 midnight.

**Application for the Renewal of a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence/
Request for Additional Hours – Holy Cross Boys' Primary School – Brookfield
Street**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received from the Ardoyne Fleadh Project for the renewal of the 7-day annual outdoor entertainments licence for the Holy Cross Boys' Primary School. The licence was based on the Council's standard conditions to provide outdoor musical entertainment and the standard days and hours were Monday – Sunday, 11:30a.m. – 11:00p.m.

The Head of Building Control reported that, in addition to the renewal application, the applicant was also requesting permission to run each night of this year's event beyond the standard hours of 11.00p.m. until 12.00 midnight. The organisers proposed to hold the event over 3 days from Friday, 22nd – Sunday, 24th August, 8.00p.m. – 12.00 midnight. The organisers had advised that the primary purpose of the licence was to provide a facility for the school and local Community Centre to hold outdoor events and provide entertainment in a controlled, managed and safe environment. He pointed out that the Ardoyne Fleadh Project was now in its 23rd year and played host to a number of local acts of music, drama, comedy and family entertainment. The organisers had informed the Building Control Service that the acts for this year's event had still to be confirmed, however, they were expected to be of the same nature and genre as in previous years.

The Head of Building Control reported that public notices of the applications had been placed and that no objections had been received within the 28 day statutory period. However, the Police Service of Northern Ireland had been consulted also and at present its response was outstanding.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor M.E.Campbell,

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Seconded by Councillor Beattie,

That the Committee agrees, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, to defer consideration of the renewal of a 7-day annual outdoor entertainments licence until a response had been received from the Police Service of Northern Ireland but that the application for additional hours be granted under the current licence, with entertainment being permitted until midnight on the nights of Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th August, 2014.

On a vote by show of hands five Members voted for the proposal and five against. There being an equality of votes the Chairman (Councillor Ekin) exercised his second and casting vote for the proposal and it was accordingly carried.

Application for the Renewal and Variation of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence – Beehive Bar, 193-195 Falls Road

The Committee was advised that an application had been received from Mr. P. Bannon for the renewal and variation of a 7-day annual entertainments licence for the Beehive Bar based on the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.

The Committee was advised that the area of the premises licensed to provide entertainment was the ground floor, with a maximum capacity of 280 persons. The days and hours during which the premises were currently licensed to provide entertainment on the ground floor were Sunday 12:30p.m. – 12.00 midnight and Monday - Saturday 11:30a.m. – 1:00a.m. the following morning.

The Committee was advised that the premises operated as a public house with entertainment currently provided in the form of a disco on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The nature of the variation was to increase the hours during which entertainment might be provided on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night until 3.00a.m. the following morning.

The Committee was reminded that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence renewals, which were not subject to objections, was that the Director of Health and Environmental Services would grant the licence as provided for within the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, in light of the fact that the applicant had also applied for a variation to extend the hours of entertainment past 1.00a.m., both applications were being presented to the Committee for consideration.

The applicant had stated that the variation to extend the permitted hours was required for the following reasons:

- The industry was enduring hard times and it was a very competitive market;
- A 3.00a.m. licence on the requested days would enable the venue to remain competitive within the market it was placed;
- A 3.00a.m. licence would provide a unique selling point for the venue in the area it was located; and

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- It would also place the venue in a better position to compete on an even playing field with competitors within the Greater Belfast Area and the City Centre.

In support of the application, the applicant had advised that he would employ extra door supervisors when entertainment was taking place and would have an arrangement with a local taxi company to help ensure patrons dispersed quickly after the bar closed. Initially, the applicant was also proposing to only provide entertainment on Saturdays until 2.00a.m. and Sundays until 1.00a.m. if the variation was granted. The Committee was informed that no written representations had been received in relation to the application and that the Police Service of Northern Ireland had not objected.

It was reported that the applicant, Mr. P. Bannon, was in attendance and he was admitted to the meeting and welcomed by the Chairman.

In response to a question from a Member, Mr Bannon reiterated the reasons for requesting the variation to the licence. In addition, he indicated that he was willing to accept, on a trial basis, lesser hours, that is, opening until 2.00a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and until 1.00a.m. on Sunday. He outlined the types of entertainment which would be provided and requested the Committee to consider the application favourably.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr Bannon for attending and he retired from the meeting.

After discussion, it was

Resolved – That the Committee, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, agrees to the renewal of the 7-day annual outdoor entertainments licence for the Beehive Bar, 193-195 Falls Road, and to the variation of the licence for a 6 month period, with entertainment being permitted to take place until 2.00a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights and 12 midnight on Sundays.

**Application for the Grant of a 7-Day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence –
The Dirty Onion and Yardbird, 42 Waring Street**

The Committee was advised that an application had been received for the grant of a 7-day annual outdoor entertainments licence for the Dirty Onion and Yardbird. The applicant proposed to provide entertainment in the external beer garden which was located to the front of the premises. The capacity of the area had still to be finalised but would be approximately 250 persons. It was expected that technical issues would be resolved shortly as part of ongoing discussions. The Committee was advised that the maximum indoor occupancy for the premises was 240 persons and that would be considered in conjunction with number of patrons which might be accommodated in the outdoor area and how both areas were to be managed.

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The Head of Building Control reported that the days and hours during which entertainment was proposed to be provided were the same as were applicable to the indoor Entertainments Licence and were as follows:

Monday – Saturday - 11.00a.m. till 1.00a.m. the following morning; and
Sunday - 12:30p.m. till 12.00a.m. the following morning.

The applicant had advised that, if a licence was granted for the outdoor area, it was his intention to provide entertainment in the form of live bands or a DJ through the in-house speaker system.

Resolved – That the Committee, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, agrees to approve the application for the grant of a 7-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence for the Dirty Onion and Yardbird, 42 Waring Street.

Application for the Renewal of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence – Ulster Maple Leaf Sports Social Club, 41-43 Park Avenue

The Committee was advised that an application had been received from Mr. F Brady for the renewal of a 7-day annual entertainments licence for the Ulster Maple Leaf Sports and Social Club based on the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or other entertainment of a like kind.

The Committee was advised that under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Northern Ireland Order 1985, in considering any application for the grant, renewal, or transfer of an Entertainments Licence, the Council must have regard to any conviction of the applicant of any offence under the Order within the period of 5 years immediately preceding the date when the application was made. The Head of Building Control advised the members that Mr. F. Brady, Honorary Secretary of the Club, had been convicted of an offence under the Order at the Belfast Magistrates Court on 20th April, 2010, after a performance inspection had found that two of the final exits had been blocked, which would have prevented a safe means of escape from the premises in the event of an emergency. As a result, Mr. Brady had been fined £500 and the Council awarded costs of £66 for the offence. He pointed out that previous applications to renew the Entertainments Licence had all been approved.

Resolved – That the Committee, in its capacity as Licensing Authority, agrees to approve the application for the renewal of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for the Ulster Maple Leaf Sports and Social Club, 41-43 Park Avenue.

Review of a Stationary Street Trading Licence – Berry Street

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 16th October, 2013, it had granted a stationary street trading licence to Miss M. Szczesna to sell various goods from a traditional market stall from Monday till Sunday at Berry Street. The annual fee for the licence was £1017 and on being granted the licence Miss Szczesna had agreed to pay the fees on a monthly basis which was £84.75 per month.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th June, 2014**

The Head of Building Control reported that, however, shortly after the licence had been granted the Department for Social Development had commenced works on the redevelopment of Bank Square in January, 2014 and Berry Street had been utilised as an access area for the works for approximately 3 months. As a result, the street trading sites located in the area were unavailable for use, Miss Szczesna had been advised that when she had made her application, in line with Council policy, where circumstances might arise which renders a street trading pitch unsuitable, including when road works do not permit trading, alternative available designated sites might be offered. However, Miss Szczesna did not avail of any of those sites offered and instead had chosen not to trade during the period.

The Head of Building Control explained that the Berry Street site had been unavailable from January, 2014 to March, 2014 and she had not been charged for her licence fee for that period. In April, 2014 she had been advised further that the site was now available and she could commence trading again and that her monthly licence fees would resume. However, Miss Szczesna did not resume trading and was currently not responding to telephone calls, emails or letters. She was licensed until December, 2014 and no payments had been received. As a consequence, the amount owed was now £254.25. He explained that the Street Trading Act (N.I.) 2001 stipulated that, at any time after a licence had been granted, the Council could, in certain circumstances, revoke a licence. Such circumstances included, 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 she be provided with advance notification to that effect and be invited to either make representation to the Council or attend a future meeting in person.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it was minded to revoke the Mobile Street Licence held by Miss Szczesna permitting her to trade in Berry Street and agreed that she be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding its decision.

Revocation of Street Trading Licences – Fountain Lane/Fountain Street

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th March, it had agreed that it was minded to revoke Stationary Street Licences held by Mr. J. 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.

The Committee was advised further that, since that decision, all outstanding payments had now been made and a representative for Mr. Kerr was in attendance should the Committee wish to receive her.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to rescind its decision of 19th March and agreed further not to revoke the Street Trading Licences held by Mr. J. Kerr for Fountain Lane and Fountain Street.

**Licensing Committee,
Wednesday, 18th June, 2014**

**Revocation of a Mobile Street Trading License –
Malone/Ormeau/Skegoneill/Windsor**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 19th March, it had agreed that it was minded to revoke the Mobile Street Licence held by Mr. T. Horner permitting him to trade in the Ormeau, Malone, Windsor and Skegoneill areas and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee regarding its decision. Mr. Horner had since been advised of the Committee's decision but no written representation had been received. However, since the meeting on 19th March, when the Committee had been advised that the amount outstanding had been £626.00, it was reported that the amount owed stood now at £145.00.

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the matter for a period of two months to enable Mr Horner to complete the payment of the arrears on the Mobile Street Trading Licence.

**Revocation of Mobile Steet Trading Licence –
Andersontown/Ladybrook/Suffolk/Turf Lodge**

The Head of Building Control reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 19th March, it had agreed that it was minded to revoke the Mobile Street Trading Licence held by Mr. T. Seenan permitting him to trade in the Andersontown, Ladybrook, Suffolk and the Turf Lodge areas and agreed that he be invited to make representation to the Committee. Mr. Seenan had been informed of the Committees decision and, to date, no written representation had been received. The amount which remained outstanding had since increased from £623.37 to £843.87.

The Committee agreed to affirm its decision of 19th March and revoke the Street Trading Licence held by Mr. T. Seenan for the sale of ice cream, confectionary and non-alcoholic beverages in the Ladybrook, Turf Lodge, Suffolk and Andersontown areas.

**Application for the Grant of an Amusement Permit –
Onassis Amusements, 2nd Floor, 25-41 Botanic Avenue**

The Committee agreed to the holding of a special meeting to consider representations to an application for the grant of an Amusement Permit at Onassis Amusements, 2nd Floor, 25-41 Botanic Avenue and that the applicant and/or his representative, together with any objectors, be invited to attend.

Chairman

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Town Planning Committee

Thursday, 5th June, 2014

MEETING OF TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Alderman M. Campbell (Deputy Chairman);
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Hendron);
The High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson);
Alderman Rodgers and Councillors Austin, Curran,
Garrett, Haire, Hutchinson, McCabe, McCarthy
and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer; and
Ms. K. Mills) Divisional
Mr. M. McErlane) Planning Office.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairman (Councillor Hanna) and Councillors Beattie, Carson, Cunningham and Newton.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of 3rd and 17th April were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st May, 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.

Councillor Newton

The Committee was reminded that Councillor Newton had been in hospital recently and it was agreed that a letter be forwarded to him conveying best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Requests for Deputations

It was noted that no requests for deputations had been received.

Routine Correspondence

It was reported that correspondence had been received from the statutory bodies and agencies in respect of the following matters:

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 5th June, 2014**

DRD Roads Service

- Notification of proposed changes to waiting restrictions on Barrack Street
- Notification of proposed changes to waiting restrictions on Claremont Mews
- Notification of provision of an accessible/blue badge parking bay at 27 Stranmillis Park
- Notification of provision of an accessible/blue badge parking bay at 27 Larkfield Gardens
- Notification of provision of an accessible/blue badge parking bay at 12 Ohio Street
- Notification of proposed one way traffic system at Fairhill Park
- Notification of a proposal to amend to the limited waiting restrictions on Bloomfield Avenue
- Notification of the proposed abandonment of Parkside Gardens

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Notification of the extension of Listed Building Status in respect of the undernoted properties:

- Shankill Baptist Church, Tennent Street
- St Mary's Church of Ireland Church and School, 236-239 Crumlin Road
- State Buildings, 16-22 Arthur Street
- Carnegie Library, 298-300 Shankill Road
- 48-50 Fountain Street
- 34 and 36 Cliftonville Road
- Waterman House, 5-23 Hill Street
- Central Library, 126 Royal Avenue
- 17-21 Castle Place
- First Trust Bank, 4 Queen's Square
- 26-30 Cliftonville Road
- Nelson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Annsboro Street
- Malmaison Hotel, 34-38 Victoria Street
- Scottish Provident Building, 7 Donegall Square West
- 25-27 Donegall Place
- Northern Whig, 2-10 Bridge Street
- Gate Lodge, 2 Clifton House, 2 North Queen Street
- 9 Chichester Street
- 25-39 Arthur Street
- Friends' Institute, 47 Frederick Street
- 201 Donegall Street
- 203 Donegall Street
- 205 Donegall Street

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 5th June, 2014**

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Notification of extinguishment of public rights-of-way at land at Strand Walk, Mountcollyer RDA 139, 50 and 88 Soudan Street and two portions at Kitchener Drive and Moltke Street.

Noted.

Article 31 Planning Application

The Committee considered correspondence which had been copied to the Council by the Department of the Environment in respect of a Major Planning Application for the establishment of a Residual Waste Treatment Facility at the Hightown Quarry, Ballyutoag, Co. Antrim. It was pointed out that the application would be considered by Antrim Borough Council in the first instance and, if deemed appropriate, Belfast City Council's opinion would be sought prior to Antrim Borough Council determining whether the application was of such significance that it should be considered under Article 31 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991.

Noted.

Special Meeting of the Committee

The Committee agreed to receive representatives of the Roads Service at a special meeting to be held on Monday 23rd June at 4.30 p.m. It was noted that all Members of the Council would be invited to attend.

New Planning Applications

The Committee noted a list of new planning applications which had been received by the Planning Service from 22nd April till 2nd June.

Streamlined Planning Applications – Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been issued by the Planning Service under the streamlined process between 23rd April and 28th May.

Deferred items Under Consideration

A list of deferred items still under consideration by the Planning Service was noted by the Committee.

Planning Appeal Dates

The Committee noted a list of dates which had been arranged for the holding of planning appeals.

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE
OF THE POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL**

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 5th June, 2014**

Reconsidered Item Withdrawn

With the permission of the Committee, the Planning Service withdrew item D1 from the list of reconsidered items viz., Z/2012/0426/F - an application for a revised parking layout at Wellington Square, Annadale Embankment, since it had been included in error on the schedule.

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>
Blackstaff Road Kennedy Way Wastebeater	Demolition of existing office block to enable the erection of a waste treatment facility (non-hazardous) and ancillary works to include weighbridge, access and parking.	Approval
54 Boucher Crescent Datura Enterprises Ltd	Development to include change of use of existing 2 storey vacant office building to bulky goods use (including cafe) new extension to rear and new lobby entrance, new entrance from Boucher Place, provision of car parking.	Approval
2 Bellevue Park Helm Housing	Demolition of 4 existing dwellings on site and erection of 4 replacement dwellings.	Approval
462-466 Shore Road Hagan Homes Ltd	Conversion of first floor premises to 3 apartments.	Refusal
2 Ventry Street Meilan Huang	Change of use to hot food takeaway.	Approval
39 Orpen Road Colin Clear	New dwelling with parking to rear of 39 Orpen Road and new access.	Refusal

Schedule of Planning Applications

The Committee considered the 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:

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 5th June, 2014**

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Divisional Planning Manager's Opinion</u>
11 Knightsbridge Park	2 storey extension to the rear with additional 1st floor window to front of dwelling [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5].	Refusal
11 Malone Park C. Greer	Two storey rear extension of new garage with entrance gates [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5].	Approval
104-108 Barnetts Road Jim Thornleigh Ltd	Detached dwelling and 12 semi-detached dwellings [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5].	Refusal
Land adjacent to Musgrave Park, Anglo Irish Property Ltd	35 apartments over 6 floors with associated landscaping and car parking [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5].	Refusal
46-48 Stranmillis Road Little Wing	Change of use from Class A2 premises to restaurant use including new external deck and seating area to front and side, extract chimney to the front and bin store to rear [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5].	Refusal

Chairman

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Town Planning Committee

Thursday, 19th June, 2014

MEETING OF TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hanna (Chairman);
Aldermen M. Campbell, McCoubrey, R. Patterson
and Rodgers; Councillors Austin, Beattie, Carson,
Curran, Garrett, Jones, Haire, Hutchinson, McCabe,
McCarthy and Mullan.

In attendance: Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mr P. Fitzsimmons) Divisional
Ms. U. McDonald) Planning Office.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson) and Councillors Cunningham and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Requests for Deputations

It was noted that no requests for deputations had been received.

Frequency of Meetings

The Democratic Services Officer reminded the Committee that its term of office would end on 31st March, 2014 and, in preparation for the new Council, the first meeting of the Shadow Planning Committee would take place in August. He pointed out that the Shadow Planning Committee would focus primarily on the future strategic direction of the City and emerging policy, whilst the current Committee would continue to consider routine planning matters. He reminded Members that, since the adoption of the Streamlined Planning Process in 2010, the number of applications presented for consideration had reduced significantly. Coupled with the fact that issues relating to major future planning applications and policy would be considered by the Shadow Planning Committee, it was evident the workload of the current Committee would decrease further over the coming months. Accordingly, he suggested that the Committee might consider holding a single meeting each month with that situation being reviewed later in the autumn.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that it would meet on the first Thursday of August and September, subject to a further review being undertaken thereafter.

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 19th June, 2014**

Routine Correspondence

The Committee noted the following correspondence which had been received from the various statutory bodies and agencies.

Roads Service – Transport NI

- the removal of an accessible/blue badge parking bay at 56 Wilgar Street
- the removal of an accessible/blue badge parking bay at 16 Willowfield Parade

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Notification of the extension of Listed Building Status in respect of the undernoted properties:

- Clifton House, North Queen Street
- St George's Church, 105 High Street
- The Albert Clock
- Old Town Hall, Victoria Street
- Former Water Board Offices, Donegall Square
- Edenbrooke Primary School, Tennent Street
- Chapel at St Malachy's College
- St. Malachy's College
- 259 Crumlin Road
- 1 Donegall Street/4-6 Waring Street
- 3 Donegall Street
- Public Library at 46 Oldpark Road
- Former RUC Barracks, Queen Street
- 113 Royal Avenue
- Christ Church, College Square North
- 7, 9 and 11 Wellington Place
- Bank of Ireland, High Street
- Head Line Building, 10-14 Victoria Street
- Anderson and McAuley Building, Donegall Place
- 36-39 Donegall Place
- 109-111 Royal Avenue

Planning Applications - Lisburn and Castlereagh

With the permission of the Committee, the Chairman referred to the issue of planning applications which would be considered by both Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council during the Council's Shadow Period. She pointed out that a number of those applications would fall within the Council's boundary post-2015 and, as such, it would be advisable for the Council to explore with the Planning Service a mechanism whereby Members could be kept informed in this regard.

Noted.

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 19th June, 2014**

New Planning Applications

The Committee noted a list of new planning applications which had been received by the Planning Service from 3rd June until 9th June.

Streamlined Planning Applications – Decisions Issued

The Committee noted a list of decisions which had been issued by the Planning Service between 28th May and 10th June under the streamlined planning process.

Deferred Items – Still Under Consideration

A list of deferred items which were still under consideration by the Planning Service was noted by the Committee.

**THE COMMITTEE DEALT WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN PURSUANCE OF THE
POWERS DELEGATED TO IT BY THE COUNCIL.**

Reconsidered Items

At the request of the Planning Service, an application relating to Cranmore House, 613 Lisburn Road was withdrawn from the schedule to enable further information to be provided.

The Committee considered further the undernoted planning application and adopted the recommendation of the Divisional Planning Manager thereon:

<u>Site and Applicant</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Opinion</u>
Lands at junction of Belmont Road and Pirrie Road and adjacent to 275 Belmont Road, Henderson Property Group	Proposed neighbourhood shop with petrol filling station facilities, ATM, forecourt canopy and car-parking.	Refusal

Schedule of 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>Opinion</u>
Belfast City Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	New Plant Room to contain water storage tanks [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4]	Approval

**Town Planning Committee,
Thursday, 19th June, 2014**

The Chippie, 133 Stranmillis Road, Ms. M. Milligan	Retrospective change of use of ground floor to restaurant with hot food take away [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
18 Irwin Avenue, FR Ventures Ltd.	Proposed change of use and alterations/extension to existing residential property to provide House in Multiple Occupation for 6 no. Bedrooms (Amended Description) [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 4]	Approval
21 Social, 1 Hill Street, Mr B. Orr	Self-adhesive vinyl with clear self adhesive laminate [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
12 Deramore Park, Hawksdale Ltd.	Existing outbuilding to rear to be demolished [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
12 Deramore Park, Hawksdale Ltd.	Demolition of outbuildings, retention and conversion of garage with new build extensions as 2 dwellings [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal
342 Stranmillis Road, Mastercraft Construction Ltd.	Proposed residential development to include 2 no. semi-detached dwellings on Stranmillis Road and 2 no. semi-detached dwellings facing Hillside Drive. [Deferred at the request of the Committee to enable an office meeting to be held: Criteria 5]	Refusal

Chairman

Town Planning Committee

23rd June, 2014

SPECIAL MEETING OF TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Hanna (Chairman);
Aldermen R. Patterson, McCoubrey and Rodgers;
Councillors Austin, Beattie, Carson, Garrett, Jones
and McCarthy.

Also attended: Councillors Convery and Spence.

Councillors Heading and Johnson,
Belfast District Council (Shadow).

In attendance: Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from the High Sherriff (Councillor L. Patterson) and Councillors Curran and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Transport NI's Programme of Works – Spring 2014

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr. K. Monaghan, Divisional Manager, together with Mr. G. McKibben and Mr. G. Miskimmon, South Section Engineers, who were in attendance to present Transport NI's Spring Report and to consider Members' queries in respect thereof. Mr. Monaghan highlighted the work which had been completed during the previous year and he outlined the principal aspects of Transport NI's Programme of Works for the forthcoming year.

During discussion, Members drew the attention of the officers from Transport NI to the undernoted matters, in respect of which Mr. Monaghan indicated that site visits, meetings or further clarification would be provided:

- the provision of traffic calming measures at Ladybrook Park and within the surrounding vicinity;
- the basis for weight restrictions on vehicles accessing the Harbour Estate via the Dee Street Bridge;
- the proposed installation date for double yellow lines at the Crumlin Road adjacent to the former prison and Court House;

**Special Town Planning Committee,
Monday, 23rd June, 2014**

- the feasibility of the introduction of traffic calming measures at McClure Street between the Ormeau Road and Botanic Avenue;
- the introduction of safety measures at Veryan Gardens and at Whitewell Crescent/Whitewell Parade;
- the introduction of traffic calming measures at Rosehead and Shandarragh Park;
- the undertaking of an inspection of the road and footpaths at Creeshlough Park;
- the introduction of improved street lighting at the Glen Road and the feasibility of establishing a footpath at the Upper Springfield Road at the Lámh Dhearg Gaelic Athletic Club;
- the maintenance and upkeep of roads and footpaths within the Highfield Estate, together with feasibility of the introduction of traffic calming measures within the Springmartin Estate;
- the convening of a multi-agency meeting to discuss issues related to the adoption and upkeep of various a number of entries within the mid-Falls area;
- the feasibility of the introduction of traffic safety measures at Trossachs Drive and Old Forge Manor;
- the examination of parking provision for elderly and disabled users of the post office on the Lisburn Road;
- the examination of public footpaths within the vicinity of Castlehill Manor and Massey Avenue;
- the management of car-parking in and around Seaview Drive;
- the upkeep of lighting and pavements in Mackey Street; and
- the future traffic management plans for York Street and York Road;

The Chairman thanked the representatives of Transport NI for attending the meeting and the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Chairman

Councillor McCarthy to move:

Voluntary and Community Sectors

“This Council recognises the good work of the voluntary and community sectors across Belfast and agrees, in recognition of the valuable contribution made to the well-being of the City, to seek to formulate a policy which would enable such groups to avail of the use of Council facilities by establishing a preferential pricing rate for both sectors.”

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Alderman R. Patterson to move:

International Men's Day

"This Council:

1. Recognises that the first ever event in Northern Ireland and Belfast to celebrate International Men's Day will take place on 19th November and that the theme will be 'Working Together for Men and Boys';
2. Welcomes the fact that the day will highlight some serious issues such as domestic abuse/violence, poor educational attainment for some young boys and men, equality, a focus on men's health and well-being, a celebration of men's contribution in the work place, family life and society, discrimination against men, the bullying of men in the work place, the promotion of men as role models and improving gender relations and gender equality; and
3. Notes that other organisations and individuals from the private sector, the public sector, charities, local celebrities, men, women and children are all taking part to promote this worthy and important event.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to consider setting aside funding in order to hold an event at the City Hall in November to celebrate International Men's Day in a similar way in which it has supported International Women's Day in previous years."

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